

Hawaii State Department of Defense

pupukahi

pupukahi: "harmoniously united"

3949 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

Honoring our Veterans



Governor David Ige and Major General Arthur "Joe" Logan lay a wreath during a ceremony to honor veterans.

Scenes from the Governor's Veterans Day ceremony at Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe. Nov, 11, 2016



Hawaii CERF-P puts skills to the test at Vigilant Guard 2017

154th Wing Public Affairs

Story by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz



Hawaii Army National Guard soldiers evacuate a simulated victim during a medical evacuation scenario at Exercise Vigilant Guard 2017, Delle Valle Regional Center, California, Nov. 17, 2016. Vigilant Guard is an exercise program sponsored by United States Northern Command in conjunction with National Guard Bureau to provide State National Guards an opportunity to improve cooperation and relationships with their regional civilian, military, and federal partners in preparation for emergencies and catastrophic events. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz)

A major earthquake struck California and Nevada causing fatalities and damage to major infrastructure. Fires and disruption to basic services and utilities compounded the severity of the situation. High amounts of casualties were sustained as California and Nevada Emergency Medical Services were strained to the point of being overrun.

It's only a scenario, but it's a scenario that disaster response agencies hope to never have to respond to. Regardless, emergency officials want to be prepared.

The fictional, yet not out of the realm of possibility situation was what disaster planners and responders had to contend with as part of Exercise Vigilant Guard California/Nevada 2017 [VG17].

Vigilant Guard is an exercise program sponsored by the United States Northern Command [USNORTHCOM] in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau [NGB]. It aims to provide state national guards with a valuable training opportunity to improve cooperation and relationships with their regional civilian, military, and federal partners in preparation for emergencies and catastrophic events.

The exercises occur annually across the U.S. and is a showcase for Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] regions. It brings together civil support teams, National Guard emergency response units, and local and state emergency responders into regional state play.

As part of the exercise, more than 175 Hawaii Air and Army National Guardsmen deployed to California, Nov. 14 to 20 to take part in the simulated disaster relief efforts.

The task force was part of the Hawaii National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package

"The CERF-P is a team made up of 203 Army and Air National Guardsmen who respond to disasters which exceed the capacity of local responders in the areas of search and rescue, mass casualty decon, medical triage, fatality search and recovery, and communications," said Hawaii CERF-P commander, Army Maj. William Flynn.

The HIANG's Detachment 1 Headquarters 154th Medical together

with California Air Guard counterparts formed the emergency medical response element. Some of the capabilities they brought to the table were search and rescue medical response, trauma treatment, and incident triage support.

"Det 1 is a new unit for the Hawaii Air National Guard," said Lt. Col. James Faumuina, commander, Det 1 HQ 154 MDG. "It's a very unique component in terms of our medical capabilities to support civilian authorities in domestic operations."

While California and Nevada have National Guard CERF-P teams of their own, the severity of the simulated catastrophe required support from out of state. Hawaii CERF-P, being in the same FEMA region as California deployed as a result.

"Typically, a state will be impacted and the incident overwhelms the state and they need to bring in other resources," Faumuina said. "The more the incident expands, the more capacity you need to add to it."

Once an official request for assistance is made, Hawaii CERF-P can organize and deploy to the incident within a relatively short amount of time.

For this exercise, airlift of personnel and equipment was accomplished through a combination of Guard C-17 Globemaster, KC-135 Stratotanker, and C-130 Hercules aircraft.

CERF-P's specially trained airmen and soldiers are organized into six units: Command and Control, Medical Response, Decontamination, Search and Extraction, Fatality Search and Recovery, and Joint Incident Site Communications Capability.

The idea is that the CERF-P organization can deploy in parts or as a whole package for a tailored response to a given incident.

"CERF-P is modular such that if request for assistance for only Search and Rescue capability, then we would respond in kind." Flynn said.

Hawaii National Guard soldiers and airmen teamed up for search and

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CERF-P Cont.

extraction exercises. Events requiring decontamination were handled by Army Guard personnel while Air Guard crews took care of Medical, Fatality Search and Rescue, and Communications.

“Joint Incident Site Communication Capability [JISCC] provides voice, data, video and radio accessibility between local, state and federal agencies,” said Chief Master Sgt. Nolen Kanekuni who heads the JISCC team. “The system is so flexible that a county sheriff on a cell phone can call up a military commander who is using a common military radio.”

