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100th Battalion's 1st Active Duty Since '42

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When the Army Reserve's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry reports to Schofield Barracks on May 13, it will be the first time the "Go For Broke" unit has been called for active duty since World War II.

The reserve unit is commanded by Lt. Col. Bert Tokairin, a lawyer in civilian life.

The 100th is the original Nisei unit, later combined with Island volunteers into the 442nd Regimental Combat team, which won honors during the European Campaign in World War II.

For 240 days the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team

slogged and fought through Italy and France, winning the record of being the "most decorated unit of its size" in the Army.

The units and individual Island soldiers received more than 5,000 medals and citations, including a Medal of Honor. Some 3,600 of the awards were Purple Hearts for soldiers wounded in action.

After the war, the 442nd and the 100th were inactivated—to be reorganized seven months later into Hawaii's first reserve unit, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry.

When Korea broke out in 1950, the 100th was not called to active duty although many of its men saw action in Korea.

Few American military units can match the war record of the 442nd and the 100th.

The history begins with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, when some 1,500 Nisei already in the Armed Forces fought with the defenders.

A wave of distrust of Japanese swept the nation after Pearl Harbor and made life hard for Hawaii's Nisei soldiers.

Finally, in June 1942, they were given the chance they had been waiting for and were shipped for training to Camp McCoy, Wis. They were formed into the 100th Battalion.

In September 1943, they arrived in Salerno, Italy,

ready for action.

With the 442nd, which arrived later, the 100th Battalion participated in most of the major campaigns in the European Theater.

Italy and France were the battlegrounds. Hawaii's Nisei proved their loyalty with their blood.

Guard Callup Vignettes

Yesterday's Guard-Reserve callup deprived the 100th Battalion of a new recruit.

The prospective Army Reservist went to the recruiting office at Ft. DeRussy yesterday morning and asked about enlisting.

"Didn't you hear the news?" he was asked.

"What news?" he said.

"We've been called up," was the reply. "Still want to join?"

"No thanks," said the young man, beating a hasty retreat.

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At Hawaii National Guard headquarters, a sergeant called his wife on the phone and said excitedly, "We've been called up!"

Her immediate reaction: "Be sure to sign over the bank account in my name."

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One National Guard officer who was

left out of the callup said he'd like to volunteer for active duty.

But he said he thought it over and decided against it because he's stuck with a \$300 a month mortgage, has a wife and child, is buying a car and would lose his law practice if he has to put in two years with the 29th Brigade.

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Brig. Gen. Francis S. Takemoto, 29th Brigade commander, and Col. Edward M. Yoshimasu, Guard chief of staff, served together in World War II with Company D, 100th Battalion.

Yoshimasu is one of seven top Guard officers who are not involved in the callup. The others are Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Schaefer III, and Cols. John M. Becker, William C. Meyer, and John Naumu.

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The top man in the 29th Brigade, Brig. Gen. Francis Takemoto, makes \$48.74 a day, exclusive of allowances.

A private with less than three months' service makes \$3.19 a day.