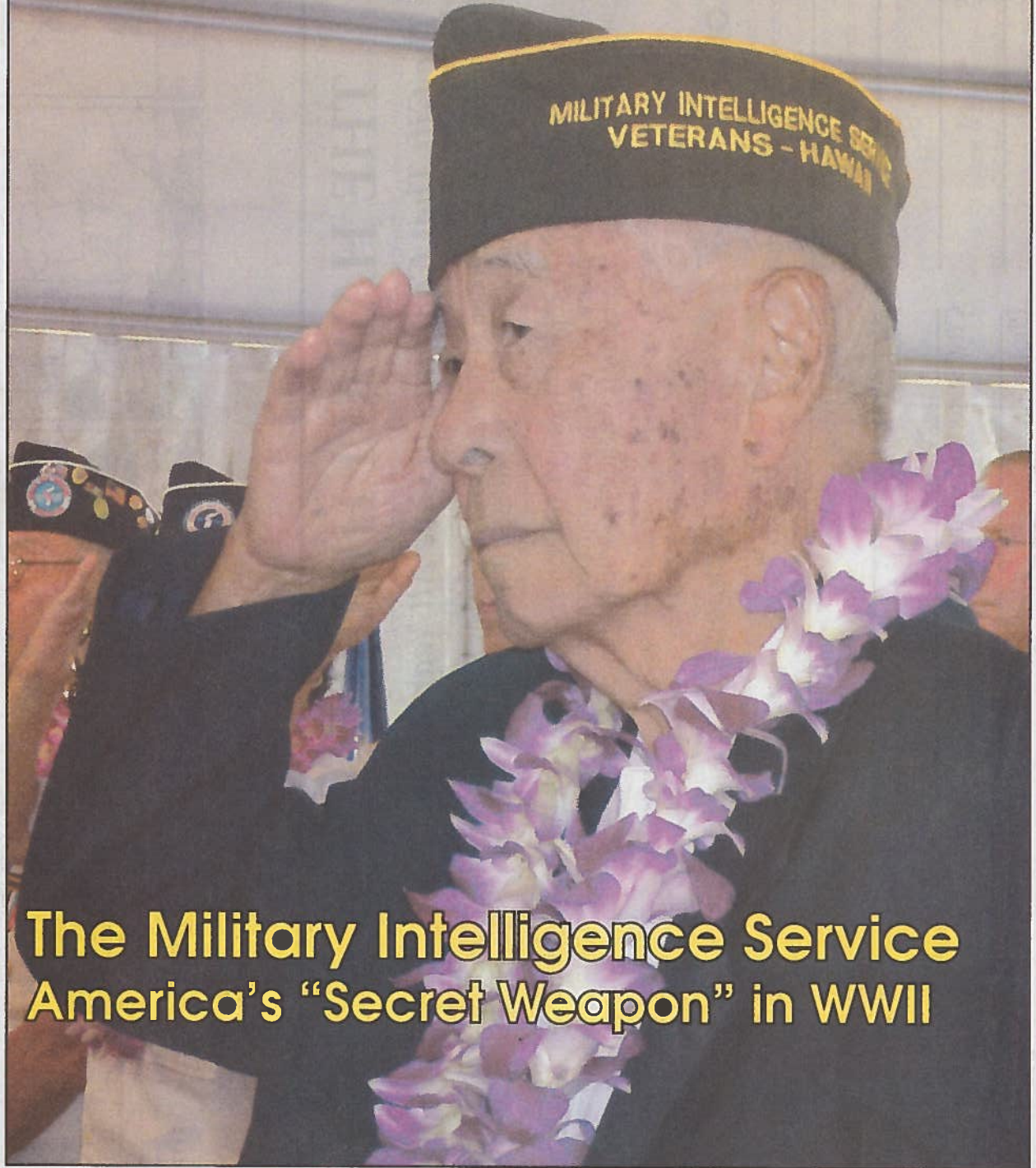


THE HAWAI'I HERALD

Hawai'i's Japanese American Journal



**The Military Intelligence Service
America's "Secret Weapon" in WWII**



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VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE

