



Newsletter

Winter, 2013

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Carl Gets His Wish

Text by Sheldon Tyau

From the Executive Director: Vicki Olson

Aloha from “wintery” Hawaii! As I was driving to the museum in the rain this morning my car indicated a frigid outside temperature of 69 degrees. To confirm how cold it felt, a local resident was wearing her down ski parker on her way home from the grocery store! I am certain that our Mainland members will offer us sympathy as they shovel their driveways and sidewalks.

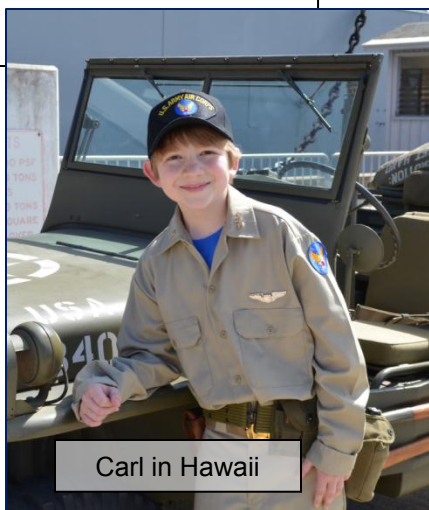


We are headed for a busy spring with Living History Day and our 32nd golf tournament just around the corner. We are also looking forward to our first class of JROTC students to join us for a morning at the museum. Mike Egami is doing a phenomenal job with outreach to the local community and he is booking more and more tours for not only students but active military units.

The 70th anniversary of the 442nd RCT will be held in Honolulu on March 22 – 24. Saturday, March 23rd activities include a tour of the U. S. Army Museum of Hawaii and a family picnic on the museum lawn. Our rotating gallery has a wonderful tribute for the 70th anniversary celebration.

We hope you will visit us in the near future!

Vicki Olson



Carl in Hawaii



In Memoriam: Remembering Art Monnett

Text courtesy of Linde J. Breault

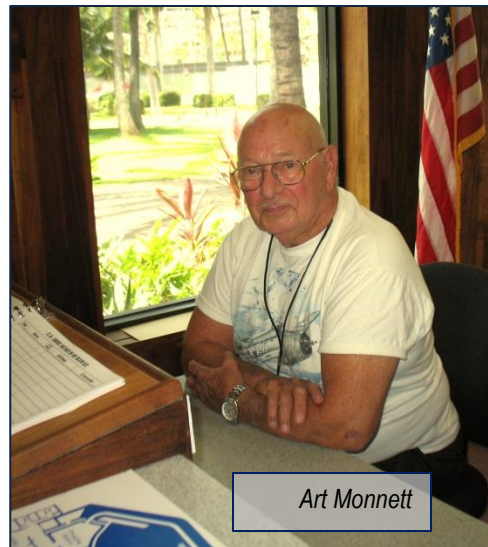
Photo by Judi Bowman

One of our volunteers since May 2006, Francis Arthur Robert Monnett (Art), age 83, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at his residence in Groveland, CA. In August of 2013, Art moved from Honolulu to California to be closer to his family. When he became a full-time resident of Hawaii in 2004, he insisted on becoming a museum volunteer when he found out that his neighbor, Leo Kerlick, volunteered here. He became a volunteer in May of 2006 and remained loyal to his position until he moved back to California. At the 2007 volunteer holiday party, Art said, "It's my way of giving back to the troops from all the wars - for giving me a life of freedom."

Art was born February 15, 1929 in Oak Park, IL, the son of Joseph "Curley" and Lydia (nee Hahn) Monnett. He married Jerry Donarski on July 3, 1948 at Ascension Catholic Church in Oak Park, Illinois. Arthur owned and operated a tool and die company in Addison, Illinois (Monnett Precision Grinding) for 35 years. Art and Jerry had a residence near Diamond Head for 40 years, and truly loved their friends and life in Hawaii.

Art had a strong interest in the military early on. Before the age of 18 he tried to join the military five times. Each time someone at the recruiting stations recognized him and sent him home, except the last time. A Master Sergeant at Paris Island recognized him and allowed him to get the full indoctrination—and then sent him home to Chicago. His name is listed somewhere in the Marine records. He loved and promoted military service all his life and that showed through in his passion for his volunteer work at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. One of his sons joined the Marines, a granddaughter was in the Air Force and her husband recently made Warrant Officer.

Art was also very proud of his great nephew who served in Iraq and has applied for the FBI.



Art is survived by his three children, Linde J. Breault of Groveland, CA, Mitchell (Elisabeth) Monnett of Anchorage, Alaska, and Terrance (Elizabeth) Monnett of St. Charles; five grandchildren, Michelle Monnett Becker, Breda Elmore, Kristine Monnett Farkas, Marshall Monnett, and Ryan Monnett; and five great grandchildren, Lydia Grace Elmore, Joseph Matthew Elmore, Maxwell Ryan Becker, Nash David Farkas and Noelle Elizabeth Farkas.



