

**Introduction to
Secret Valor Addenda Section, pages 102 (a1) & (a) – (w)**

These 23 pages were added to the book for its fourth reprinting in January 2005. The section is dedicated to virtually forgotten MIS'ers who were deployed into Army service as Japanese Language linguists mostly during the final year of the Pacific WW II, up to Japan's surrender and after. They happen to be, almost without exception, Nisei from Hawaii. They may be referred to as "Non-MISLS," as they did not attend the Army's Military Intelligence Language School at Camp Savage or Fort Snelling in Minnesota, for one or another reason. Some did not attend those schools because of their advanced language proficiency and/or the urgent need for their services. In the case of some 200 or more Hawaii draftees who were drafted during the one year period of July 1944 to June 1945, the Navy commandeered them from Hawaii's 13th Replacement Depot of Schofield Barracks and later Halemano Training Center, also Schofield, ran them through a crash course in Japanese military terms (Heigo) and assigned them to mostly Marine and some Navy units. The school was called Allied Military Government Language School (AMGLS). The Navy ran the school with its Caucasian graduates (mostly lieutenants) of the Navy's Japanese language school at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado.

Some of these draftees were rushed to Pacific assignments even without benefit of that crash course. They were parceled out to Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. The bulk of that 200+ Nisei served in the bloody Okinawa Campaign, the earlier half went at the start of the invasion with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Marines; the latter half mopped up, flushed caves and served as Military Government personnel in Okinawa's reconstruction. Late draftees of July 1945 and after were shipped to the Philippines or other theaters to serve as linguists to process POWs and civilian repatriates, serve in various aspects of Military Government or mopping up at small islands. Still others were assigned to the Occupation Forces in Japan.

The stories of these MIS'ers who did not have benefit of the formal language school training in the Army's language school in Minnesota are told in these pages. They have long been unknown or forgotten until only recently in 1999 when Mike Teiki Miyashiro of the 6205th Unit began a tedious archival search with the help of Senator Daniel K. Akaka's auspice and the senator's aide, Mike Kitamura. Together they found records of the men of the two linguist groups, the *CINCPAC (Commander in Chief Pacific Area Command) First Provisional Military Government Interpreter Detachment, Hawaii* and the *6205th Interpreters Special Detachment, Navy 3256*. A list is printed of 171 men of those two units. They were all Hawaii's draftees of the period between August 1944 and July 1945, and selected as linguists during or after their basic training at Schofield, Hawaii.

Stories of other individuals are included in the addenda. They are Thomas Shoshin "Taro" Higa and George Kiyoshi (Yamashiro) Sankey. The stories of those two men are legendary. Other M.I.S.'ers' vignettes will be added. Forerunner M.I.S.'ers like Gero Iwai, Douglas T. Wada, Arthur S. Komori and Richard M. Sakakida are already articulated in the beginning of this book.

Educator Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro, 6205th's Kenichi Nakagawa and Herbert Y. Matsumoto, James T. Tanabe and archivist-historian Seiki Oshiro, all MIS'ers, researched, interviewed and wrote the following documents to bring to light these previously unknown, forgotten orphans of the MIS and their timely and valuable contribution to the legacy of the Nisei MIS of the Pacific War and post-war Military Government reconstruction. ...Editors



CINCPAC 1st Provisional Interpreter Susumu "Chick" Sarae getting clipped by a Marine on ship heading for Guadalcanal and Okinawa.



Marines and 1st Provisional Interpreters on Okinawa with civilian survivors in the background. "Me" is Sus Sarae, further to the right crouching are Theodore Mitsumori and Shizuo Murayama, then Stanley Nagao and Sam "Hapa Boy" Oppenheimer.

THE FORGOTTEN BROTHERS OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (M.I.S.)

By Charles Otsuka and Minoru Hinahara

This is the long overdue story of the 175 Hawaii Nisei drafted between June 1944 and March 1945, tested for Japanese language proficiency and detached to the U.S. Navy for use as interpreters in the various Pacific campaigns during the final third of the Pacific War. As such, they bypassed training at the language school at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. Recognition of their valorous service in combat situations and their useful service in the rehabilitation of the civilian population, especially of Okinawa, are the foci of these several stories.

Much has been recorded about the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's exploits in the WW II European Campaign. More recently the contribution of the Military Intelligence Service has become more public.

There were 175 Japanese Americans from Hawaii, part of approximately 600 draftees who were inducted into military service in early 1944 to early 1945. Because of the war situation in the Pacific, where the Japanese were being relentlessly pursued in the 'island-hopping campaign' by US and allied forces, there was an urgent need for interpreters. According to Arthur Kubota, 'two months after being drafted he found himself in a war zone and remained there for 18 months. Kubota recalled that they were picked by Admiral Chester Nimitz to be interpreters accompanying Marine, Navy and Army troops landing and assaulting and capturing the Japanese held islands and atolls.

Another veteran, Mike Miyashiro, said 50 interpreters served with the 1st Provisional Military Government Detachment and 125 interpreters served with the 6205th Interpreter Special Detachment, Navy 3256.

Minoru Hinahara, in an earlier interview with a Star Bulletin reporter, said that their assignment was dangerous as well as difficult because they had to persuade armed soldiers to surrender and also make every attempt to rescue Okinawan civilians from caves to come out so they could get medical aid and food—not BULLETS. Charles Otsuka, a retired president of a successful construction company, landed with the first wave on April 1st in the Okinawa invasion with the 27th Infantry division.

After the combat area was secured, Otsuka became Area Supervisor and interpreter for the District of Chinen, with responsibility for resettling 42,000 native Okinawans in seven different "mura" or villages. He was also in charge of a sawmill and all construction in the District. With the initial help of Seabees and mostly Okinawan laborers, they constructed 6,000 10x16 prefabricated homes. During this 18-month assignment, he also assisted the Military Government Education Center Director, (Willard Hanna) in various projects. (Lt. Comdr. Hanna, USNR, later became President of Michigan State University.)

Mike Miyashiro hopes the Japanese Government will fund the erection of a monument in Honolulu to honor the 175 Nisei interpreters of the CINCPAC 1st Provisional and the 6205th. Miyashiro suggests the inscription: "OKINAWA PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 1945 to DECEMBER 1946: SOLDIERS OF MERCY, HOPE AND GOODWILL, CINCPAC 1st PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT DETACHMENT, 6205th INTERPRETERS SPECIAL DETACHMENT, NAVY 3256."

The inscription capsulizes the heroic and humanitarian work of this small group of Japanese American soldiers in the final battles of the Pacific War described by Miyashiro:

"The government and the people of Japan, in gratitude, dedicates this monument to the men who served in the above two units in Okinawa during and after World War II.

"Your presence, your ethnic background and your ability to speak Japanese saved thousands upon thousands of civilian lives. During the three months of intensive battle, 134,000 civilians of a population of 450,000, or 28% of the island population, died.



Minoru Hinahara, 1995



Charles I. Otsuka, 1995
CINCPAC 1st Provisional, Okinawa



Hinahara, CINCPAC 1st
Provisional, Okinawa, 1945

"A group of American soldiers of Japanese descent—young, sincere, open-minded and energetic, gave aid and comfort to the wounded and won the hearts of our civilian people. Eighteen months of continued good humanitarian services to our civilians gave the United States great credibility, a task that under the circumstances Japan could not have provided.

"A deep appreciation and respect goes to Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz for his foresight and vision to deploy Americans of Japanese descent to serve with the Navy and Marine Corps in the hopes of minimizing the civilian casualties. Additionally, his concern for civilian lives was passed down to his subordinates through Lt. General Simon B. Buckner as evidenced by the document dated April 25, 1945, to Brigadier General William E. Crist."

Reported by Yoshinobu Oshiro

CINCPAC 1st PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT INTERPRETER DETACHMENT (HAWAII)

By Susumu Sarae and Stanley Nagao

Inducted from the September to November 1944 drafts, Stanley Nagao and I, and 15 others formed yet another team of the CINCPAC 1st Provisional Military Government Interpreter Detachment of the U.S. Navy. This group included Theodore Mitsumori, Shizuo "Old Man" Murayama, Hiromu Hironaka, Kazuji "Tony" Nishikimoto, Masayuki Miyake, Hideharu Taise, Isami Taira, Samuel Oppenheimer, a "hapa" boy, Katsumi Tokuuke, Teruto Tsubota, Richard Funai, Jinsuke Higa, and Hisayoshi Fujino, Akira Shibata, Zentaro Shiroma, Richard Sunada, Kiyoshi Tanoue (the last two joined them later from the 6205th unit) reported to Schofield's 13th Repo' Depot in February 1945 and from there boarded a ship in Pearl Harbor under wraps and headed for Guadalcanal. We were Army men detached to the U.S. Navy!

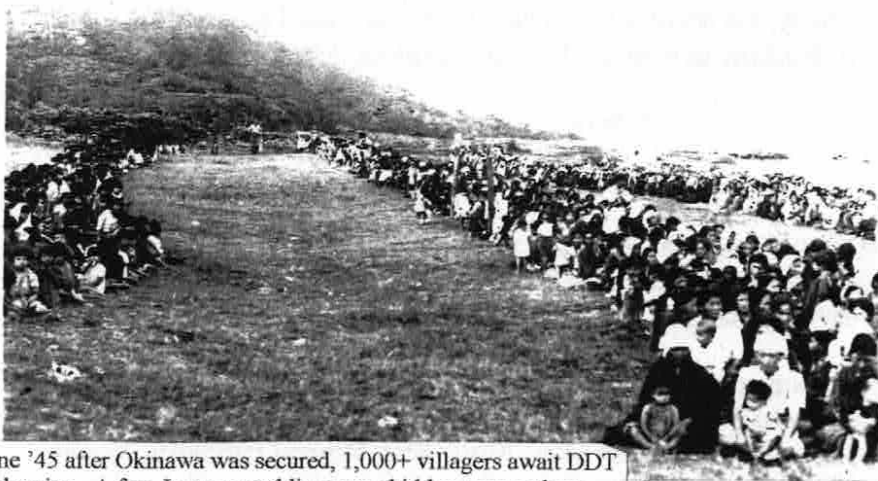
The U.S. Navy commandeered 167 of us as interpreters. The fact that these men were extremely valuable to the Navy and the war effort is illustrated by their continued recruitment for over a year, from early 1944 to June 1945, despite the U.S. Navy's continuing concern about our loyalty to the U.S. Seemingly unnecessary secrecy was used in putting us on a ship in Pearl Harbor when we were first taken by truck along Nimitz Highway to Hickam Field, leading us to believe we might be going to the mainland; then to Fort Kamehameha; then we were loaded on a launch to a ship in Pearl Harbor bound for Guadalcanal and Okinawa. While detached to the First Marine Division, a Caucasian officer accused me of disloyalty when he believed I was trying to send a message to the Japanese. My Schaefer fountain pen (no ball point pen then) accidentally leaked and made a round blot when I was writing a letter. The officer believed the inkblot represented the rising sun. Censoring of letters made letter writing virtually useless.