Exercise scenarios were designed to press agencies to their maximum as the California training sites provided a wide variety of training props and facilities, and offered the opportunity for a comprehensive examination of an emergency agency’s abilities.

“It’s one of the best opportunities to get out and get to know our other state partners,” said Faumuina. “When you look at an incident, it’s not always going to be a state or local event. It could be a regional event.”

According to Flynn, VG17 also provided value outside of the obvious gains from training.

“We use these national level events in order to hone our skills with other teams from FEMA Region nine and across the country. The exercise also gives the community feeling of security knowing that the National Guard will be there in times of disaster.” Flynn said.



Congratulations General Brett Wyrick

After a long and varied career which included 154th Wing Medical Officer, Surgeon General for the Air National Guard and National Guard, Brett Wyrick was promoted to Brigadier General November 4, during a ceremony held at Washington Place.

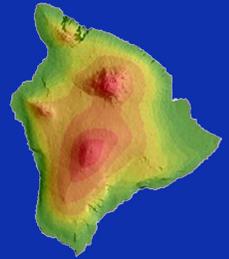
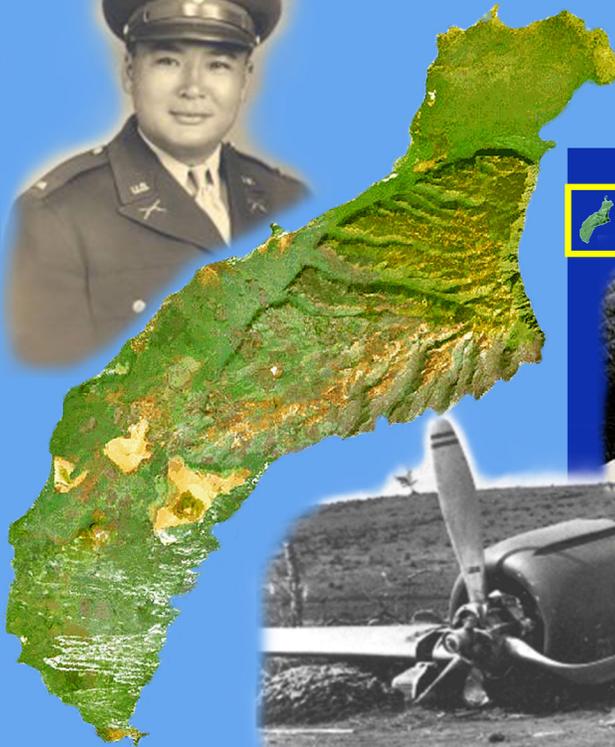


75 Years Later

A formation of F-22 Raptors from the 199th and 19th Fighter squadrons perform a flyover above the 75th Commemoration of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The attacks on seven bases throughout Oahu precipitated America’s entry into World War II. The annual commemoration ceremony is designed to foster reflection, remembrance, and understanding for those affected by the events that changed world history. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Nathan Allen)

See pages 4-7 to read about how Hawaii National Guardsmen responded to the attacks.

Japanese Hawaii Guard officer leads Niihau incident inspection team



By Retired Master Sgt. Stephen M. Lum

Pre-World War II Hawaii

Before the United States is “drawn” into World War II, Maui-born, American of Japanese Ancestry “Jack” Hifuo Mizuha prepares for a life time of community service. His parents were among the earliest Japanese immigrants from Hiroshima Prefecture to come to Hawaii when it was still a kingdom and he was born Nov. 5, 1913, when Hawaii was a U.S. Territory. Mizuha attends the University of Hawaii where he earns undergraduate degrees in business and economics in 1934. While at the university, he joins the Reserve Officer Training Corps which pays for his schooling and he is awarded an officers commission after successfully completing the program. He joins the Hawaii National Guard’s 299th Infantry shortly after graduation.

