



Military
Intelligence
Service
Veterans Club
of Hawaii

Newsletter
Vol. 20, No. 3
July 2013

MIS VETERANS

Not to Be Missed: Luncheon Featuring Eric Saul

Eric Saul is the former curator of the Presidio's Military Museum and a noted historian on the contributions of AJAs and other minorities to the U.S. military. He has designed exhibits on the military contributions of AJAs, co-founded the Go for Broke 100th/442nd/MIS Foundation, consulted on documentary films on the Nisei, and co-authored or edited several history books.

Sunday, August 4, 11:30 a.m.

Treetops Restaurant

3737 Manoa Road (Paradise Park)

\$20.00 per person

Pay at the door

Seating capacity limited

Reservations:

MISVeteransHawaii@gmail.com

or

Gregg Hirata, 220-3332

Karen Kikukawa, 341-1292

Call by July 26



Front row, from left: MIS Auditor Harry Kawaoka, Caleb Calderwood, Noah Youtz, Aidan Wong, and Joshua Orimoto. **Back row, from left:** MIS President Arine, Senior Patrol Leader Tyler Calderwood, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Micah Wong, Joshua Sweet, Joshua Kim, Matthew Calderwood, Jesse Orimoto, Scout Master Dan Mather, Nicholas Sweet, Assistant Scout Master Bob Calderwood, and MIS Vice President Herbert Yanamura.

Club Honors Fallen Veterans

The MIS Veterans Club placed flowers on the graves of MIS veterans at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), in observance of Memorial Day. President George Arine coordinated the May 25 event.

Members were assisted by the Boy Scouts of Troop 37 from Honolulu Bible Church in Palolo Valley. The troop has supported the MIS Veterans Club with this project for many years.

President's Message

Aloha! Our annual patriotic event to place floral bouquets at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on May 25 for fallen MIS comrades was beautifully done with the help of the Boy Scouts, led by Dan Mather and Bob Calderwood. Also helping out were Emery Inafuku, whose dad was an MIS veteran, and Joe and Sue Hollars. Special thanks to Imanaka Nursery, which provided the bouquets, and Ward Marukai for storing the bouquets overnight. Mahalo also to Tatsushi Takebayashi and Naiat Mitsumori who decorated the MIS sites at Kaneohe Memorial Cemetery.

I attended the Vietnam Veterans Ceremony at Punchbowl the next day. On Memorial Day, Herbert Yanamura attended the Mayor's Memorial Service at Punchbowl, while David Sakai attended the Governor's Memorial Service at Kaneohe. Thank you all for your support.

Most of you know that I am employed at the USS *Missouri* as a tour guide. Besides my regular duties, I have been involved in two future MIS events that will take place this year on the Mighty Mo. One is the MIS/Naval Intelligence exhibit that curator Mike Wiedenbach and assistant curator

Continues on next page

Joint Memorial Service on September 29

The Oahu AJA Veterans Council's eighth annual Joint Memorial Service will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 29, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard will deliver the memorial address. Gabbard served two combat tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom with the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Brigade. She was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives last year from Hawaii's second district (rural Oahu-Neighbor Islands).

The inaugural Joint Memorial Service, in 2006, was the product of a decision by the Oahu AJA Veterans Council to honor together the fallen members of all four segregated U.S. units in World War II made up primarily of Americans of Japanese ancestry: the 100th Infantry Battalion, Military Intelligence Service, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

The chairman of this year's service is Byrnes Yamashita, whose late father Victor served in the 442nd RCT and was a member of the L Company Chapter of that club. Yamashita said his participation in the 70th anniversary observances for the 442nd earlier this year "inspired me to get involved."

The service is open to the public. Veterans of the units, spouses, widows, and family members are strongly encouraged to attend, not only to remember the deceased, but also to visit with each other, renew old friendships, and make new ones.

Other participants in this year's service will include the Hawaii National Guard's 111th Army Band, the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Bestuin Choir, and Alan Miyamura and Sita Menor of the Celtics Pipes and Drums of Hawaii. Communications executive Barbara Tanabe, whose late father Frank was an MIS veteran, will be the mistress of ceremony.