Beach Landing Operation on Okinawa: There was no beach resistance by the Japanese against our landing party. Once landing on the beach, however, the battle inland from the beach turned out to be one of the bloodiest in the Pacific due to tremendous amount of offensive and resistance from favorable Japanese gun emplacements and large numbers of Japanese troops. The Japanese purposely allowed us to land on the beach and were ready and waiting for us. The U.S. Navy had a large armada offshore that bombarded the island. These factors made the Okinawa Campaign one of the bloodiest. We interrogated captured prisoners for immediately useful tactical information. Okinawa was more or less secured in mid June 1945. After the battle, we proved extremely useful in helping the Okinawan people rebuild their towns and villages, build schools, etc., and help rebuild their lives.

We were discharged in August 1946, after which Nagao and I worked for a year in Okinawa as civilians. He was transportation supervisor-interpreter. I worked with the Ryukyu Review (formerly Army Stars and Stripes newspaper). We returned to Hawaii in late '47. Nagao ran a successful TV repair. I was a self-employed cab driver and later, gas station proprietor.

OKINAWA CAMPAIGN ~ CINCPAC and 620th

NAVY DETACHMENT INTERPRETERS



June '45 after Okinawa was secured, 1,000+ villagers await DDT Delousing. A few Japanese soldiers were hidden among them.



Guadalcanal, Feb '45. Rear: Sam Oppenheimer (hapa boy); Front, 1 to r, Shizuo Murayama, Theodore Mitsumori and Stanley Nagao (All Hawaii). Hats covered shaven heads.



Schofield Halemanu, ready to ship out with duffles "bag and baggage" are Edward K Doike, Richard T Funai, Hideo Goya, Robert K Hiraoka (stndg by bags), Theodore M Mitsumori, Masayuki Miyake, Saburo Morimoto, Shizuo Murayama, Stanley S Nagao, Samuel Openheimer, Susumu Sarae, Isami Taira, Hideharu Taise, Katsumi Tokuuke, Teruto Tsubota, Ralph Seikichi Tsuha—CINCPAC 1st Provisional.



Rescued villagers. Hungry, but finally safe from the horrors of war.



Susumu Sarae and Ted M Mitsumori, CINCPAC Det.



"Mabuni Yama," last stronghold on Okinawa, where Lt. Gen. Ushijima and his ranking staff committed ceremonial suicide to avoid the shame of surrender.

CINCPAC 1ST PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT INTERPRETERS & 6205TH INTERPRETERS SPECIAL DETACHMENT (NAVY 3256)

By Herbert Matsumoto, 6205th

During the WW II Pacific Campaign, there were two U.S. interpreter units (Hawaii) that were detached to various American Forces. They were used principally in the U.S. Navy and Marines Pacific island campaigns during the final stages of the war. Due to the Navy's urgent need for Japanese-speaking interpreters, the drafted and enlisted Nisei comprising this group went into the Pacific Theater without benefit of attending the Military Intelligence Language School located in Minnesota, where more than 6,000 Nisei interpreters were language-trained. A total of 167 men were selected by a Navy language officer who interviewed them in Japanese. This "Navy" group is listed on a subsequent page.

The first group was 76 men selected from the drafts in late 1944. They formed the CINCPAC 1st Provisional Military Government Interpreters. These men served on Guadalcanal, Leyte and Saipan before participating in the April 1, 1945, invasion of Okinawa.

The second group of 91 men formed the 6205th Special Interpreters Detachment. They were selected from the April through June 1945 drafts. I was in the first 6205th group. We flew in on army transport planes into Okinawa, two dozens at time, beginning in May 1945 during the crucial moments of the war. Soon after our arrivals, we were sent to various areas of the islands where we were needed, many joining the CINCPAC 1st Provisional Interpreters.

Despite not receiving training at the Military Language School at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, the interpreting skills and resourcefulness of the CINCPAC and 6205th interpreters made them invaluable to the Navy in several Pacific island campaigns, including Iwo Jima, Saipan, Tinian, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Eniwetok, Luzon, Leyte and Okinawa. As such, these Nisei U.S. Army interpreters detached to the Navy authentically belong to the brotherhood of the Military Intelligence Service. They not only helped win those campaigns, but helped save thousands of lives, both soldiers and civilians, and contributed significantly in rebuilding their lives.

During the war, some men in these two groups joined forces with the U.S. Marines in the "mopping up" campaign that covered the entire Okinawa island chain. Some were used in hilly areas where they had to coax Japanese soldiers hiding in caves to surrender ("Yobidashi"). A tragic aspect of this operation was the destruction of cave occupants who were indoctrinated against surrendering. Teruo Tsubota, with the 6th Marine Division, rescued 70 people on the island of Tsuken. After the war, Mr. Tsubota received a letter of appreciation from a village official for his heroic deed. As the 1st Marine Division advanced from Oyama to Mabuni, where Gen. Ushijima died, Minoru Hinahara rescued many Okinawans hiding in caves. Motomu Sakado was sent up a mountain in Motobu to talk Colonel Udo into surrendering as the war had ended. After several attempts by Sakado, Udo finally surrendered. Ralph Seikichi Tsuba similarly rescued civilians with the 1st Marine Division. The interpreters helped in moving masses of Okinawans from areas of danger to safer northern areas. The interpreters set up temporary "compounds" structures and provided management, structure and comfort for the masses of people. Some worked in hospital units caring for the needs of the Okinawan casualties. Using loudspeakers, the interpreters encouraged remaining Okinawans to come down from the hills to join their people in the "compounds." Note: Nisei interpreters were in danger of being mistaken by our troops for enemy soldiers. We were told not venture outside of the campsites.

The interpreters' efforts proved invaluable after the war during the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-torn islands, where villages were completely demolished. They were liaisons between American and Okinawan leaders and helped to build and set up administration buildings, schools, hospitals and clinics, and distributed food, clothing and basic necessities. Teiki Miyashiro helped build a dispensary in the village of Haneji-Taira to treat the wounded and sick. He received a letter of appreciation. Herbert Matsumoto and Katsushi Nishimura were assigned to the Navy Military Government hospital in the village of Ginoza, the only hospital

during the war. The Okinawans were placed in large compounds, until they were able to return to their villages. Edward Doike was assigned to the largest of these compounds in Ishikawa.

The interpreters held supervisory positions in work projects, procuring and distributing food and clothing. They acted as liaison between the American Officials and Okinawan leaders and encouraged the local government officials to return to their former village leadership positions. Charles Otsuka was in charge of a large sawmill in the District of Chinen, supervising Americans and Okinawans. He received a commendation from his Navy commander. Many in our group had relatives on Okinawa, which gave them a unique opportunity to find them and help them rebuild their lives. This was a most moving experience for both parties.

6205th Interpreter Special Detachment, Navy 3256

By Kenichi Nakagawa

The following report of one Military Intelligence Service interpreter of the 6205th brings to light the heretofore untold, unknown story of the MIS'ers who were secretly detached to the Navy and significantly contributed to winning the Pacific War, saving countless lives and rebuilding the lives of the civilian populations. [*James Tetsuji Tanabe interviewed Nakagawa*]

I was 20 years old when inducted in the U.S. Army in April 1945, a month before VE (Victory in Europe) Day. I immediately became a member of the 6205th Interpreter Special Detachment, with the technician's M.O.S. (Military Occupation Specialty) of 320 (Interpreter). I figured in the Navy's plans for Japanese speaking interpreters as earlier conceived by Admiral Nimitz. The Pacific War was still going on. Japanese speaking Nisei interpreters were still in high demand. I had completed chugakko yonensei (intermediate division, 4th level) at Honpa Hongwanji Japanese Language School before the war.

Assigned to the Navy Detachment 3256, our group of about 20 inductees went through a crash course concentrating on "Heigo" (Japanese Military Terms), which even included vocabulary of automobile engine parts and everything related to warfare, and more. The dictionary was 1 ½ inches thick in fine print. The school was located in Schofield Barracks and was named Allied Military Government Language School. The instructor was a young "haole" officer who was commissioned upon completing a "Heigo" crash course at the University of Colorado at Boulder, CO.

Initially I was assigned to Schofield's War Hospital as an interpreter for Japanese POWs from the islands of Tinian, Saipan, Palau, etc.

Then one night in late July 1945, my detachment took off from Hickam Field and landed on Okinawa on July 29, four months after the Okinawa Invasion began. I shipped over with my buddies Kiyoshi Tanoue, Robert Kaneshiro, Seiji Tsugawa, Harry I. Higa, Kikuji Tojio, Charles Okimura, Herbert Oyama, Masayoshi Ishii, Bobby Shiraki and Eijiro Higashionna. Ground fighting had stopped, but Japanese soldiers were still hiding in the mountains. Kamikaze planes made nightly raids over airfields, Army installations and U.S. seaports. Anti-aircraft guns were saturating the air up to an hour before the planes arrived. My first assignment was with the C.I.C. (Counter Intelligence Corps) in Ginoza, where I worked with Bob Kimura (there before me), covering northern Okinawa, with the mission of capturing and interrogating remaining Japanese soldiers and Okinawa Home Guard soldiers. I interrogated POWs in a large camp called Yaka Compound. I was later detached to the U.S. Marines, and interrogated POWs and worked with the civilians in rebuilding their towns and supplying them food and necessities. I also supervised souvenir clearance for homebound GIs. Then the Atomic Bombs ended of the Pacific war.

My next assignment was with the 10th Army Expeditionary Forces collecting Japanese arms on the southern Okinawa islands Okino and Kita Daito Shima, Miyako Ishigake and Ira Omote. The Navy assigned me to the bomb disposal team, going from island to island mapping harbor sea mines for destruction by the U.S. Navy. I worked on an LST 118.

Returning to Okinawa, I was assigned to the Military Government (MG) unit 10 in southern Okinawa, near Buckner Bay. I was camp interpreter and supervisor of construction, helping civilians construct Quonset huts and "Butler's Quarters" buildings (learned at Navy and Army Supply Depots), water tanks and pumps, set up generators and procure food for the starving.

Despite earning more than needed overseas points, I enlisted for an additional year of duty in Japan with the 358th Interrogation Team, interrogating civilians returning to Japan from Manchuria, etc. This operation was in the port of Hakodate in Hokkaido Island, and when that port was frozen, we processed repatriates through the port of Hakata in Fukuoka-ken.