13 the ANNUAL LIVING HISTORY DAY

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Place: U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii, Ft DeRussy

Hours of event: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Validated parking for participants.

Contact: Sheldon Tyau Phone: 955-9552

Mahalo and see you there!



70th Anniversary Fete: **442nd Regimental Combat Team Celebrations**

Text courtesy of Gwen Fujie



The U. S. Army Museum of Hawaii will participate in the three-day festivities celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team by providing a tour at 10 am to 11:30 am on March 23rd. Hundreds of veterans and their families and friends from around the United States are expected to come to Oahu for the events taking place between March 22 and 24, 2013.

Wednesday, March 20 – 9:00 a.m. – City Hall

SPECIAL RECOGNITION SPONSORED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS CHANG AND KOBAYASHI

Friday, March 22

OFFICIAL START OF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

8:00 am – 11:30 am: (Optional) Tour of Honouliuli Internment Camp

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: 100th Battalion Veterans Memorial Building (aka 100 Clubhouse or Club 100)

- “At Ease” an informal Hawaiian style get-together. Enter your international pupu from Italy, France, Germany, Japan, Hawaii and the mainland to win a prize! Aloha shirt, mu’umu’u, shorts, tee-shirt! 442nd RCT Logo merchandise will be available for sale.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm: Meeting of various Sons and Daughters (organizations and individuals) to share ideas on how future generations can “live the legacy” of the Nisei soldiers of WWII.

Saturday, March 23 – Fort DeRussy, Waikiki

9:00 am – 10:00 am: Remembrance Service at Fort DeRussy with special tribute to Senator Inouye

10:00 am – 11:30 am: Tour of the U.S. Army Museum at Fort DeRussy

11:30 am – 2:00 pm: “Just-like-the-old-days” 442 Family Picnic

- Bento, door prizes, games, shaved ice stand, 442 logo items sales, 100/442 Manga book sales & Chibi merchandise

Evening: FREE for chapter get-togethers or relaxing in Waikiki. (Item Chapter is already planning a party. Place: TBD. 5:00 p.m.)

Sunday, March 24 – Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel

9:30 am: Hospitality Room opened for all chapters – Coral Ballroom I

10:30 am: Doors open to Coral Ballroom II, III, IV

11:00 am – 2:00 pm: 70th Anniversary Luncheon and Program (including exhibits, photo taking, 442nd RCT logo merchandise sales) Special tribute to Senator Daniel Inouye

Monday, March 25

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

12 noon: State of Hawaii Legislature recognition. Bring your families to witness the honor

2:00 pm: Special Tour to Bishop Museum, Punchbowl, WWII sites including possible tour of C-17 “Spirit of Go for Broke” (exact time and place for pick up to be announced)

6:30 pm: “Valor With Honor” Documentary screening at The Honolulu Museum of Art’s Doris Duke Theatre. Meet writer/director, Burt Takeuchi, and stay for Q&A session after the screening.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: CALL GWEN FUJIE AT 691-9693 OR 888-9374 OR THE 442ND VETERANS CLUB AT 949-7997



Preparing for War: The 442nd Takes Shape

Text & Photos Courtesy of Pierre Moulin

The Post Pearl Harbor Situation in Hawaii

Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the hysteria against the Japanese exploded. On orders of the Governor of Hawaii, the University of Hawaii ROTC was immediately mobilized into the Hawaii Territorial Guard (HTG). For six weeks these young University students, now soldiers, guarded installations at various locations around Honolulu. However, on January 19, 1942 it was announced that the students were dismissed from service for being of Japanese ancestry. For the Nisei, this was a humiliation: *"They all cried when they heard those orders"*.

A few days later, some of those discharged from the HTG gathered on the University campus. For many it was already too late to return to finish their school year. The YMCA secretary, Hung Wai Ching walked over to the group and told them that instead of feeling sorry for themselves, they probably would be able to perform some duties.