This service is held on the Sunday closest to the date the first AJA was killed in action in World War II, Shigeo "Joe" Takata of the 100th. This year's service will fall on the 70th anniversary of that day.

Club President Glen Arakaki represented the MIS at last year's service, presenting a wreath on behalf of the members.



A Word From Jimmy Tanabe



Jimmy Tanabe recently stepped down as editor of the MIS Veterans Club newsletter, following a decade of outstanding service. He remains an active member of the club. Jimmy shares his thoughts with readers:

About ten years ago, my wife Yoshie and I and the Japanese American Citizens League brought a complaint to the USS *Arizona* Memorial regarding the movie shown to visitors, blaming the large Japanese population in Hawaii for Japan's successful sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. A man by the name of Iwao Yokooji joined in the complaint. Two years later, the sabotage narrative was successfully deleted from the movie. This was the first time meeting Mr. Yokooji, a long-time respected MIS Veterans Club member. He suggested I join the club. I joined in 1999 as a post-Korean War period interpreter assigned to the 9th Corps in Sendai, Japan (1955-1957).

The need for an editor for the MIS newsletter gave me an opportunity to contribute to the club. My wife and I wish aloha and mahalo to all the MIS club members for your kind encouragement through the years. Directors and officers of the MIS club were particularly encouraging and helpful. I could not have lasted as editor without all your kindness.

It is wonderful that sansei members have stepped in to insure the continuation of the MIS club. For the newsletter editorship, Gregg Hirata is energetic and more than capable.

Aloha,
James Tanabe

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Alvin Yoshitomi are working on to educate the public on the MIS role in the Pacific War. Mark Matsunaga is also heavily involved in this project with a target date for completion of September 2, the formal surrender date of the Pacific War.

Three MIS veterans witnessed the surrender ceremony on the battleship. Another event planned and hosted by the Missouri Memorial Association will be on Veterans Day (November 11) to honor AJA veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. Alvin Yoshitomi recently contacted Jiro Yukimura of Kauai, one of those MIS witnesses, who expressed his desire to attend the ceremony.

Carry on!
George Arine
President

Tad Nagaki: A Remembrance

Dick Hamada shared a message he received from Mary Previte, a retired New Jersey legislator, about the recent passing of Tadashi "Tad" Nagaki. As a child, Ms. Previte was imprisoned by the Japanese at Weihsien concentration camp in China. An abbreviated version of Ms. Previte's eulogy follows.

Said Dick, "That now leaves two still hanging around who participated in the mercy missions: Fumio Kido, who parachuted into Mukden, Manchuria, and me, who parachuted into Peiping, China."

Tad Nagaki died April 22 at the home of his grandson near Denver. He was 93.

Tad was the last living member of the World War II, seven-man American rescue team that liberated 1,500 Allied prisoners being held at the Japanese Weihsien Concentration Camp in China on August 17, 1945. America has lost a true hero.



Who can forget that day? Angels dropping from the sky on a windy August day, parachuting from the belly of that B-24 bomber outside those barrier walls. Remember? Weihsien went mad. Emaciated prisoners weeping, dancing,

pounding the sky with their fists. Prisoners climbing the walls. Hysterical with joy, we rushed the gate to welcome these American gods, no matter how many guns the Japanese had! Yes, sun-bronzed American gods with meat on their bones.

The Tad Nagaki story is an important chapter of American history. As a Japanese American enlisted man, after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Tad Nagaki was sidelined with other Nisei, doing menial labor. Stupid stuff, Tad said, like pruning trees and loading trains. Tad wanted to fight in the real war like every red-blooded American, but because he was Nisei, his commander denied his request to become an air cadet. Then in 1943, Tad volunteered to be part of an elite team of Nisei spies. It was an experiment: Could Japanese-Americans be trusted to fight the Japanese? But the United States desperately needed men in intelligence service who understood Japanese. This team was highly trained in communications and survival skills.