Jack continues his studies at the university working on a master’s in education. To earn money to pay for his schooling, he works as a Honolulu Police Department reporter/police patrolman clerk, where he also learns shorthand. He meet a young police officer named James A. Burns, who becomes Hawaii’s second Hawaii State governor. Dual-citizen Mizuha, divests himself of his Japanese citizenship Mar. 28, 1936 in formal expatriation proceedings, severing ties with his father’s country

of birth. After earning his degree in 1936, he moves to Kauai for a teaching position at Waimea High School, where he meets and marries a fellow teacher. On Sept. 3, 1939 he becomes Kauai’s Huleia School principal and six days later is place on active duty as the U.S. prepares for an anticipated involvement in the war raging in Europe and the Asian-Pacific theatres. He is one of the original 40 AJA members of the Hawaii Guard to be mobilized on Oct. 15, 1940. Militarily the first lieutenant is assigned to Company M, 299th Infantry, at Burns Field, Hanapepe, Kauai, becoming unit commander in August 1941.

Niihau incident capsulized

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Imperial Japanese Navy fighter pilot Petty Officer 1st Class Shigenori Nishikaichi crash lands his disabled A6M3 Zero on what he thinks is an uninhabited island (isolated island Niihau off Kauai) on Dec. 7, 1941, the day of the Pearl Harbor attack.

The island’s 100 plus civilian population, which had no telephones or radios, had not heard of the attack events on Oahu. The first to see the Japanese pilot is Hawila “Howard” Hanohano as the Zero crashes in front of his home. Hanohano pulls the froggy Nishikaichi clear of the plane, removing his sidearm and official looking papers. Hanohano feeds the pilot breakfast at his home, while a Japan-born 60-year

old beekeeper, Ishimatsu Shintani, is summoned to translate. Shintani, a 41-year Hawaii resident, who had child born in the island and therefore were American citizens, wanted not part of questionable situation. Another Niihau AJA resident, Yoshio Harada, a bookkeeper, is then brought translate for Nishikaichi and is intimidated by the pilot who tells the Haradas about the attack on Oahu and a rescue submarine was on its way. Harada and his wife Irene are swayed into helping the stranded pilot. The Haradas fearing for their safety, not only translate for Nishikaichi, but align themselves with the invader. The lightly secured Zero pilot and Harada secure weapons and threaten to kill island residents if they don’t help them. The week long standoff come to a head when Nishikaichi shoots Benehakaka “Benny” Kanahela three time and despite his wounds, Kanehele kills the pilot by lifting him up and knocking his head against a wall. As Kanahela’s wife, Ella, hit Nishikaichi repeatedly with a rock, Benny sliced the pilot’s throat. Shortly thereafter, a scared Harada commits suicide.

Several days’ later, Hanohano and other locals, who escaped on a lifeboat earlier, arrive on Kauai and inform the authorities. The events would lend “credence” those who preached not trusting AJAs and talk of internment.

Military deploys investigation team

Later that week, eager to prove his loyalty, 1st Lt. Mizuha volunteers to lead 13 enlisted Soldiers from the Hawaii Guard's Hanapepe unit to the island of Niihau to capture the pilot, rescue the local population and investigate what happened.

Among the volunteers is Kauai AJA Pfc. Ben Kobayashi, whose family also migrated from Hiroshima. Kobayashi, who joined the Hawaii Guard Nov. 10, 1940, was to serve as Mizuha's driver/translator. The "old," over 30 Soldier, didn't know that a former co-worker was the local (Harada) who helped the Zero pilot.

Mizuha, who was the Burns Air Field (Hanapepe, Kauai) unit commander up until Dec. 7, 1941, was demoted to executive officer in response to white officer's concerns of the loyalty of Japanese American Soldiers of the Hawaii Guard. After landing on Niihau, Mizuha leads the detachment across the island. Survivors are questioned as Mizuha uses his police-reporter learned shorthand to take comprehensive notes. The dead bodies of the Nishikaichi and Harada are found and buried. The confiscated Japanese pilot's papers and detainees Shintani and Irene Harada are brought for further review on Kauai. Niihau's Irene Harada is incarcerated until June 1944 and Ishimatsu Shintani is eventually sent to an internment camp on the mainland. Mizuha is transferred to Schofield Barracks, where he is promoted to captain. In 1945, Kanahale receives a Purple Heart and Medal of Merit from U.S. government. The remnants of the Japanese Zero today is on display at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Oahu.

Japanese American Soldiers, including Mizuha, removed from Hawaii Guard units

Newly promoted Capt. Mizuha is assigned as Co. D, 299th Infantry. commander, and quickly earns the respect of his young Soldiers. "I remember him very well," recalled veteran Goro Sumida in a 2012 interview "He came and raided our crap game and gave all the money to the Red Cross." More fallout for the AJA Soldiers after the Pearl Harbor attack included weapons being "turned-in" and demotions from guard missions to work details. On May 28, 1942, Mizuha and all the other AJAs were removed from the ranks of the 298th and 299th Infantry Regiment, 798 men from the 298th and 608 men from the 299th along with 28 officers.