IN THE SUNSET OF THEIR LIVES

Honoring Our World War II AJA Veterans

Kevin Kawamoto

Special to The Hawai'i Herald

The skies above Pearl Harbor were bright and clear for the Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony, which was held Nov. 11 on the deck of the historic *USS Missouri*, the decommissioned battleship aboard which Japan's wartime foreign minister, Mamoru Shigemitsu, signed the Instrument of Surrender on Sept. 2, 1945, effectively ending World War II. The Sunset Ceremony is organized annually by the USS Missouri Memorial Association to honor all veterans for their selfless defense of America and its freedom. This year's ceremony paid special tribute to the World War II Nisei veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

"Seventy years ago, thousands of young Nisei men from Hawai'i and the Mainland heroically went to battle for the United States of America to defeat fascism and tyranny," said Michael A. Carr, president and chief operating officer of the USS Missouri Memorial Association.

The audience heard from four speakers: retired U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Robert K.U. Kihune; World War II Nisei veteran and retired attorney Ted Tsukiyama; Sgt. Christopher Arakawa of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment; and Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Also in attendance were World War II Nisei veterans who were seated together close to the speaker's podium. They were applauded by the hundreds in attendance, including active duty military, veterans and civilians.

KIHUNE: "MADE ME THE PERSON I AM"

Vice Adm. Robert Kihune retired from the U.S. Navy in June 1994. A year later, he chaired the planning committee for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Kihune said he was "awestruck by the many stories I heard from this unique band of brothers."

The son of a Japanese American father and a Native Hawaiian mother, Kihune said, "... the huge numbers of casualties that these Japanese Americans sustained in key battles of World War II was a sobering reminder of the high price that our Japanese Americans had to pay to attain the freedoms that not only Japanese Americans enjoy today, but all Americans."

Kihune said he himself benefited from the accomplishments of the Nisei soldiers. "They have made me the person I am and what I wanted to be," he said, reminding the audience members, many of them young servicemen and service-women born long after World War II, about the Nisei veterans' achievements. A simple recitation of the veterans' commendations spoke volumes: seven Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Congressional Medals of Honor, 33 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, more than 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legions of Merit and 15 soldier's medals aside from 9,400 Purple Hearts.

In November of 2011, veterans of the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT and MIS were collectively awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, whose first recipient was none other than George Washington in 1776.

The unprecedented record of achievement by Japanese Americans, Kihune continued, showed America that "neither race nor religion defines an American." He pointed to the late U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, retired four-star Gen. and current U.S.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki and Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. as examples of Japanese Americans who have been trailblazers in their respective careers in government and the military. Kihune himself was promoted to three-star rank in the U.S. Navy in 1988. In his career, he commanded battleships; directed Command, Control and Communications for the U.S. European Command and was involved in a number of high-profile military operations overseas. Even in retirement, Kihune continues to serve his country and community as chair of the USS Missouri Memorial Association.

"I want to especially thank our very distinguished World War II Nisei veterans and their families for honoring us with your presence today," Kihune said. "And, I thank you for your legacy."