Nakagawa was honorably discharged in July 1947 and returned to Hawaii.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

A special "Mahalo" and recognition go to Mike Teiki Miyashiro whose initiative and persistence resulted in locating the records of the men of the CINC-PAC 1st Provisional Military Governm't Interpreter Detachment and the 6205th Special Interpreter Detachment, Navy 3256. Mike's search took 18 months to identify the 167 linguists in War Department files. He will not rest until proper recognition is given his buddies for their work as interpreters under direct combat conditions, capturing holdout enemy soldiers, rescuing civilians and the significant part they played in rebuilding the lives of the Okinawan people.

Much Aloha and Mahalo must go to our wonderful Senator Daniel K. Akaka and his chief Honolulu aide Mike Kitamura for their invaluable assistance in retrieving War Department files of these otherwise forgotten Hawaii Nisei of the Military Intelligence Service.



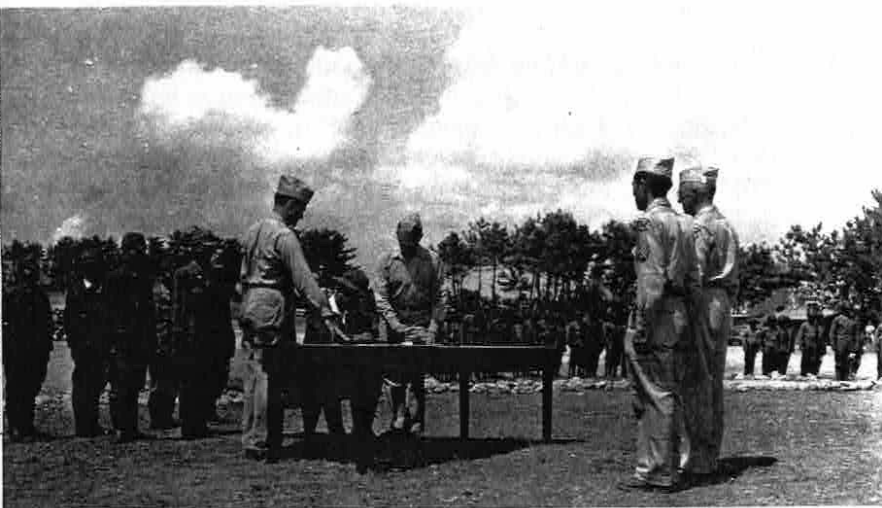
Herbert Oyama, Kiyoshi Hiramatsu and Kenichi Nakagawa in Okinawa.



Mike Miyashiro, 6205th WW II interpreter, reviews a map of Okinawa, where he served from May 1945 to October 1946.



Transport plane that flew the 6205th to Okinawa.



Surrender on Ryukyu Sakashima Island. Lt. Gen. "Vinegar" Joe Stillwell is on the right with interpreter-translator Robert Masaya Oda of HQ 303 Intelligence. Standing at the table are (L) Col. Philip H. Bethune of G-2 and Tenth Army Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Frank D. Merrill of the famed Merrill's Marauders.

Roy Chuichi Kouke, CINCPAC 1st Provisional Military Government Interpreter Detachment (Hawaii)

Roy C. Kouke grew up on a farm on Maui. When December 7, 1941 interrupted his high school (McKinley) graduation, Kouke, then 17, was put to work with other Nisei clearing bushes for Army gun emplacements. They worked under armed guards because they were of Japanese descent and identified with the enemy. Later Roy worked for Hawaiian Construction and USED (U.S. Engineers) at Army installations and earned his high school diploma on his work experience merits, an arrangement made by his kind and supportive school principal, Dr. Miles Carey. In Nov '44, Roy was drafted after being deferred three times as an essential civilian worker. After basic training and language training at the AMGLS (Allied Military Government Language School) at Scho-field, he shipped out with four other interpreters on 17 March 45 in the dark of night from Honolulu Harbor on a Navy ship K-3 (no one of Japanese ancestry was allowed in Pearl Harbor). They reached Okinawa on 11 April 45. The long voyage was caused by zig zagging to avoid enemy submarines. The Okinawa Invasion started on 1 Apr 45, with the earlier 1st Provisional Interpreters (Roy's group) landing with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Marines. Some of those MIS'rs were dropped off at Guadalcanal and saw action there. Fighting was now at its height on Okinawa.

The U.S. secured a southern area of Okinawa. The beach where Kouke landed was covered with dead soldiers from both sides. He could not eat for 5 days. He noticed many enemy bunkers, which he learned were Okinawan tombs used as gun emplacements. It was still April when Kouke was assigned to the reconstruction phase of the campaign in Ginoza. With him were Kenneth Yoshinaga, Rikio Nishioka and Sadao Yamamoto. Yoshinaga worked with the MPs, while Kouke and the others worked with the 27th Seabees in construction. They were charged with the rebuilding of Kanna Village. The first and quickest constructed building was the Quonset Hut, known to most of us as the "kamaboko" house. They were not designed to dissipate hot air, so they were uncomfortable in the summer heat. "Things were going well when came a Personnel officer who told me to report to the 27th Division's 165th Regiment, 1st Battalion mop up operation. "I was assigned to a machine gun crew. I found out that the unit had deployed from New York to Kauai. When the all-Caucasian unit found out I was from Kauai they took me in with open arms." This duty was considered "mop up" and included "cave-flushing," which was time consuming and sometimes dangerous. The caves were occupied by the elderly and children, "comfort women," and Japanese soldiers who sometimes dressed as civilians. They were sick, injured or starving. The soldiers were those separated from their units, wounded or wearied of fighting. Once a cave-occupant soldier in civilian clothes pulled out a grenade from his kimono sleeve and threw it at Kouke, who hit the ground, but his steel pot (helmet) popped off and the grenade exploded against it and Kouke escaped with scratches. He got most of the people out of the cave, but that soldier refused to surrender. They finally had to grenade the cave. It was the only cave Kouke found necessary to grenade because the occupants refusing to surrender posed a future threat by their own actions. On one occasion, in June 45 in Motobu, Northwest Okinawa, Kouke expended a whole box of machine gun rounds when the enemy continued firing and bullets were whistling by him. The gun was red hot by then. For "cave flushing," Kouke found it effective if he used simple homespun language, treated them as equals, brought candy, food and cigarets, and was patient. He had difficulty understanding the elderly until he learned some Okinawa dialect. When he talked to the occupants, especially soldiers, about their families needing them, he got their cooperation. He coaxed them out of the caves by promising them humanitarian care and demonstrating it by his own behavior. Active fighting was over and soon the Japanese commander would surrender the islands. Mopping up and reconstruction still remained. It was July '45.

It was now nearing August '45 and momentarily on September 2, 1945, the formal surrender would take place on the USS Missouri. Kouke contracted dengue fever and was hospitalized. He also had trench foot, a common affliction in wet environments intensified by heavy boots and the inability to wash frequently. After recuperating from the feverish illness, he was assigned to the northern Ryukyu island chain and reported to the Navy Destroyer 616 "O'Neil." Meanwhile Ken Nakagawa went to the south end on an LST 118 to map sea mine locations for their destruction. Kouke's duty on the Navy destroyer was to use his language skills to do more mopping up by flushing out remaining Japanese soldiers and civilians from the many small islands in the Ryukyu chain. He was also in charge of marking graves where slain soldiers of both sides were buried. Generally the enemy soldiers were relieved to hear Kouke's announcements by bullhorn or otherwise that the war was over, and they surrendered without resistance. They also heard Emperor Hirohito's surrender speech. Only in rare cases did he know or was told of a soldier, usually a high-ranking sergeant or an officer, who was holding out and hiding. The destroyer also searched the nearby seas for Japanese ships which they disarmed. Kouke met an interesting Japanese soldier who turned out to be from Hawaii, spoke in Hawaiian pidgin and wore a Hawaii high school graduation ring. He berated Kouke for being a "turncoat." However, that POW cooperated with the mopping-up operation and assisted in navigating the destroyer through safe waters and pointing out Japanese hiding places. Mopping up operation had its share of risks, as even those who eventually surrendered sometimes fired upon Kouke's party; those who withheld their fire were slow to surrender because they still doubted the humaneness of the Americans. Still

others needed to be convinced that the war was indeed over. "This destroyer assignment took us as far as Takara Jima and Kodakara Jima near Kagoshima, where on 14 Oct 45 we met three Japanese destroyers at 2030 hours. We could not understand their signal so I used the bullhorn to talk to them and told them we were coming aboard, so get the ladders ready. The first was Kunashiri Maru, then Hibiki Maru and Amami Maru. We were to check that the Japanese destroyers had proper U.S. Navy Clearance papers that informed them of surrender terms and inspect for guns or ammunition; they were permitted either but not both. They were also cleared for fueling at Yokosuka Naval Base. The three destroyers were cleared to pick up Japanese civilians and soldiers from Saipan, Tinian and Yap islands. We confirmed information with our command cruiser, 'Maiamai Maiamai.' The Japanese warned us of an approaching typhoon, common around Okinawa. The American Navy commander was unfamiliar with the term "typhoon" so I explained it as a hurricane. We immediately headed for the high seas and averted the typhoon's brunt." Kouke said a destroyer would dip to each side but its stern would not dip as you see in the movies. Sucking on a lime helped reduce his motion sickness considerably. They headed for Amami Oshima Fujikowan Bay and landed at the Kakeroma Shima Japanese Naval Base. "We inspected submarines, speed boats, LSTs, tankers and kamikaze items and sea mines. A Japanese submarine officer named Hayashi told our Navy inspection team of Captain Budweiser and Commanders Rittenhouse and Fitzgerald about the Japanese submarine periscopes' distance limitation that forced the subs to come within easy target range of the enemy. He also explained their speedboats' ability to operate in dark waters that made them effective as well as difficult targets.

Then in early 1946, Kouke was moved to Military Government HQ and put in charge of maintaining building materials, both new and reusable. By this time the Okinawa islands were completely secured. After his discharge, he remained in Okinawa and worked as a civilian with the Army engineers on the area's infrastructure, such as putting in sewer lines, water lines, mostly to supply the government personnel and military officers' housing areas. Kouke also trained civilians in construction, some of the time directly teaching, other times interpreting for the trainer and trainees. There were also fun times during all these heavy responsibilities. They would catch loads of shrimp, and have shrimp cookouts with plenty of Army beer with employees and friends.

Kouke returned to Hawaii in 1948. He obtained education in farm management with his GI Bill benefits and became a successful papaya farmer on Oahu's windward (NE) side. In between, he did construction work. He and his wife Amy Miyoko Arakaki had five children who have all made their parents proud.