Tad Nagaki became a member of the Office of Strategic Services's Nisei unit that infiltrated behind Japanese lines in the China-Burma-India theater. He served first in Burma with Kachin tribesmen. When the war wound down in Burma, he trucked over "The Hump" to China. When Allied intelligence warned that the Japanese planned to execute their Allied prisoners in China and Manchuria, Tad volunteered for the rescue team called the "Duck Mission" that liberated Weihsien. He served as the team's Japanese language interpreter. For his heroism, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal and promoted to sergeant.



Tad Nagaki (center) receives his decoration.



In 1997, I tracked down these liberators in a national search and visited each one to say thank you in person. Tad, a widower whose sons had died, still farmed corn, beans, and sugar beets in Nebraska, where he was born.

Tad insisted to me, "I am not a hero." He said he only did what any American would have done. When I asked him what it felt like to be trailed all over Weihsien by a non-stop throng of children, he said, "It felt like being on a pedestal." That's the understatement of the century. We made them gods. Remember?

Like children following the Pied Piper, we children—crowds of us in Weihsien—followed these heroes everywhere. My 12-year-old heart turned somersaults over every one of them. I remember in the evenings outside the commandant's office where the team of Americans stayed. We wanted to sit on their laps, to touch their cheeks. We begged for their insignia, their buttons, their autographs. Tad told me that one girl cut off a lock of his hair as a souvenir. When we begged these heroes to sing the songs of America, they taught us, "You Are My Sunshine." Bless my soul; I can sing it still.

When American support personnel arrived to take over the evacuation of Weihsien in late September, liberators Major Stanley Staiger, Ensign Jimmie Moore, Tad Nagaki, and Raymond Hanchulak moved to Tsingtao to set up an OSS base there.

In 2010, when grandsons Jason and Ryan Nagaki celebrated Tad's 90th birthday with a town-wide open house at the Alliance Country Club, letters from around the world poured in from former Weihsien internees from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, and United States.

Tad was a quiet man. He never wanted me to make a fuss about him. At that birthday celebration, I discovered that while Tad had lived in Alliance for half a century, very few of Tad's family and friends even knew that he had risked his life liberating 1,500 Allied prisoners from Weihsien. At the banquet for family members and friends, Tad finally let down his guard and let me talk to them, his closest friends and family. I'm so everlastingly grateful I had this opportunity to honor this hero.

Goodbye, Tad.



We Need Your Contact Information

We urgently need help from single members or members who have lost their spouses (surviving spouse members).

Our current MIS Veterans Club membership directory does not contain any contact information for single members. Accordingly, MIS has no way to contact anyone in an emergency. For example, we have a situation now where a single member passed away. We want to send a sympathy letter and koden to the family, but have no way to reach them because of that absence of information.

We plan to publish the contact information in the next directory so someone can be contacted in an emergency situation.

Please provide to MIS auditor Harry Kawaoka the name, address, and

phone number of your emergency contact person. Harry can be reached at the MIS Veterans Club, P.O. Box 3021, Honolulu, Hawaii 96802 or by e-mail at harrykawaoka@mac.com.

Is Your Membership Current?

Don't forget to renew your membership to the MIS Veterans Club.

Dues are \$20.00 a calendar year, renewable at the beginning of the year. If you haven't done so, please send your payment to:

MIS Veterans Club
P.O. Box 3021
Honolulu, Hawaii 96802

Mahalo.

Do You Have E-Mail?

We want to improve communication with MIS Veterans Club members and newsletter subscribers.

E-mail presents a means of notifying you of upcoming events and sending last-minute reminders about our Bonenkai, Christmas party, and other activities. It will save some of the expense of alerting you of MIS activities because our primary means of communication is our mailed newsletter, which we publish only four times a year. E-mail would also enable you to share our activities with family and friends.

We have e-mail addresses for a few of you, but we'd like more of you to help the MIS Veterans Club by sharing your e-mail address with us. Mahalo for your cooperation.

Please send it to: misveteranshawaii@gmail.com.

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 9305

M.I.S. VETERANS CLUB
P.O. BOX 3021
HONOLULU, HI 96802