Shigeo Yoshida organized a meeting at the YMCA for his colleagues dismissed from the HTG and other interested Nisei. They wrote a letter to the military commander saying: *"We know but one loyalty and that is to the Stars and Stripes. We wish to do our part as loyal Americans..."*

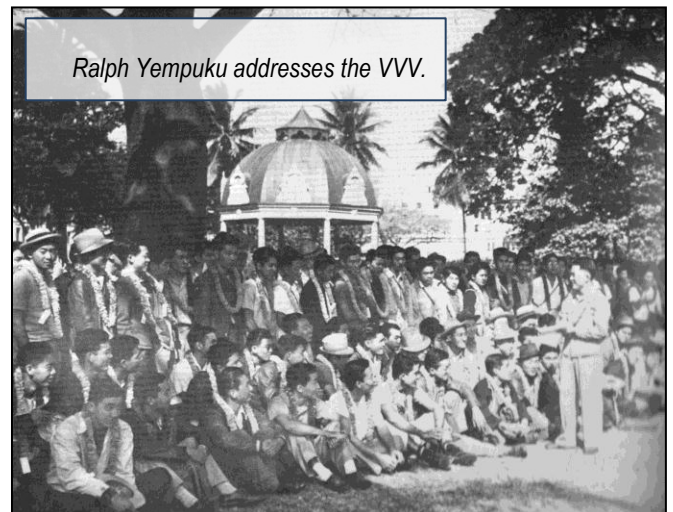


Shigeo Yoshida and
Hung Wai Ching

The Military Governor of Hawaii, Lt. Gen. Delos C. Emmons, was influenced in his humane treatment of the Japanese community by prominent local figures such as Hung Wai Ching. The FBI headed by Robert Shivers, and the Army intelligence unit under Colonel Kendall J. Fielder, confirmed that there was no evidence of disloyalty among the local Nisei. In accepting the plea by the Nisei, the General was constrained by existing military orders: no weapons could be issued to the Nisei, nor could they be placed in any position that could be considered militarily sensitive. The Nisei were only permitted to enlist as laborers in a paramilitary unit that February 1942 and 169 volunteered.

Hung Wai Ching tells the story of Colonel Albert Kuahi Brickwood Lyman who was in charge of military engineering. When asked if he could use the Nisei, Lyman responded: "Only 169? Bring more and I'll use them all." A few months later, Lyman was promoted to Brigadier General, the first local person to attain that rank.

The Nisei were stationed at Schofield Barracks and called themselves the Varsity Victory Volunteers (VVV). They built barracks, put up barbed wire fencing, smashed rocks at the quarry in Waianae Mountain range, and performed other tasks for nearly a year. Akira Otani and Walter Iwasa, who had been seniors at the UH, were just two of the volunteers whose fathers had been "arrested" and interned; but their loyalty remained firm to their country.



Ralph Yempuku addresses the VVV.



Nisei who were serving in the 298th and 299th Hawaii National Guard regiments were stripped of their weapons. New regulations prevented the Nisei from enlisting, as they were now classified as Class C- Enemy Aliens.

The Formation of One Puka Puka and the 442nd

In May 1942, the 298th and 299th Hawaii National Guard units received orders to ship out to the mainland. 1,432 men and 29 officers led by LTC Farrant Turner left the islands for an unknown destination. The unit arrived in Oakland on June 10, 1942 and on June 12th the 100th Infantry Battalion was activated. Known as the One Puka Puka, the unit began its training in Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. Not yet assigned to a regiment, it was an orphan battalion.

The 100th Battalion was organized in Camp McCoy as an oversized battalion with six companies instead of the usual four. Fifty-eight men were transferred to a Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota. LTC Farrant L. Turner was in command of the 100th Battalion.

On January 6, 1943 the 100th Battalion left Camp McCoy for Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The unit performed superbly during training and U.S. Army allowed the creation of a Japanese-American Regiment, the 442nd R.C.T.



2,643 Volunteers in front of Iolani Palace

For the creation of the new unit, the U.S. Army asked for 1,500 volunteers from Hawaii and 3000 from the mainland. On March 1, 1943, responding to the call for an all Nisei Combat Team, close to 10,000 Nisei answered. With the show of enthusiasm from the Nisei, instead of the planned 3,000 mainlanders and 1,500 Hawaiians, the proportion was reversed and on March 30, 1943, 2,643 young Nisei assembled in front of Iolani Palace to join the United States Army and fill the new combat unit.

After arriving in Camp Shelby, the "Hawaiians" received the nickname of Buddha Heads (from pidgin for Pig Head, Butta Head), and the mainlanders were called Kotonks (the sound made by an empty coconut hitting the ground).

Those of Japanese American ancestry inside the internment camps had limited income compared to the free people in Hawaii. Fighting was common between the Hawaiian Nisei and the mainland Nisei until some "Hawaiians" visited a internment camp. After that, there was no more fighting and the 442nd "Go for broke" spirit emerged.

Continued on Page 6



The 100th Battalion was composed almost exclusively of Japanese Americans who already were inducted in the service inside the Territorial Guard. However, among them was a single Korean, John Ko. At that time, Koreans were discriminated against in Japan, however Ko was born in Hawaii and could speak pidgin; he did not believe that he would have a problem. In fact, the officers had not noticed that he was not of Japanese descent. But, when a newcomer of Korean ancestry, LT Young Oak Kim, arrived in the 100th Battalion and began to reorganize the training of the 100th Battalion. The officers were concerned about the Nisei reaction to his changes in training.