Postscript: Early Days: "I was raised by my father from 4 ½ years of age. I had an older brother and sister. As soon as I was old enough, my father put me in the Boy Scouts. This is what my father left me: 'I want you to be a good citizen, be patient, be thankful for what you have. In life's ups or downs, never lose faith in Almighty God; he is your best friend so if you need help, pray. Always treat others as equals, no matter where they are from for we are all brothers and sisters under God; color is nothing. Always do your best. I wish I could stay with you always but I am old now and someday God is coming to take me, so don't cry, my son. If you are a man, don't dirty our name.'" Those were his father's last words before he passed away in 1940. Kouke was 15.

Note: Kouke and numerous other MIS'ers in the Okinawa Campaign were at various times forced by circumstances to do battle in combat situations. In Kouke's case, and he was not alone, he was actually assigned to a machine gun crew and took to firing the weapon against the enemy to meet enemy fire. His unit commander told Kouke he had earned the Combat Infantry Badge for his combat actions. But he later learned that the citation was not noted on his records so he did not receive the badge. Efforts to correct the omission were futile, including an appeal to his Congressman who advised that nothing could be done as long as notation was not made on his records.

Roy Chuichi Kouke in Okinawa →



Stanley Seiso Segawa, ASN 30110089, Okinawa Campaign, CINCPAC 1st Prov Special Interpreters

Stanley Seiso Segawa was born on 22 May 1921 of immigrant parents who were sugar cane plantation contract laborers on the island of Kauai. As the family was large and poor, and moreover with the father passing away when Segawa was still in his teens, he had to work his way through high school. He continued working after high school as government defense-essential electrician at the unusually hefty rate of \$1 an hour to help send his younger sister's to college. His high school years were interrupted by WW II. Segawa was drafted into the Army in August 1944 at age 23.

Segawa took his basic training at Oahu's Schofield Barracks' 13th Replacement Depot, more familiarly known as "13th Repo Depot." His boyhood hunting experience quickly resulted in gaining "expert" (the highest) qualification for weapon marksmanship. "About 3 weeks to go in basic, Officers came to interview me to see if I was qualified as a language specialist. I told the officer I did not know much Japanese. He then pulled out my

record and read from it that I went to quite a few years of language school-10 years. So about five of us initially were removed from basic training to be linguists. I was assigned temporarily in a clerk typist position and studied Japanese intensely from about November to January. I was in the group that included Susumu "Chick" Sarae and Stanley Nagao. Later we shipped out, about 22 of us, from 13th Repo Depot and headed for Guadalcanal. Passing the equator, we were initiated as "shellbacks" by having our heads shaved, groveling through a tank of slop garbage, face rubbed with oil while kissing the belly of a fat cook, etc. So I am a "Shellback." I had my hair cut short ever since. We arrived on Guadalcanal in Feb '45. Our shore leave was a tiny island no bigger than a football field. There was no water on the island. We had beer, but I did not drink beer. There were coconut trees on the island so I figured I'd get the water from the coconut. So I happily climbed the coconut tree but when I reached the coconuts, a giant coconut crab met me and down I came-scared the hell out of me-first time I ever saw a giant coconut crab! We departed for Okinawa on 10 March '45.

"We arrived in Okinawa and I went up on deck and what I saw was a fleet of U.S. ships as far as the eye could see! You couldn't see the water between them. Later I learned there were 1,000 ships. I thought to myself that no enemy could overcome that many ships. We landed at the mouth of Kitagawa River at the town of Sobe in the area called Yomitan. Interpreters were needed to communicate with civilian casualties. At Yomitan we saw badly wounded civilians like the woman with her buttocks blown off. We had to put her to sleep. I escorted a war correspondent around the area. Later I learned he was the famous Ernie Pyle. Meanwhile shelling and bombing continued. The shelling by American ships was the chief cause of civilian casualties. Food was scarce.

"We moved our operation of treating the civilian casualties from Yomitan to Kin, 5 miles away on the Pacific side where there was spring water. We had a problem with people's not being on time for their treatment. It seemed not their custom to go by clock time. Finally we had to resort to containing the sick and injured so we could treat them. So we built a compound to contain them so we could treat the many number of patients in an orderly and timely manner. Otherwise their wounds would fester, worsen, or cause shock and even death. Even with benefit of the compound, we could not get to each patient fast enough so wounds would fester or get infested with maggots. Here is where I learned that the maggots were beneficial when they brought a man with a gangrenous leg. When I saw the maggots in his leg I tried to remove them but the doctor stopped me and taught me that the maggots kept this man alive because they actually reduce the bacteria, infection and fever as the maggots eat only puss and dead tissue. This was Dr. Livingston who early on took a liking to me from the time we were at Schofield, I guess because I always volunteered to do things for him. After that it was always 'Stanley this and Stanley come with me.' My job was essentially a medical corpsman's, although I was neither trained as one nor was it my MOS. But I was essential as an interpreter. Another thing I learned from this great doctor was how to diagnose Malaria. He would have the patients show him the palms of their hands and he could tell if they had Malaria. Okinawa had no Malaria until GI's brought it from the Philippines. However, Malaria was contained at the north end of Okinawa at the hospital at Ginoza.

"We were later joined by George Hiraoka, Seijin Kaneshiro and Rikio Nishioka, who gave us much interpret-ing relief. We added injured POWS to our care. Later we encountered lepers with extremities missing. They looked quite bad. I felt so sorry for them. Here I learned yet another thing from the good doctor. As bad as the lepers looked, their condition is not as contagious as one might think. TB can be passed on much easier simply by direct contact with an infected person's breath.

"We had fun times too. Fishing and sharing the catch with the civilians wwere always fun. I 'caught' the fish with appropriated left over hand grenades. It was easy. Then we got a supply of beer and had some nice times with the civilian workers, cleaning, cooking and eating the fish and washing it down with lots of beer. I taught them how to "Puleho" (barbeque or smoke) the fish because we didn't have cooking oil or butter to cook with."

Stanley completed his M.I.S. service in 1947, married the young nurse, Judy Haruko, he met in Okinawa, returned to Hawaii to work. They have a daughter and two grandchildren. When asked, Stanley said that hard work, exercise and clean living without vices are the formula for a good, constructive and useful life.



Stanley Seiso Segawa

Arata Wallace Iwamuro, ASN 30117629 . . . MIS'er WW II and Korean War Combat Medic . . .

One day at a family dinner, my cousin and I asked my father if he served in the War. He told us, to our surprise, that he was an MIS'er! He said he served during the waning days of WWII in the MIS, and later fought in

Korea. My cousin Richard conducted some research and found that dad was not listed or registered as one of those who served in the MIS, and urged me to speak to my father about his service. Initially, he was very reluctant to speak about his days in the Army and I can't recall a time when he really elaborated about his experiences in the service while we were growing up. My mother says that even to this day, he finds it extremely difficult to recall and speak of his experience from that period of his life. He asked me to give you this brief synopsis of his service in the MIS and Korea. He is both humbled and honored that people have an interest in his contribution and service to our nation and in his story. Here is his information as was told to me (Kerry Iwamuro, son):

"All of this happened nearly 60 years ago, so I can't recall dates (not even close) or units I was with. I was drafted in the last few months of WW II in April 1945, completed basic training and was sent to Japanese Language School at Schofield Barracks [Allied Military Government Language School-AMGLS]. Originally we were to be part of the Okinawa invasion and assigned to the Navy. Fortunately for us, the "shooting war" ended prior to the completion of our training. In August 1945 we were shipped to Manila City, Philippines instead. We commuted daily from the Santa Ana Race Track, Manila City, to Bilibid Prison to interview and process Japanese POW's for repatriation back to Japan as the war ended. However, some in our group were sent to Okinawa."

In December 1945, Iwamuro was assigned to the Tochigi Military Government Team, Utsunomiya City, Tochigi Prefecture, where he served as an interpreter/clerk in the Legal Department. "After my tour in Japan, I returned to Hawaii [in Feb '49] where I remained a member of the MIS Reserve for 3 months.

"I re-enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Tripler Army Medical Center. When the Korean War began, I was one of 30 medics assigned to the 5th Regimental Combat Team at Schofield Barracks. We deployed to Korea with the 5th RCT. I was wounded in action near Masan, South Korea in September 1950. I was evacuated to Tripler Hospital for treatment and recuperation."

[Edited--James T. Tanabe]

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Okinawa Period of April 1st 1945 – December 1946
 Hawaii's Interpreter Units of Goodwill and Mercy

CINCPAC 1st Provisional Military Government Detachment
 6205th Interpreters Special Detachment, Navy 3256

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Honorary Member

USMC Col. Charles I. Murray, Deputy Commander of Military Government of the Ryukyu's

US Navy Lt. (jg) C.E. Barbier, Commanding Officer

Hawaii's Interpreter Units of Goodwill and Mercy			
#	Name	Serial Number	Unit
1	Aoki, Kiyoto	30117627	6205 th
2	Arakaki, Bussei	30116196	6205 th
3	Choriki, Hiroshi	30113824	CINCPAC
4	Danbara, Takayuki	30117642	CINCPAC
5	Date, Shiro	30109619	CINCPAC
6	Doike, Edward K.	30111808	CINCPAC
7	Fujii, Masayuki T.	30112119	CINCPAC
8	Fujimoto, Alex A.	30109994	CINCPAC
9	Fujinaka, Ivan T.	30117146	6205 th
10	Fujino, Hisayoshi	30116149	6205 th
11	Fujishima, Kazuo R.	30110134	CINCPAC
12	Fukumoto, Tadashi	30114723	CINCPAC
13	Funai, Tokuo Richard	30112257	CINCPAC
14	Furukawa, James Mitsuo	30113361	CINCPAC
15	Furukawa, Tatsuo	30116762	6205 th
16	Genishi, Takashi	30110521	CINCPAC
17	Gishi, Masaharu	30113939	CINCPAC
18	Goya, Hideo	30111756	CINCPAC
19	Gushiken, Seiko	30109166	CINCPAC
20	Hara, James M.	30109121	CINCPAC
21	Hattori, Clarence S.	30116186	6205 th
22	Hayashi, James	30109935	CINCPAC
23	Higa, Hideo	30117583	6205 th
24	Higa, Isao Harry	30116583	6205 th
25	Higa, Jinsuke	30114341	CINCPAC
26	Higa, Koyei C.	30112305	CINCPAC
27	Higa, Kenji	30117605	6205 th
28	Higashionna, Ejiro	30117375	CINCPAC
29	Hinahara, Minoru	30113928	CINCPAC
30	Hino, Hisashi	30109637	CINCPAC
31	Hiraoka, George M.	30113904	CINCPAC
32	Hiraoka, Kiyoshi Robert	30112526	CINCPAC
33	Hiramatsu, Kiyoshi	30112326	CINCPAC