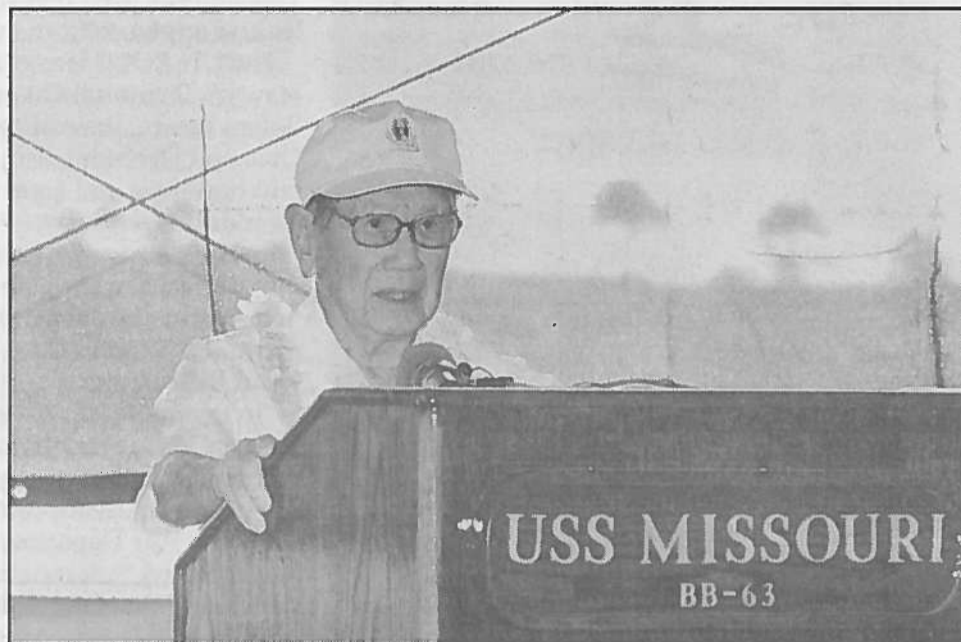
TSUKIYAMA: "A MATTER OF THE MIND, THE HEART AND THE SPIRIT"

The next speaker, Ted Tsukiyama, has shared his personal knowledge of the AJA soldiers' experience with Herald readers in the past (and is a major contributor of information for this special issue on the Military Intelligence Service). The 93-year-old Yale Law School alumnus was a practicing attorney, labor arbitrator and mediator for decades in Hawai'i. Prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, however, he was a student at the University of Hawai'i, awakening to the complexities of a world in conflict.

Tsukiyama recalled waking up to the sound of sustained thunder on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. "I thought this was a very realistic (military) maneuver," he said. He looked outside and saw the skies over Pearl Harbor black with clouds and also noticed white bursts of aerial fire punctuating the skies.

He turned on the radio and heard the announcer yelling for people to take cover and get off the streets. "We're being attacked by Japanese planes! This is not a maneuver; this is the real McCoy!"

The announcer called for all soldiers, sailors and Marines to report to



Ted Tsukiyama, who served in the HTG, VVV, 442nd RCT and the MIS, addresses the audience. (Photo by Wayne Iha)

their battle stations and for members of the University of Hawai'i ROTC to report immediately to the campus. Tsukiyama was a member of the ROTC.

Within the hour, he reported for duty at the ROTC armory on the Mānoa campus. Hundreds of other cadets were arriving, as well. According to Tsukiyama, approximately 60 to 70 percent of the cadets were students of Japanese ancestry.

The cadets were issued World War I Springfield rifles and a clip with five bullets and dispatched to the St. Louis Heights area, where they were told that Japanese paratroopers had landed. The ROTC

Continued on page 12

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VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE/

Continued from page 11



Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, referred to the Japanese value of *giri* (duty) in his speech. (Photo by Wayne Iha)

was to meet the enemy at the base of St. Louis Heights and halt their advance into the city. With rifles in hand, the ROTC regiment established a defense line and, with hearts pounding, waited for the enemy to appear.

After several hours, the cadets were recalled. Reports of Japanese paratroopers landing on St. Louis Heights turned out to be unfounded. However, it was an example of the kinds of rumors that were circulating "like wildfire" throughout the city, Tsukiyama said.

The ROTC members did not confront the enemy that day, but their efforts were not forgotten. "Thirty-six years later," Tsukiyama mused, "on December 7, 1977, at the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony

at Fort DeRussy, the University of Hawai'i ROTC was awarded a battle streamer for being the only ROTC unit in the entire United States to go into active service during World War II and for its valiant engagement in the battle for St. Louis Heights." This light-hearted revelation brought both chuckles and applause from the audience.