100th Infantry Battalion goes to war While the federalized AJAs Soldiers, originally scheduled to discharge are moved and form the nucleus of the newly created Hawaiian Provisional Infantry Battalion, AJA Hawaii Territorial Guard Soldiers were dismissed Jan. 19 (many were University ROTC cadets were now 4C, enemy aliens status).

In June 1942, the provisional battalion boards the U.S. Transport Maui, bound for the mainland and eventually Camp McCoy, Wis. While in transit the unit was activated as the 100th Infantry Bn. (Separate). After more training the battalion goes on to Salerno, Italy, in the European theatre of operations and breaks racial barriers for its newly created bigger brother the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 100th Bn. later becomes the 442nd RCT's first infantry battalion, but retained the 100th name (2nd and 3rd Infantry Battalions follow the normal protocol of names).

Maui-born 1st Sgt. Takashi Kitaoka, Co. B, 100th Bn., said that upon landing in Salerno, Italy, in September 1943, he and Mizuha were huddled together as projectiles were landing nearby, "We're sitting here being shelled, let's move over there and get away from this place." 'And Mizuha says, Kit, don't move. They already shelled here. They are not going to shell here again [if they don't see anybody].' He was a very smart guy." Kitaoka, who went on to become a Maui Circuit Court Judge, recently died Aug. 9, 2016, at the age of 104.

On Sept. 29, shortly after arriving in Salerno, Mizuha volunteers to lead a team to located where a German machine gun nest is holding up the advance of the 100th Battalion. Kobayashi (Mizuha's Kauai driver) chimed in, "Mizuha was a good man; he is always volunteering for stuff." While leading the troops against heavy gun fire in Colli, Italy, he suffered a bullet wound that entered his back, narrowly missing his spine and lungs. He survives the wound, but is hospitalized for nearly a year, first to Africa, then to North Carolina and finally Chicago.

Disabling injuries exempting him from further military service do not stop Mizuha from fighting for the correcting the injustices done to the AJA Soldiers. While convalescing he writes public letters defending the loyalty and rights of the AJAs. The President's wife, Eleanor, invites him to the White House where he asks the First Lady "to support measures to grant citizenship

to the parents of Nisei soldiers." He wrote letters for fellow Soldiers letting those at home, like politicians, public officials and employers know, that the returning Soldiers would need jobs and assistance adjusting to life with various mental and physical disabilities. Much like today's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and the Veterans Administration work for the veterans.

Mizuha's post military career

Mizuha returns to Hawaii after he had been medically discharged and returns to his educational career with an appointment as principal of Hanamaulu School on Kauai. His wartime injuries did not slow down his continued fight to inform communities, Rotary clubs and other organizations about the need to assist returning veterans readjustment to everyday life back home in the islands. After the war ends, he used the G.I. Bill to attend the University of Michigan Law School and returned to Kauai and passed the Hawaii Bar exam. Mizuha become one of the few 100th Bn., 442nd RCT veterans to join the Republican Party. In 1948, he runs for and is elected to Kauai's Board of Supervisors (prelude to County Council) and later a Territory constitutional convention delegate. He also serves an appointment as a University of Hawaii regent in the 1950s. In 1958, he serves as Hawaii's attorney general, following year he is appointed as an Oahu circuit court justice. In 1961, Republican Gov. William F. Quinn appoints Mizuha to the state Supreme Court as an associate justice. In one of his first duties, Mizuha gets to swear in his battle buddy Takashi Kitaoka as a Maui Circuit Court justice. After an eight year appointment, where he championed individual rights, protecting the Constitution, collective bargaining and free public schools, Mizuha retired to his own private law practice.

Club 100 legacy

Mizuha was an original member of the 100th Battalion and a founding member of Club 100, the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans. Members had a set amount of the paycheck during their activation put into a fund to build a club house where 100th Battalion members, their families and friends could gather after the war for fellowship and community activism (fighting for veteran's rights and benefits). As active as Jack was in fighting for the rights of others, he rarely frequented the club house or discussed the war. He died in 1972 at age 72.