34	Hironaka, Hiromu W.	30109942	CINCPAC
35	Iida, Thomas I	30109519	CINCPAC
36	Ikeda, Masayoshi	30113900	CINCPAC
37	Inafuku, Paul T.	30116929	6205 th
38	Ishibashi, Lawrence K.	30117128	6205 th
39	Ishii, Masayoshi	Punchbowl	CINCPAC
40	Ito, Kunji	30115756	CINCPAC
41	Ito, Zenshichi K.	30115707	6205 th
42	Kagimoto, Mitsuo	30116272	6205 th
43	Kajikawa, Kenichi	30109985	CINCPAC
44	Kamisato, Yoshio	30116192	6205 th
45	Kanemoto, James A.	30113618	CINCPAC
46	Kaneshige, Lincoln T.	30117219	6205 th
47	Kaneshiro, Morimasa	30115335	6205 th
48	Kaneshiro, Robert Y.	30117300	6205 th
49	Kaneshiro, Seiji	30113595	CINCPAC
50	Katayama, Larry T.	30112068	CINCPAC
51	Katayama, Raymond Y.	30116105	6205 th
52	Kimoto, Sadao Robert	30116583	CINCPAC
53	Kimura, Kazuyoshi S.	30113066	CINCPAC
54	Kimura Wesley H.	30109595	CINCPAC
55	Kitazaki, Wataru	30114875	6205 th
56	Kiyabu, Nobuyoshi	30109672	CINCPAC
57	Kobayashi, Raymond K.	30110217	6205 th
58	Konishi, Larry	30116015	6205 th
59	Konno, David H.	30117067	6205 th
60	Kouke, Chuichi Roy	30113706	CINCPAC
61	Kozai, Kearney K.	30115434	6205 th
62	Kubota, Arthur N.	30116152	6205 th
63	Kugimoto, Mitsuo	30116272	6205th
64	Kunitake, Jitsuo	30116702	6205 th
65	Kuniyoshi, Shinkiyo	30112069	CINCPAC
66	Maeshiro, Clarence S.	30109223	CINCPAC
67	Matsumoto, Herbert Y.	30116056	6205 th
68	Masumoto, Hiromu	30112514	CINCPAC
69	Matsumoto, Kazuichi	30116505	6205 th
70	Mitsumori, Theodore M.	30109783	CINCPAC
71	Miyake, Masayuki Mike	30112507	CINCPAC
72	Miyamoto, Susumu	30116576	6205 th
73	Miyashiro, Teiki Mike	30114935	6205 th
74	Morichika, Paul M.	30116460	6205 th
75	Morikami, Shigeru	30116183	6205 th
76	Morimoto, Saburo	30112320	CINCPAC
77	Muranaka, Stanley M.	30116787	6205 th
78	Murayama, Shizuo	30109221	CINCPAC
79	Nagamine, Isamu	30116259	6205 th
80	Nagao, Satoru	30112328	CINCPAC

Error - #63
misspelled,
(delete)
#42 is correct

81	Najita, Haruo	30109835	CINCPAC
82	Nakachi, Kosei R.	30109102	CINCPAC
83	Nakagawa, Kenichi	30117254	6205 th
84	Nakahira, Suzuto	30116738	6205 th
85	Nakai, Fukuo	30117589	6205 th
86	Nakamura, Fumio	30110030	CINCPAC
87	Nakasone, Hideo	30113843	CINCPAC
88	Nakata, Takeo	30113410	CINCPAC
89	Nariyoshi, Tomio	30114699	6205 th
90	Niimi, George	30110537	CINCPAC
91	Nishi, Tadatsuki	30116162	6205 th
92	Nishikimoto, Kazuji	30116670	6205 th
93	Nishimura, Itsuo	30113389	CINCPAC
94	Nishimura, Katsushi	30116782	6205 th
95	Nishioka, Hidekazu	30117594	6205 th
96	Nishioka, Rikio	30113492	CINCPAC
97	Oga, Masatsugu Norman	30116565	6205 th
98	Okamoto, Ryoichi Roy	30116504	6205 th
99	Okamoto, Tadashi David	30116749	6205 th
100	Okamoto, Takashi	30116306	CINCPAC
101	Okazaki, Mitsuo Johnny	30116740	6205 th
102	Okimura, Charles M.	30117445	6205 th
103	Okinaka, Tsuneo Harold	30115712	6205 th
104	Okubo, Shigeru James	30116263	6205 th
105	Okuma, Kiyoshi Roy	30116794	6205 th
106	Okumura, Harold N.	30114015	CINCPAC
107	Ono, James H.	30110013	CINCPAC
108	Oppenheimer, Samuel	30112904	CINCPAC
109	Otsubo, Yoshiaki	30116786	6205 th
110	Otsuka, Akira	30115371	CINCPAC
111	Otsuka, Charles I.	30113319	CINCPAC
112	Oyama, Herbert K.	30117439	6205 th
113	Sakado, Motomu	30116582	6205 th
114	Sakai, Masayuki Alfred	30115435	6205 th
115	Sakumoto, Earl T.	30115348	6205 th
116	Sanekane, Shuji	30116779	6205 th
117	Sarae, Susumu	30115279	CINCPAC
118	Segawa, Stanley Seiso	30110089	CINCPAC
119	Sekimura, Kazuyoshi Oliver	30113065	6205 th
120	Sekimura, Sueo Russell	30116532	6205 th
121	Shibata, Akira Albert	30112914	6205 th
122	Shimabukuro, Robert J.	30116370	6205 th
123	Shiraki, Mitsuru Robert	30117630	6205 th
124	Shiroma, Zentaro	30116384	6205 th
125	Shiroyama, Toru Tom	30113921	CINCPAC
126	Suehiro, Hiroshi	30109723	CINCPAC
127	Sumitani, Hiroshi	30117106	6205 th

128	Sunada, Richard T.	30116076	6205 th
129	Tachino, Gunji	30117402	6205 th
130	Taira, Isami	30115136	CINCPAC
131	Taise, Hideharu	30112673	CINCPAC
132	Taketa, Haruo	30116744	6205 th
133	Tanabe, Jiro	30117412	6205 th
134	Tanabe, Katsuyuki	30112469	CINCPAC
135	Tanabe, Toshiyuki	30116795	6205 th
136	Tanaka, Francis I.	30116097	CINCPAC
137	Tanaka, Masato James	30115576	6205 th
138	Tanaka, Shigenobu	30112279	CINCPAC
139	Tanoue, Kiyoshi	30117070	6205 th
140	Taoka, Seiichi	30117427	6205 th
141	Terada, Katsushi	30117615	6205 th
142	Tojio, Kikuji	30117128	6205 th
143	Tokuhisa, Naoki	30116695	6205 th
144	Tokuuke, Katsumi	30113143	CINCPAC
145	Tomiyasu, Mike M.	30116313	6205 th
146	Tsubota, Teruto Arthur	30112425	CINCPAC
147	Tsugawa, Seiji	30117448	6205 th
148	Tsuha, Seikichi Ralph	30113723	CINCPAC
149	Uchimura, Shizuo	30115374	6205 th
150	Uechi, Kenichi Douglas	30113404	CINCPAC
151	Uechi, Takeichi T.	30116796	6205 th
152	Watanabe, Fumio R.	30116682	6205 th
153	Watanabe, Miyoshi	30111923	CINCPAC
154	Yagawa, Matsuo	30113830	CINCPAC
155	Yakushiji, Hiroshi	30113412	CINCPAC
156	Yamaguchi, Jack H.	30116221	6205 th
157	Yamamoto, Kiyoshi Kenneth	30114349	6205 th
158	Yamamoto, Sadao	30113431	CINCPAC
159	Yamane, Kosei	30116365	6205 th
160	Yamashita, Shigemi	30116208	6205 th
161	Yamauchi, Takeo	30115651	6205 th
162	Yanagi, Masao	30117040	6205 TH
163	Yonamine, Shigeru James	30115362	6205 th
164	Yonemori, Seiji James	30117586	6205 th
165	Yoshimura, Akira	30117066	6205 th
166	Yoshinaga, Kenneth M.	30111438	CINCPAC
167	Yoshinaga, Richard S.	30117266	6205 th
168	Kouchi, Satoru	30112075	CINCPAC
169	Morimoto, Theodore	30110117	CINCPAC
170	Saito, Masaaki	30111232	CINCPAC
171	Takahashi, Waichi	30118585	6205 th

Last four names courtesy of Seiki Oshiro's persistent search.

Count is 170 (#63 is duplicated misspelled error of #42)

MORE "NON-MISLS" LINGUISTS AND INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL* IN THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA, OTHER PACIFIC CAMPAIGNS & OCCUPATION

* "Non-MISLS (LS=Language School) MIS Personnel were those Interpreters-Translators who for various reasons did not attend the Military Intelligence Language School at The Presidio of San Francisco, Camp Savage or Fort Snelling. They attended provisional schools, or were deemed qualified by their language proficiency and were not required to take formal language training, except a crash study in Japanese military terms and battle order. They were assigned the Language MOS (Military Occupational Specialty), and performed as language specialists in the Pacific War Zones and post-hostilities Military Government, or Japan's Occupation, and as such were indeed members of the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service. jtt

Thomas Shoshin Higa, 30101597, Co E & A 100th Infantry Battalion, PH, BS; Italian Campaign (The original 100th Infantry Battalion had six companies A, B, C, D, E & F, unlike standard infantry companies of only four companies A, B, C & D. In the 100th Infantry Battalion publication, Remembrances, Thomas S. Higa is listed as a member of Co A.); interpreter & cave flusher during the Battle of Okinawa; a non-MISLer; studied electrical science at Waseda University.

Thomas Taro Higa [legal name Thomas Shoshin Higa] was the third child of twelve children born to immigrant parents, Kana and Kamezo Higa, on September 22, 1916, in Honolulu, Hawaii. As a child, he was taken to Okinawa and was raised by his grandparents in Kitanakagusuku. He passed his early teen years in Osaka and then returned to Hawaii to be a farmer. A professor from Japan noted his inventions and therefore invited him to study electrical science at Waseda University in Japan.

During the period preceding World War II, while studying in Japan, he commuted regularly to the American Embassy and to the Patent Office in order to register his inventions. At this time, he was mistaken for an American spy, taken in by the Japanese Secret Police and roughly interrogated and beaten. Subsequently, he made a hasty exit back to Hawaii to escape the increasing militaristic environment of Japan.