The UH ROTC was commissioned into the Hawai'i Territorial Guard and assigned to guard 'Iolani Palace, the courthouse, Honolulu Harbor, Dole and Del Monte canneries, and other important buildings and areas in the city." They took their duties seriously.

By then, six weeks had passed since the bombing of Pearl Harbor and so had the threat of a land invasion by the enemy. The HTG was taken off guard duty and ordered to camp out at the Koko Head Rifle Range.

"In the 3 a.m. darkness in the early morning of January 1942, a day that I can never forget, we were roused from our pup tents, assembled and ready to hear an important message," Tsukiyama said. The War Department in Washington, D.C., had received "a frantic message from Hawai'i which said that Honolulu was being guarded by hundreds of Japs in American uniforms. That was our ROTC unit, of course."

Tsukiyama continued: "We were tearfully and sadly notified by our captain (Nolle Smith) that he was ordered to relieve and discharge all cadets of Japanese ancestry. If a bomb had been dropped in our midst, it couldn't have been more devastating."

Seventy years later, it still pains Tsukiyama to describe the "terrible feeling of rejection, repudiation and abandonment I experienced from being dismissed from the service of my own country only because my name, face and profile resembled that of the Asian enemy."

Hurt, angry and resentful, they gathered at the UH campus, where they were approached by Hung Wai Ching, secretary of the YMCA and a wartime community leader. Ching also served with the Morale Section, which acted as a bridge between Hawai'i's military government and the community.

Seeing their disappointment, Ching tried to persuade the discharged AJAs to help their country in ways other than military service. His suggestion was initially met with resistance, and even anger by some of the students.

In time, however, Ching convinced them to take positive action. Tsukiyama, who was at the meeting, recalled Ching's argument: "Sure, he said, the country may not trust you with a gun, but they may trust you with picks and shovels."

The rejected HTG members decided to petition the military government, offering to serve their country in any way the government saw fit. Permission to form an all-volunteer labor battalion was granted by Delos Emmons, the military governor. Thus was born the Corps of Engineers Auxiliary, more commonly known as the Varsity Victory Volunteers, or the VVV.

For 11 months, the VVV performed the same construction and engineering work as regular Army engineers necessary for the defense of O'ahu, Tsukiyama said.

In December of 1942, John J. McCloy, assistant secretary of the U.S. War Department, visited Hawai'i to inspect defense operations. Hung Wai Ching was selected to escort McCloy around O'ahu — and he made sure that McCloy saw the VVV members cracking and crushing rocks and making gravel for road construction. He told the secretary that the men were Japanese American students who had given up their studies to do the back-breaking volunteer work because their country would not accept them for military service.

At the end of January 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced that the War Department would create a segregated all-Nisei combat unit — the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Whether McCloy's time in Hawai'i with Ching had anything to do with the decision is not documented.

Members of the VVV voted to disband so that they, too, could volunteer for the new combat unit. Within days, 10,000 Hawai'i Nisei had stepped forward to serve their country. Out of 169 VVV members, 111 were accepted for service in the 442nd — Tsukiyama among them.

Approximately 2,500 men from Hawai'i were eventually selected for the new combat unit and were later joined by Mainland Japanese Americans. It was but one example of Japanese Americans' loyalty to their country and played an important role in stemming the rising war hysteria and prejudice toward Japanese Americans in Hawai'i. The story also calls to mind the significant role that Hung Wai Ching played as a tireless advocate for Nisei soldiers. He was not only "the father" of the VVV, but he also dedicated himself to ensuring that World War II Nisei soldiers were treated fairly in Hawai'i and on the mainland and that they were given every opportunity to prove themselves as loyal Americans.