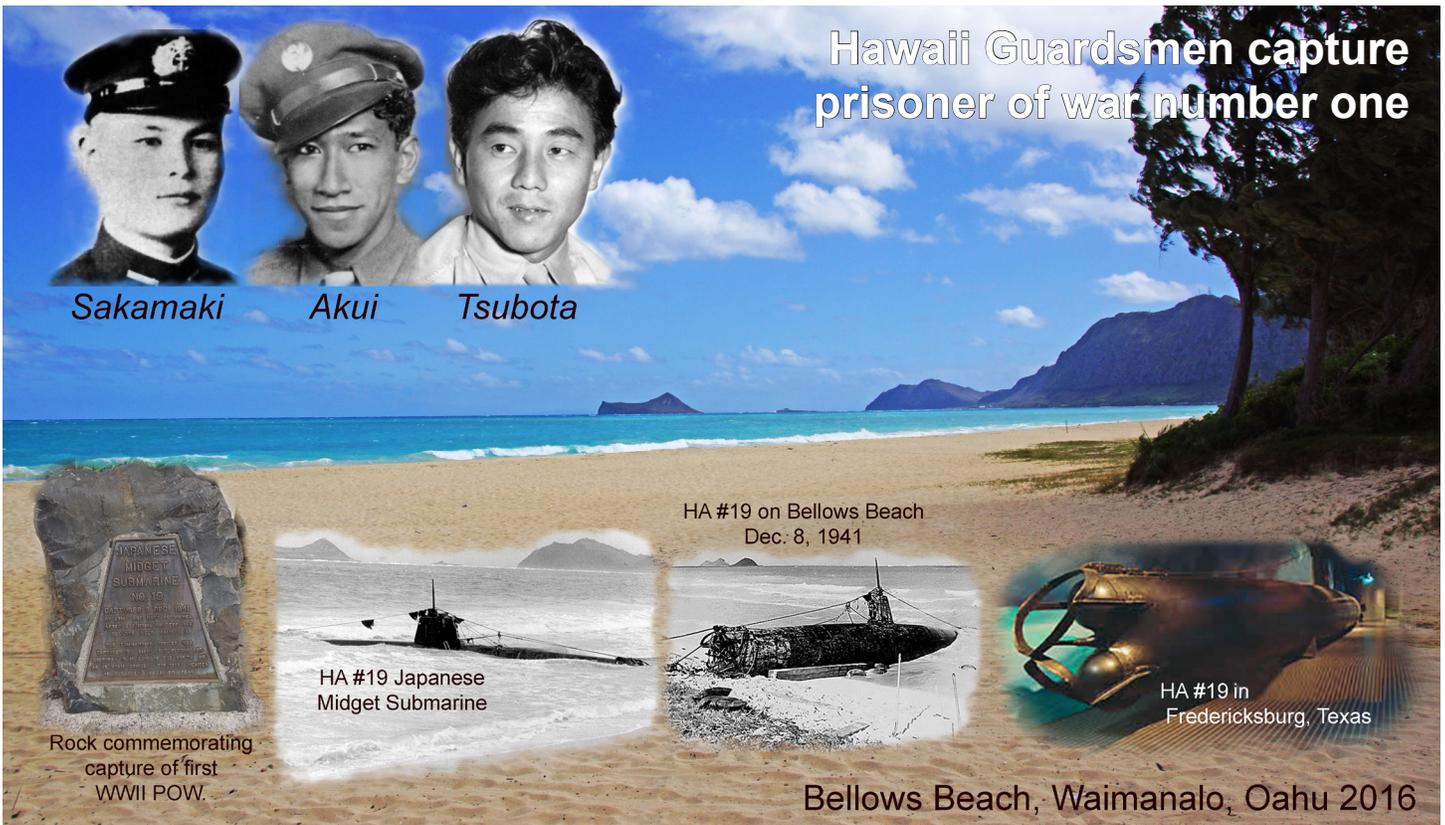
Hawaii Guardsmen capture prisoner of war number one



Sakamaki

Akui

Tsubota



HA #19 on Bellows Beach
Dec. 8, 1941

HA #19 Japanese
Midget Submarine

HA #19 in
Fredericksburg, Texas

Rock commemorating
capture of first
WWII POW.