Back in Hawaii, on June 30, 1941, he joined the 100th Infantry Battalion of the U.S. Army at Schofield Barracks. He was shipped to the Mainland for Basic Training and sent to Italy via Northern Africa where he participated in the Italian campaign. He was wounded twice. One wound was a shrapnel injury to his back in 1943 and he was evacuated to the U.S. for surgical removal of the shrapnel. It was during this recuperation period that there was unrest among the Issei in Relocation Centers in the USA due to the high casualties among Nisei soldiers.

From June 1944 to January 1945, Higa was sponsored by the U.S. Army, the War Relocation Authority (WRA), and the Japanese American Citizens League to go on a seven-month lecture tour to nine Relocation Camps and Internment Camps run by the Justice Department and Immigration and Naturalization Service across the United States. The purpose of his talks was to dispel rumors that Japanese American soldiers were being used as human shields or cannon fodder. At Manzanar Relocation Center in California, he spoke to more than 2,800 people. "Many stood outside in the cold. Many others were turned away. News of his talk spread through the camp. It was on everyone's lips. A certain Miss Dougherty said Higa turned the camp 'upside down.' He had done in one night what the Caucasian staff had been unable to do for a long time--make the Issei understand the Nisei viewpoint in volunteering and going into the Army." Elsewhere during his lecture tour, he was once arrested on suspicion of being a "Jap spy" in spite of his American military uniform. Higa had the rare privilege of visiting the highly secured U.S. Navy's Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado at Boulder, CO.

As the American forces were contemplating an invasion of Okinawa, Higa, sponsored by G-2 General Kendall Fielder, volunteered and went to Okinawa as an interpreter capable of speaking Okinawan, Japanese and English fluently. (He never attended the Military Intelligence Service Language School). On Okinawa, Higa was a "cave flusher." This was after the main fighting stopped and civilians as well as soldiers were hiding in caves reluctant or afraid to exit for fear of the dreaded American "barbarians." He entered caves unarmed twelve times to get holdouts to surrender and was successful in eleven of them. This led to "life-long friendships." Upon witnessing the devastating effects of war on the Okinawan economy and countryside, he made the initial steps toward the successful clothing and relief drives which aided the Okinawan people.

"Taro" Higa was discharged from the Army in 1945 and returned to his Kahaluu farm. In November, 1945, he married his pen pal sweetheart, Toshiko Chinen of Kekaha, Kauai. In 1947, he helped to win naturalization rights for foreigners in America. From 1963-66, Higa directed and produced a documentary movie entitled *Hawaii Ni Ikiru* or *Life In Hawaii* which was made to help commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Okinawan immigration to Hawaii. In 1974, he authored a book entitled *Imin Wa Ikiru* or *Immigrants Live On*. This book was an account of various Okinawan immigrants to Hawaii and North and South America.

In May, 1983, during his final visit to Okinawa, Higa was honored by the Okinawan government and the Ryukyu University for his many contributions to the Okinawan people during and after the war. He was reunited with a certain Yara family whom he helped rescue from a cave thirty-eight years before. In July, 1983, Higa was bestowed the much-coveted *Okinawa Times Newspaper Award* which recognized outstanding contributions to the Okinawan people. He was the first foreign recipient of this award. In August, 1984, he received a certificate of appreciation from the Japanese American Citizens League during its national convention in Hawaii. Higa passed away in 1985.

(The above autobiographical sketch is excerpted from the book jacket and contents of MEMOIRS OF A CERTAIN NISEI [ARU NISEI NO WADACHI] by Thomas Taro Higa which was translated by Associate Professor of History Mitsugu Sakihara of the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, Higa Publications, 1988, ISBN: 0-944985-00-9.)

Note: According to Alvin Eisaku Higa, eldest son of Thomas Taro Higa, 'Taro' is not a legal part of Thomas's name. His legal name is Thomas Shoshin Higa. "Taro" (ta'row) is a Polynesian plant tuber which the Polynesians mash into poi. Thomas cultivated the Polynesian taro at his Kahaluu farm for local markets and in time was tagged "Taro."

Thomas Shoshin "Taro" Higa



George Kiyoshi (Yamashiro) Sankey (known in connection with the "Z" Plan Document, see p. 55-57) "But first I must talk about my chance encounter with the captured top secret Japanese documents:

"A convoy of 18 Japanese ships left Rabaul, located on the northeastern tip of New Britain Island, on or about March 16, 1943 under the cover of cloud for Lae, New Guinea. Japanese forces had a few weeks earlier lost the control of strategically and tactically important Milne Bay and Buna, New Guinea, and they were gradually being pushed back. They wanted to establish a huge supply point at Lae, New Guinea, to serve as a counter-offensive base to regain their offensive momentum.

"By this time, the Japanese forces did not have any air umbrella, and the cloud cover they depended upon so much did not cooperate with them. Spotting the Japanese convoy through cloud breaks, our bombers knocked the hell out of them. A total of one ship reached its destination on March 19. The rest were sunk or disabled.

"A few days later an unconscious Japanese officer charged with the security of top secret documents was picked up from a drifting rubber boat together with a box containing Japanese documents, which were dispatched to ATIS (Brisbane, Australia) in a routine manner.

"Found among the documents was a thick book which was actually a list of all Japanese army officers on active duty, giving name, rank and unit and unit location, etc. It was the complete picture of the Japanese order of battle. To be sure, this was a important, and 20 or so linguists were assigned to the priority translation of this material. They were able to complete the entire translation in a week. This was a remarkable feat, but I don't think due credit was given to the participating translators.

"I had nothing to do with the initial translation of these captured documents. However, Major Shelton of the Australian Army, a graduate of Waseda University of Japan and in charge of the translation section, ATIS, asked me to check one of the documents translated by someone else. Not satisfied with those corrections I made on the original translation, Major Shelton approached a dozen or so topnotch translators in ATIS and came to the conclusion that my corrections were all wrong. However, he was courteous enough to tell me so. That was when I felt that it was my duty to speak up. By then I keenly had realized the extreme importance of this particular document, which dealt with evasive zigzag courses to be taken by Japanese war vessels in time of hostile action. A mis-translation would mean wasted torpedoes launched by our attacking submarines. An accurate translation could possibly mean the sinking of a multiple number of Japanese warships and ships carrying troops and supplies.

"I consulted with a good friend, Captain George Edon, a British serving in the Australian army, as to what course of action I should follow. On his recommendation, I went to see Commander Hawkins of the British Navy on duty with ATIS, and explained to him my problem. He proposed that Major Shelton and I discuss this matter at once with Colonel Mashbir and that he would like to participate in the meeting himself. The stage was thus set.

"At this meeting, Major Shelton presented his version he said was an accurate translation of the original document. I countered that he failed to read between the lines. I insisted that my version as well as Shelton's be forwarded to the Pentagon. That was when Commander Hawkins spoke up and suggested that if the Pentagon supported Shelton's version, this matter will be referred to the British Admiralty before the final decision was made.

"Within 24 hours, ATIS received a short but precise TWX from the Pentagon through G-2, GHQ, which read 'US Navy agrees with British Admiralty's learned interpretation that only Sankey's version is acceptable.' 'Sankey' was my nickname then. I was otherwise known as George Kiyoshi Yamashiro. I might add that Shelton's version of the translation was technically correct.

"And with this, Yoshikazu Yamada and I were pulled out of the translation section and assigned to an isolated room to translate the rest of the top secret documents. They were so sensitive that that no document numbers were assigned to them, and their existence was kept absolutely secret.

"What awaited me when we finished this project was not the promise Colonel Mashbir had given me. Instead, shortly thereafter I was Shanghaied out to [Lae], New Guinea."

[The foregoing account of the translation efforts by ATIS, Brisbane, Australia was submitted and excerpted by *Seiki Oshiro* of MN from pages 37-40 of *AREYA, KOREYA (This and That)*, a pamphlet not copyrighted, undated, by George Kiyoshi Sankey. The pamphlet was serialized in Hawaii Pacific Press of Honolulu in the Japanese language section some years ago. Oshiro: "Since my sister knew Sankey, I requested *Areyo Koreya* through her. When the pamphlet arrived, I was pleasantly surprised. The pamphlet was written in English --- no translation was required!

Hawaii Pacific Press printed Sankey's obituary in Japanese when Sankey passed away. The translation of the obituary is mine and follows: *Hawaii Pacific Press, November 1, 1995: GEORGE KIYOSHI SANKEY former Aide-De-Camp (Language Aide) of the U.S. Civil Administrators of the Ryukyus (USCAR) died 24 September 1995 after 4 AM at home in North Hollywood, CA while under medical care. Survived by wife Mitsuko. Sankey served as Aide-De-Camp to USCARs Brigadier Generals Charles E. Bromley, Walter Johnson, Vonna F. Burger from 1953 to 1958, and to Lt Generals Paul E. Carraway, Albert Watson, F. T. Unger and James Lampert from 1963 to 1972. From 1978, after retirement from military service, served as office manager of the Japanese section of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1991 to 1993, served as President of the Okinawa Kenjinkai of North America located in Los Angeles, CA. Kiyoshi Yamashiro was born circa 1919 on the Island of Kauai, Territory of Hawaii, orphaned at about age six and cared for by his grandparents in Nohen, Yonagusuku, Okinawa. After graduation from high school in Okinawa Kiyoshi returned to the USA circa 1937.*" (S. Oshiro)

Additional Military Data: Kiyoshi Yamashiro's Army Serial Number (ASN) 3916926 is listed in the War Department's records, and the ASN indicates that Kiyoshi was inducted into the Army in 1941 or early 1942 from southern California. In December 2, 1942 he and William T. Hiraoka 30100961 were flown from Honolulu to Australia and were attached to ATIS located in Brisbane, Australia. Kiyoshi served also in combat with the 9th Australian Division in Lae, New Guinea. George Kiyoshi Sankey, also known as Yamashiro,* and Yoshikazu Yamada 36109023, formerly of Honokaa, Island of Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii, worked on the translation of the captured documents involving the Japanese Imperial Navy's "evasive zigzag courses to be taken by Japanese war vessels in time of hostile action." (also known as the "Z' Plan" document). Twenty or so unknown ATIS linguists were assigned to translate that portion of the captured documents involving the "Japanese order of battle." At his retirement from the US Army, Sankey had attained the rank of Lt Colonel. (*The surname Yamashiro, when written in ideograph (kanji), can also be pronounced Sankey (San-ki).] S.O. ~

The following is printed to provide comparative interpretations of historical events, especially involving military intelligence. From page 43 of *The Pacific War and Peace: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Military Intelligence Service 1941 to 1952*, by the Military Intelligence Service Association of Northern California, 1991: "The 'Z' Plan. Operation 'Z' was Japan's strategy and tactic for an all-out counterattack by almost the entire remaining Japanese naval and air strength against the Allied naval forces, moving westward across the Central Pacific.