Tsukiyama understood a basic truth 70 years ago, and he repeated it on the deck of the Battleship Missouri on Veterans Day: "To be an American is not a matter of race, color or ancestry. Americanism is, was and always will be a matter of the mind, the heart and the spirit."

ARAKAWA: "A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE UNIT"

The next speaker to take the podium was young enough to be Tsukiyama's grandson. Sgt. Christopher Arakawa, a noncommissioned officer in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment, entered military service in August 2006. One of the first things he remembered doing after returning from basic training was learning the 442nd's "Go For Broke!" song and studying his battalion's history.

"So I learned the song and also read the history of the battalion, and I thought to myself, 'Wow, that is a pretty impressive unit!'"

Arakawa completed two overseas deployments — one in the Philippines and the other in Iraq. When he returned to Hawai'i, he began volunteering with the 100th Battalion and 442nd veterans clubs.

"During this time, I was afforded the opportunity, the privilege and the honor to meet, speak with and befriend many of the veterans sitting before me today. I learned the trials and tribulations (that) they had to endure."

From the veterans, Arakawa learned about their battles in austere environments during World War II; how, at times, they were surrounded by the enemy with no artillery support or contact with commanders; and, most tragic of all, seeing their comrades fall in battle. Even in the face of severe physical, psychological and social hardship, "the men never gave up," he said. "They persevered."

Arakawa conceded that at times in the past, he could not consistently articulate his reason for joining the Army. Today, he can: "I joined for my



Japanese Americans who served in the MIS in China. Circa 1945

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Jiro Yukimura of Kaua'i is presented with "Old Glory" at the Veterans Day tribute aboard the Battleship Missouri. (Photo by Wayne Iha)

brothers sitting here with me today, and to honor these men, these heroes, before me today, to keep their legacy moving forward."

He vowed to educate younger soldiers about the World War II Nisei soldiers and to encourage them to spend time getting to know the veterans, talking with them and listening to their stories.

"I strive to live up to the standards that these brave men have left for me. Quitting is never an option," Arakawa said. "And when times get hard, I remember the circumstances that these men had to endure and it motivates me to fight back harder. I believe this is the way their legacy will live on through me and the other soldiers."

Arakawa said he is determined that today's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, set an example for the generation that will follow them and they, in turn, set an example for the succeeding generation.

"We're all very proud to wear this patch on our shoulders and honored to be a part of the greatest unit in military history."

HARRIS: "ON THE SHOULDER OF GIANTS"

The final speaker was Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., who assumed command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet on Oct. 16 following his elevation from vice admiral to admiral.

As a vice admiral, Harris often accompanied then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on diplomatic missions as her military liaison. He served in every geographic combat command and in critical operations such as Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

In joining the U.S. Navy, Harris followed

in the footsteps of his Caucasian father from Tennessee. He said his father was stationed at Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and narrowly escaped the attack by Japanese imperial forces when the ship he was assigned to, the *USS Lexington*, sailed west two days before the bombing.

During the war, the senior Harris served in Japan, where he met and married a Japanese woman from a somewhat wealthy Kōbe family. Her family lost their home — and she lost her school and even some friends — during air raids over Japan.

The future commander of the Pacific Fleet was born in Japan, where he lived until the age of 2. In 1958, his father brought his family back to Tennessee, where young Harry Harris grew up on a small rural farm. From his mother, Harris said he learned about *giri* — the Japanese value meaning "duty" — "which is an important part of my heritage and of who I am," said the admiral.

He said that as a child growing up in the American South, he was inspired by the story of the 442nd and the 100th. "Your trials and tribulations, your victories and your success, made me proud. You were, and you are, an inspiration to so many," Harris said.

Adm. Harris reminded the audience that our country hasn't always been fair to immigrants and minorities, even when they were its own citizens. He noted that Japanese Americans were uprooted from their homes and forced to sell their businesses at a loss or had them taken away. They were mistrusted by their fellow citizens and their own government and labeled 4-C, enemy alien. They were rejected for military service by their own country.