Bellows Beach, Waimanalo, Oahu 2016

By Retired Master Sgt. Stephen M. Lum

It was more than a year since the Hawaii Guard was mobilized (Oct. 15, 1940), as German and Japanese military forces were invading Europe and the Asian-Pacific Theatres. The United States was drawn into World War II with the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Hawaii National Guard Soldiers from Co. G, 298th Infantry Regiment were doing their pre-invasion mission of guarding the northeastern sector of Oahu on Dec. 7, 1941.

“That morning we noticed smoke rising from Kaneohe Air Base,” said Cpl. Thomas Kiyoshi “Kewpie” Tsubota, American of Japanese Ancestry Guardsman. “A plane with a red ‘hinomaru’ beneath its wings (Japanese Zeros) flew over. We thought it was just maneuvers until the machine gun firing (our gunners returning fire) strafed near Bellows Airfield. Then we knew it was for real.”

Guard Soldiers were dispatched to “nearby” Diamond Head’s Fort Ruger to secure ammunition, Bellows was not authorized to have large amounts of ammunition.

Private Quirino F. “Joe” Oligario was as at his lookout in the hills of Waimanalo in the pre-dawn hours the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked

when he saw something off the shores of Bellows beach. The Waimanalo-raised Guardsman could not leave his post so he radios his Co. G headquarters. Joe died at age 82 in Hawaii in 1997. He was a staff sergeant when he was deactivated.

The incident is investigated by a jeep-load of Co. G Heavy Weapons Platoon Guardsmen led by Lt. Paul G. “Playboy” Plybon and Cpl. David M. Akui. Hawaii-born native Hawaiian Akui sees an object off shore (which turns out to be a Japanese midget sub) and then spots a body on the beach. He then grabs a M1 Garand rifle from the jeep and fires a warning shot between the legs of the body. The survivor regains consciousness, opening his eyes to the barrel of Plybon’s M1911 45 caliber pistol and Akui’s rifle. Plybon would die during the war in the South Pacific.

Japanese Imperial Navy Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki, survivor of a two-man Haramaki 19 Midget Submarine, is captured by the Guardsmen and becomes the United States’ prisoner of war number one. Sakamaki says to Guardsmen in broken English, “I am cold.” Tsubota tried to question Sakamaki who refused to answer in either English or Japanese. Tsubota becomes the first Nisei (second Japanese generation Hawaii-born) to engage in interrogation of a Japanese POW in World War II.

Sakamaki spends most of his incarceration at Camp McCoy, Wis. After the war he is released and began working at Toyota Motor Corporation. He became president of its subsidiary in Brazil in 1967. He died in Japan in 1999 at the age of 81.

The second sailor from the two-man sub was Japanese Petty Officer 2nd Class Kiyoshi Inagaki. Inagaki’s mangled body washes on the beach three days later and Tsubota used his blanket to cover the body of the dead engineer. Inagaki, whose death is attributed to injuries and drowning, is taken away and buried.

Nisei Pvt. Seisho Okuma and Takuya “Roy” Terada, and Cpl. Tsubota, are AJAs Guardsmen who were at the Bellows beach incident but not mentioned in most published and online reports. They go on to be part of the 100th Infantry Battalion that first trains at Camp McCoy, Wis.

Okuma, like many second generation Japanese, is almost mistaken for an “enemy” Japanese National because his English was very poor. He survives the battles in the European Theatre, but died in 1953, at age 36. Terada, who had witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor the day, before is mentioned in a Hawaii Herald article and “The Anguish of Surrender - Japanese POWs of World War II”

by Ulrich A. Strauss, and became a Japanese linguist with the Military Intelligence Service. Tsubota's Japanese language education is noted and he is "volunteered" to be a trained interpreter/translator with the MIS and is one of 14 AJAs to volunteers to serve with the Merrill's 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional). At the time of this article he is still alive, wrote his account and it was published in the Hawaii Herald and is available on the 100th Bn. website.

Akui also went on to be a part of Gen. Frank Merrill's Marauders, fighting in Burma (Myanmar). After the war, Akui continued his Hawaii Guard service until 1959, when he enlisted in the in Naval Reserve. He died in 1987 at age 67.

The damaged HA-19 brought to Pearl Harbor. The sub is shipped to the U.S. mainland for intensive study by naval intelligence and later used for War Bond rallies. It is presently at the National Museum of the Pacific War, "the Nimitz Museum," in Fredericksburg, Texas, hometown of Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz.