"On the night of 31 March 1944, two 4-engine planes, one carrying Admiral Mineichi Koga who had succeeded Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto as commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, and the second carrying Vice Admiral Fukudome, Chief of Staff, crashed into the sea off the southern Philippines in a tropical storm. Koga perished in the crash. Fukudome, in possession of a document in a waterproof container, and a few others survived the crash. They were picked up by Filipino fishermen and turned over to the Guerrillas who notified the American troops.

"The document was transported by an American submarine to a shore base in New Guinea, and then flown to Brisbane. At ATIS (Brisbane) the best Nisei translators, Yoshikazu Yamada and George 'Sankey' Yamashiro, and three Caucasian officers, John E. Anderson, Faubian Gowers and Richard Bagnall, were assigned to translate the captured document. A copy was flown to Nimitz's headquarters at Pearl Harbor, which provided copies to every American flag officer in the Pacific fleets. The Japanese high command was unaware that the 'Z' Plan had fallen into American hands. The captured 'Z' Plan was termed 'the most significant enemy document seized during the war' by military historians.

"[Thus,] when the U.S. invasion of the Marianas began in June 1944, with the strategy of the Japanese already known, Admiral Spruance's carrier fleet and submarines dealt a devastating blow to the counter-attacking Japanese carrier force and land-based aircrafts. Hundreds of enemy planes were swept from the sky in what was called the 'Great Marianas Turkey Shoot.'"

By Seiki Oshiro: The above account differs from Sankey's account in one detail regarding the number of translators who participated in the translation of the "Z" Plan. Sankey mentioned "20 or so translators" and the above account mentions five and names them. The three Caucasian American officers, John E. Anderson, Faubian Bowers, and Richard Bagnall, are graduates of MISLS Camp Savage. Yoshikazu Yamada was not a student at MISLS Camp Savage. His hometown is Honokaa, Big Island, and a graduate of the University of Hawaii and a graduate student at University of Michigan when he was drafted before the war and was serving as a medic in the Philippines before the war started. You all know the background on Sankey. The question remains—who were the other 15 or so remaining translators who worked on the translation of the "Z" Plan? Sankey's write-up indicated "20 or so translators" participated in the translation of the "Z" Plan. Credits are due them too! ~

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TERRY TERUTO TSUBOTA: The Life Saver of Tsuken Island, by Renee Tsubota Horie, Tsubota's daughter

A third generation American of Japanese ancestry from Pahoā, Hawaii, Terry Teruto Tsubota today lives in Ojāna, Okinawa.

As a military interpreter, his job was to stay in the camp to interrogate Japanese prisoners and to see that the Okinawan refugees received food, shelter, clothing and medical treatment. It was not the interpreter's duty to go on reconnaissance and to take part in invasions. Yet on April 6, 1945, Terry volunteered to go with 12 marines from the 6th Marine Division to recon Tsuken, a suspected radio transmitter site, off the coast of Southern Okinawa. The U.S. military also wanted to know what kind of heavy artillery weapons were on the Island. The men left at 3:00 a.m. but before they could land, they came under heavy fire. Terry's raft was shot up so the seven of them jumped into the other raft and paddled furiously back to Okinawa.

April 10, 1945 was the first invasion of Tsuken. Marines in landing crafts landed on one side of Tsuken while Terry and his cover of six marines in an amphibious truck landed on the other side. So by fleeing from the invading troops, the refugees ran toward Terry. Tsuken is a plateau surrounded by forests and cliffs dotted with caves. Terry could see the refugees running towards the cliffs. He called to them using the megaphone to try to calm them and make them stop.

Terry was 5'1", 124 lbs and the megaphone powered by a heavy car battery was almost as large and heavy as he was. Finally he threw down the megaphone and battery. The more he called to the people, the more bullets flew at him from the front and sides. He looked behind for his Marine cover—they were hugging the ground in a carrot field.

As they followed the refugees on a wide dirt road, the wind blew the dirt off wooden planks that looked deliberately placed on the road. When Terry looked underneath the planks, he saw an artillery shell—a booby trap! He called out a warning to stay off the road. In the meantime, the refugees had disappeared over the cliffs into the rocky caves. Terry crawled down after them. He saw a man urinating into the ocean below and called him to come out. Terry ended up bringing 70 people out of the shallow caves. Later that evening at the refugee camp, some of them sought Terry out and told him there were more people left on the island. So Terry again volunteered to go the next day in the second and final landing of Tsuken. The order was given to get all the civilians off the island before the Marines blasted the caves to prevent Japanese soldiers from hiding in them. This time Terry took with him Onna-san, the school principal of Tsuken Island who everyone knew and recognized.

They landed on Tsuken on the morning of April 11 and picked up a few refugees. By 5:30 p.m., as they made their way down to the beach, they found a huge cave. Terry asked Onna-sensei to call the people out. He refused saying no one was inside but Terry saw a mound covered with dirt and stuck his hand in it. The coals were still warm. He ordered Onna-sensei to call again and again Onna-sensei refused. Terry warned him that the Marines were going to blast the cave. Terry walked to the cave entrance and heard only silence.

"I knew then that there were people in the cave because if it were empty, the insects and mice would be scurrying around," says Terry.

Then Terry heard the tanks blasting the caves behind him. He recalled his father's parting words to him, "Shooting and killing are part of war; but saving lives is also a part of war." Terry handed his weapon to a Marine and stripped to his waist. He called out, "I'm an interpreter from Hawaii of Japanese ancestry. My job is to take you back for medical care. I'm not armed. I'm coming in!"

Terry felt the point of a gun on his bare back. A Marine officer behind him said, "I'm going to shoot you if you go in there."

Terry's response was, "I've got to go in." He was recalling his father's words.

The cave was long and dark. "Come out with me," Terry yelled. "Onna sensei is with me. Your friends are safe and they sent me to get you!" Some started to walk out; others pretended to be dead. He felt their warm bodies and dragged them out. Terry went further in and saw a girl about ten years old against the wall, shivering with fear. He grabbed her and pulled her out. About forty were saved that last day.

As they walked single file down to the beach, Terry heard a sound in the tall grass. He found 2nd Lt. Nagamine from Osaka, Japan wounded by buckshot and badly dehydrated. His eyes and lips were swollen shut. Terry made sure he got to a field hospital in Koza and went the next day to find out his condition. He requested that Lt. Nagamine be sent off island, possibly to Hawaii, to recover. Thirty-five years later, Terry found out that Nagamine returned to Tsuken every year until he became senile, looking for the man who had rescued him and to thank the people who helped rescue him.

Forty years later, while drinking with friends in Ojana, Okinawa, the owner of the bar, hearing his friends calling his name, came up to Terry and asked him if he were Tsubota-san from Tsuken. She was the frightened girl Terry had pulled out of the cave!

Terry and his wife Kiyoko, whom he met in the refugee camp, were honored guests at the first reunion of the Tsuken Friendship Club. Negami-san, one of the nurses he saved, introduced Terry to all the people of Tsuken. Speaking directly to all those born after the War, she told them, "Because of Tsubota-san, not one person from Tsuken died during the War. You owe him your lives."

On March 4, 2001, Terry Tsubota received a letter of appreciation from the Katsuren District of Okinawa as the "Tsuken no inochi no onjin" (Lifesaver of Tsuken).

Translation of brief version of letter of appreciation:

Date: March, 2001, To: Teruto Tsubota,

From: Sadao Miyagi, Katsuren Cho Tsuken Kyoyu Kai (Association of Tsuken islanders)

"This letter of appreciation is presented to you for your courage and exploits by saving the lives of the Tsuken Islanders. Because of your presence and activities not a single person was killed. Today, over half a century later, we want to honor you by presenting this letter of appreciation."

Signed: Mr. Sadao Miyagi, Mayor of Katsuren □ [Edited by Yoshie and James Tanabe, M.I.S. Club]



Teruto Tsubota issuing ID tags to the people of Kamara, Okinawa, 1945

収容所で住民登録をする住民たち（四月十六日）



Tsubota in the "Pine" field, Halemano, Schofield, 1944



Ralph Tsuha, 2004.
(Story on next page)

Ralph Seikichi Tsuha, CINCPAC 1st Provisional Military Government Interpreter Detachment [Hawaii]

I was born on March 5, 1924 on the island of Hawaii, the seventh child of Seita and Ushi Tsuha. My parents lost two older sons and an older daughter. I have a younger brother. My father was born the second son in March 1885 (died September 1973) in Gusukuma Village, Okinawa. His father died when he was seven years old. His older brother did not allow him to attend Japanese school in the 1890's. Therefore, he always reminded me that it was very important to go to school. My mother was born in April 1886 and lived until January 1967. My parents were illiterate but my father learned to sign his name in English. At home they spoke the Okinawa dialect of their home village of Gushikuma, Urasoe Son. They tried their best to teach us to speak Japanese. As a youngster I realized my parents were the children of poor farmers.

My father made up his mind to go to Hawaii after the Russo-Japanese War ended in 1906. He was able to obtain a loan to pay for passage to Hawaii on the ship China Maru in October 1906 and landed at Kohala, Hawaii. After working three years in Hawi and repaying his loan, he sent payment for ship's fare to have mother come to Hawaii. At that time he decided to move to the Honomu Sugar Plantation. In order to get to Honomu from Hawi, my father had to walk. He traveled at night to avoid arrest by the police. It took him six nights to reach Honomu. Mother was able to join father in October of 1910. They were able to get a plantation house at Camp 3. In 1929, we moved to Camp 4. There were about ten workers family camps within Honomu Sugar Plantation and the town. The Honomu Elementary School had about 300 students from "receiving" grade to the eighth grade. Country-raised youngsters went to receiving class prior to going to first grade; therefore we had to go nine years to receive eight years credit.

At Honomu the Japanese students attended the Hongwanji Japanese School or the Japanese Christian Church School for an hour after Hawaii County English Public School. Also they attended Japanese school on Saturdays for two hours which included sewing for girls and judo for boys.

My oldest brother, Harry, graduated from Hilo High in 1933 and went to work in Honolulu, Oahu. The next brother finished the ninth grade and followed his brother to work in Honolulu. They both were frail and not the type to work as sugar plantation laborers. The next brother, Seihan, remained with Honomu Sugar Company then went to Pepeekeo Sugar Company and another company as a heavy equipment truck driver until his retirement. My younger brother Tadao served in the U.S. Army during the ending months of World War II.