Colonel Farrant Turner believed there would be trouble. When 2LT Young Oak Kim reported to the Colonel, the first words he heard from Turner were, "I will arrange your transfer immediately."

Kim protested, "But, I just arrived."

Turner said, "Well, you're Korean; you probably don't know, but we are a Japanese-American outfit."

Kim said, "I know that."

"Well, you know the Koreans and Japanese don't get along too well," Turner continued, "and probably you don't want to stay here."

Kim replied, "No, that is not the case at all. I don't want to be transferred. I am an American and all the soldiers are American. We are fighting for the same cause."

Turner relented, saying, "Well, in that case you can stay, but on probation. If you get on with the men, you can stay."



Kim Young Oak

LT Kim was much loved by his men. He was later promoted to captain and eventually became the Executive Officer of the 100th Battalion, earning 21 decorations from the United States, Italy, France and Korea.

The Story of the Liberty Torch Patch

The U.S. Army designed the patch for the 100th /442nd R.C.T. and approved it to be worn on July 31, 1943. (See black and white photo below.) A red and white bomb burst on the blue disc reflected the national colors and a yellow arm represented the fact that the unit was organized with Americans of Japanese ancestry. When Colonel Pence presented the patch to his boys: The response was: Baaaaah! Nobody liked it.



T/Sergeant Mich Miyamoto, pictured below, came up with his own design, the "liberty torch," (above right), and everybody loved it. The U.S. Army patch was discontinued on December 16, 1943 and was replaced by the torch. Miyamoto had not imagined that more than 33,000 men would proudly wear his patch before the end of the WWII.





Make a Wish Carl Gets His Wish

Text by Sheldon Tyau

Ten-year-old leukemia patient Carl Hornbeck-Hess asked Hawaii's Make A Wish foundation for a trip to Hawaii because he wanted to be a WWII pilot who was "shot" down (crashed) somewhere in the Hawaiian islands and have to survive on an isolated beach for two days before being rescued.

Make A Wish formed a "team" of which I was honored to be part of, consisting of the Hawaii Historic Arms Association, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, PACAF, Tripler Army Medical Center, and the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites. For my part, I arranged for Carl and his family to be picked up on arrival by two WWII vintage vehicles, obtained WWII Army Air Corps uniforms and equipment for Carl and his father, arranged for a ride in a vintage PT-17 Stearman bi-plane, and put on a personal display of my WWII Air Crew Survival equipment collection at the Pacific Aviation Museum.

Carl's wish began with survival training at McChord AFB outside of Seattle, WA before coming to Hawaii. On arrival in Hawaii, Carl was met by his survival "Guardian Angels" from the U.S. Marines and Army. After being commissioned aboard the USS Missouri, Carl spent the night aboard with his guardians.

The trip covered the time period of February 15 to 20. Day one came early with orders for his flight mission over Pearl Harbor, flight simulator training at the Air Museum, then out to the airport at Dillingham Field on the north shore. Carl's overnight stay on the beach at Camp Erdman included survival meals and swimming to catch fish with Special Ops divers.

Carl's mother and sister enjoyed the spa at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, and Carl and his family enjoyed Waikiki after his return. They were all escorted to a full day at Pearl Harbor which included all of the historic venues—all in all, a wish that could not be duplicated, and one I, too, will not forget!



Photos Courtesy of Lawrence Lucero

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 442ND RCT CELEBRATED IN THE CHANGING GALLERY

If you haven't already seen it, please drop the Hawaii Army Museum to view an exhibit in the GEN Wolff Changing Gallery commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The exhibit focuses on the formation of the 442nd up to the point it was deployed overseas. Among the many photos on display you can see old pictures of our own volunteer, Whitey Yamamoto, who was a member of this famed unit.



Hawaii Army Museum Society

P. O. 8064

Honolulu, HI 96830-0064

To:

Hawaii Army Museum Society News

(HAMS)

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HAMS Events for



Living History Day:

U.S. Army Museum of
Hawaii, May 18, 2013

Golf Tournament:

Leilehua Golf Course,
June 21, 2013

The Award Breakfast

Nov. 15, 2013, 7:00 AM
Hilton Hawaiian Village

HAMS Board of Trustees Meetings for 2013:

Jan 23, Apr 24, Jul 24, Oct 23

HAMS Executive Committee Meetings for 2013:

Feb 20, Mar 20, May 15,
Jun 19, Aug 21,
Sep 18, Nov 20, Dec 18

Hours of operation for the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii
and the Museum Store are:

Tuesday through Saturday from
9 AM until 5 PM.

Museum Store:
808-955-9552

Store Manager:
Sheldon Tyau