After completing Honomu Elementary School, my still unmarried two older brothers helped me to attend Hilo Intermediate and Japanese Language School. After graduation, I lived with my brother, now married

and living in Honolulu, and attended McKinley High School and the Hongwanji Japanese Language School.

In May 1941, it was decided that I accompany my mother to Japan and Okinawa. Fortunately, we made it back to Hawaii before December 7, 1941 on the Taiyo Maru and I continued my schooling at McKinley High. In 1944, at 19, having graduated and feeling I might be drafted, I went to see my father. His kind words to me were, "Son, you are an American, so if you are taken into the U.S. Army just do your best for your country and never bring shame to yourself or your family." I really appreciated my father telling me his true feelings.

On 8 November 1944 I was drafted with approximately 900 others. All the recruits except 36 departed for the mainland for basic training. We 36 Japanese Americans were sent to Camp Helemano for 12 weeks of basic training. Six of us, *Masayoshi Ikeda, Kiyoshi Hiraoka, Hiroshi Suehiro, Isami Taira, Katsumi Tokuuke and I*, all privates, were then told to report to Pearl Harbor on 17 Feb 1945 and board the USS Lacerta (Navy troop ship) which had about 75 marines on board.

On board the ship we met naval officer Lt (jg) Jones who informed us that we would be working as interpreters in the Japanese language. He loaned us a first grade Japanese reader. As the youngest at 21, I volunteered to read the book so we could study together. The others were 23 to 28 years old. We studied diligently to learn to say proper greetings, how to request food and medical treatment, accurate terms for various types of injuries and ailments, etc. During all this time, we were headed toward Okinawa via Guadalcanal, Ulithi atoll, Yap Island, Mog-mog Island and onward.

On 27 February 1945, we reached Guadalcanal and reported to the Military Government Detachment, 6th Marine Division Headquarters. We were immediately issued M-1 carbines and taught the proper way to dig foxholes for our protection. We were trained to fire and shoot our M-1 carbines and climb rope nets to get on and off a troopship. On 15 March 1945, we packed all our gear into our recently issued Marine packing gear plus all the Marine fatigues and recently dyed green T-shirts. We boarded the troopship PA25 Arthur Middleton via rope net ladders. We learned that US Coast Guard personnel manned the ship. We set sail with 24 other troopships for the unknown. I noticed that we had old World War I destroyers up forward, plus one on each flank and one in front and another on the rear of the 25 troop ships.

Five days later we anchored at Ulithi Atoll anchorage. I later learned Ulithi was north of Yap Island. We were all stunned to see the countless warships of all types. I counted at least a dozen huge aircraft carriers, many small export carriers, over a hundred large and medium size landing ships, destroyers, troopships and several hospital ships. All the troops went ashore to Mog-Mog Island. It was just like happy hour—each person was given a beer and the usual hot dogs and hamburgers. Upon return to the troopship, we all had a

chance to see famous former Heavyweight World Boxing Champion, then a US Coast Guard Commander, Jack Dempsey. He gave a brief cheer up greetings to the troops on board Coast Guard-manned troopship, Arthur Middleton. Following morning we sailed to the unknown. After lunch it was officially announced that we would be heading for Okinawa, Japan. Information pamphlets on Okinawa were issued to all the troops. I was sad since the innocent people of Okinawa would be caught in the crossfire and many lives would be lost during the invasion of the island. I could picture the poor people of Okinawa who I saw forty-five months ago when I visited the island with my mother as a high school student during summer recess.

Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945, the Marine Pioneer troopers went ashore at 0830 hours. The seashore was crammed with landing crafts as far as the eyes could see. The bombardment began and the destruction was horrific. We wondered if anyone on shore could survive.

On the second of April, my job began when our Military Government Detachment Commander and his group, of which I was a member, went down the rope net into the landing craft and headed toward the reef shore. I had a full marine backpack and had to wade roughly 50 yards toward shore in knee deep salt water. Our advance detachment members had waded ashore on the first of April and had already established a perimeter compound which already had about 100 old and young Okinawans. They were all sitting in family groups and all had looks of shock to see so many Americans in Marine uniforms. Our team consisted of U.S. Navy doctors and medical corpsmen and they were already helping wounded Okinawans. Even a case of childbirth was attended to by a U.S. Navy doctor and his medical corpsmen under the blue, open sky. We were informed this was Toya village area of Yomitan Son. The weather was clear and sunny for the month of April. All the Okinawans were informed by our Nisei interpreters that they must remain within the compound area for their own safety. They were told that as long as they obeyed the rules, they would not be hurt. There were curfew rules, farming rules, food rationing, labor brigades and help for the sick and wounded.

Our entire detachment dug foxholes for the night. We were informed that we would be moving out to another location north since the 6th Marines were advancing toward Nago town and moving toward Motobu Peninsula. April 6 we were at Nago Town, occupied a still remaining wooden building and there established a medical station. Our medical corpsmen were really performing their duties outstandingly and many local Okinawans were treated. By mid-April, we moved three miles north to the village of Taira, Haneji Son and established the Military Government District of Taira.

At Taira District, local villages had an officer in charge plus a local honcho or a leader to assist the officer and interpreter. They rationed food and saw to it that it was properly distributed plus saw that sanitary

conditions were maintained. They also saw to it that the villagers obeyed the curfew hours for their own safety. This District established an all male labor compound for those 15 to 60 years old. The labor compound provided day laborers to perform tasks at the various military camps we had in the northern area. During the month of April, Marine Major Beale and his enlisted aide and I patrolled the outlying island of Yagaji, Sesoko, Kouri and Minna. Purpose was to inform the Okinawans to farm their garden plots and assured them the Americans will not harm any civilians. We noticed the villages appeared quite empty at that time. We even had a chance to call out a family who were inside a dugout cave. I explained in plain Japanese that we were not fighting to kill civilian Okinawans. They were convinced and came out of their cave smiling.

The 6th Marine Division moved to the southern front lines in early May 1945 and the U.S. Army's 27th Division moved to the northern area to conduct mop-up campaigns. During this period the Army officers and their locally appointed Okinawan honchos administered the military government functions. Even after the termination of the War, monetary usage system was not in operation until early May of 1946. The only system before that was the barter system.

The following months were spent helping the stricken people of Okinawa to have a semblance of normalcy in a most abnormal situation. I was sent from place to place and even met my uncle (my mother's younger brother) at the Labor Registration Office at the Taira District. I told him he should live with his family since he did not look well at 62. I was able to get a Navy doctor to remove a large black skin growth on his back. The operation was successful and my uncle lived a good 25 years longer!

In May 1946, I left for Miyako Island with the Miyako District Commander, Lt. Nichols on a small fishing sampan with boxes of occupational B Yen currency. The sampan had to be repaired twice before our arrival at Hirara port. For a week, I supervised Miyako grass cutters to trim the overgrown weed at their never-used airfield. Then I left to go to Ishigaki Island and served there from June 2 to July 31, 1946. I really enjoyed assisting the people of Ishigaki, especially in supplying them fuel oil to support their vital fishing industry.

I was discharged in Okinawa on August 26, 1946 and worked as a U.S. government civilian employee in various positions. In November 1952, I married an Okinawan woman, Hisako Kuba, when the Peace Treaty with Japan was signed and Japanese were able to immigrate to the United States. We have three lovely daughters. I finally fully retired on February 14, 2000 and we are enjoying life in Ginowan City, Okinawa.

[Edited by James & Yoshie Tanabe, M.I.S. Club]

Jinsuke Higa, CINCPAC 1st Provisional Military Government Interpreters

My brother, Jinsuke Higa, was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on November 11, 1923. He graduated from McKinley High School in 1941. He tried to volunteer with his buddies for the 442nd but the quota was already met so he was turned back and disappointed. He was drafted in late 1944 and stationed at Schofield for basic training. My parents were very worried because they were not sure where Jinsuke was or would be sent. I was only a junior in high school and I had to take my Mom to the American Red Cross' Hawaii Chapter to find my brother. They did not give out any information.

Then finally in January or February, 1945, Jinsuke called my parents from Pearl Harbor saying that this was the only call that he could make so "do not worry."



Jinsuke Higa

Many months later, my parents heard from Jinsuke that he was on Okinawa. I cannot remember when Jinsuke came back to Honolulu briefly to visit the family. He told my father that on Easter Sunday, 1945, he had landed on Okinawa with the Marines. He was ordered by the marine lieutenant to get the enemy military out of the caves but he discovered there were also civilian old people, women and babies in the caves. He yelled and screamed at them to come out but no one budged. The flamethrowers were in the back of Jinsuke. His several attempts to get the cave occupants out were to no avail. The marines were impatient and did their job. From this report it puts Jinsuke in the battle arena and into its immediate aftermath tasks of clearing and securing caves and other enemy dug-in areas. [Then he worked with other interpreters from Hawaii in the Koza area in Central Okinawa, caring for the immediate needs of civilians, giving aid and comfort and distributing clothing, blankets, etc., supplied by the US military. They also helped the civilians till their land for food production. Others of the Hawaii interpreters helped set up temporary schools, etc.]

[An "efficiency rating report" by the War Department, AAF, 1st Air Division, 316th Bomb Wing, APO 239, Okinawa, gives Jinsuke "outstanding" marks in all his performance areas. He was employed as a civilian interpreter. He worked an entire career in Okinawa as a civilian US government employee.]

My parents had relatives in Okinawa so "Suke" (nickname) got to meet them. He took a job with the U.S. Army [and Air Force] and stayed 23 more years in Okinawa. He married a native Okinawan, Masako, and had a son, Raymond Satoru and daughter, Jean Rieko. Raymond, a construction supervisor, lives in Okinawa. Jean died at age 23.

On April 1, 1971, at his office, Jinsuke suffered a severe headache (cerebral hemorrhage) and passed away at age 46. His family brought him home to Punchbowl—his final resting place.

By Mary M. Higa, sister.

[Bracketed portions are the editor's contribution.]

Editor's Note: As a member of the CINCPAC 1st Provisional Military Government Interpreters, Jinsuke Higa made an infantry landing with the Marines on April 1, 1945, the date of the Okinawa Invasion, and the days following. One of his tasks was to flush out caves occupied by Japanese soldiers and civilians who were used as "cover." Civilians were made to believe Americans were cruel so many civilians did not surrender to the American cave flushers. The Nisei interpreters were often not given enough time to negotiate with the cave occupants. However, thousands were rescued from many caves, thanks to the likes of Jinsuke Higa, who persevered at incredible risk to themselves.

J. Tanabe