"But, instead of bitterness and hatred, these patriots chose to make theirs a legacy of service, honor and courage," the admiral said.

Harris thanked all veterans for answering the call to duty and he thanked their families

for sharing in the hardships and sacrifice. He applauded young people who choose military careers "to live lives that matter on a fundamental level." He also thanked the women who served in the Women's Army Corps.

And while Veterans Day honors all veterans, he reminded the audience that this Sunset Ceremony was meant to pay special tribute to the World War II Nisei veterans. Said Adm. Harris: "I truly stand on the shoulders of giants."



Jiro Yukimura with Sgt. Christopher Arakawa of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regiment. (Photo by Kevin Kawamoto)

"OLD GLORY"

Anyone who has served in the U.S. military or is a serious observer of military protocol understands the importance of the American flag — known also to service members as "Old Glory." The flag and what it represents to Americans are accorded deep respect and reverence, which is evident in the way it is handled, regarded and protected.

The "Old Glory" flag presentation was made to MIS veteran Jiro Yukimura, who flew in from Kaua'i for the Veterans Day ceremony. Gen. Douglas MacArthur relied on Yukimura's Japanese language skills in Australia and the Philippines. Yukimura, who shares his story in this issue, was also one of only three Japanese Americans who were aboard the *USS Missouri* on Sept. 2, 1945, to witness the formal surrender of imperial Japan.

In his comments earlier, Adm. Harris noted that the nearby Arizona Memorial, built atop the sunken battleship, signified the beginning of World War II and that the *USS Missouri* represented the war's end.

FUJITANI: "GO THEN IN PEACE"

The Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani, former bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, and himself a World War II MIS veteran who served at Camp Ritchie, Md., and in Tōkyō, Japan, offered the benediction as the ceremony came to a close. He left the audience with a few simple, yet profound words: "For all the wonderful blessings we constantly receive, let us go then in peace, with gratitude in our hearts." ■

Kevin Kawamoto is a longtime contributor to *The Hawai'i Herald*.

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MIS

WITNESS TO HISTORY

Jiro Yukimura Served America From Pearl Harbor to the Surrender Aboard the *USS Missouri*

Jiro Yukimura

Special to The Hawai'i Herald

Editor's note: Thank goodness that Kaua'i resident Jiro Yukimura kept his notes from the war years. Those notes included his memories of being aboard the USS Missouri and witnessing Japan's official surrender, bringing World War II to a close. From those notes — now over 70 years old — Yukimura compiled this story for the Herald's special tribute to the Military Intelligence Service.

Interestingly, Yukimura does not consider the few hours he spent aboard the Missouri on that overcast September morning in 1945 as the only highlight of his years as a Military Intelligence Service soldier.

"Going to Japan alone was a big event," he said by phone from Kaua'i. "The surrender itself did not stand out as a big event."

Although Yukimura worked with reporters covering the war, they never really knew all that his job entailed. They likely thought he was strictly a public affairs officer. Yukimura knew better.

"Those of us in the MIS were secret Our job was secret . . . whatever we did was secret, so nobody could write about us They shouldn't know what we are doing."

I am often asked how I happened to be on the *USS Missouri* on Sept. 2, 1945, to witness the ceremony in which Japan officially surrendered to the United States and its Allies in World War II.

It all began with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. I was a senior at the University of Hawai'i. I was from Kaua'i, so I was boarding at the Okamura Dormitory at that time. Responding to the urgent call over the radio for volunteers, I signed up for the Hawai'i Territorial Guard and was initially assigned to a group at the Ala Wai Boat Harbor to watch for a possible Japanese attack by sea. When this did not happen, we were sent to protect various installations, such as the Board of Water Supply pumping station in Kapahulu, the water tank at Wilhelmina Rise and the electric transfer plant at Kuli'ou'ou. After a month and a half of this, we were all recalled to our company and told that we were no longer needed. This applied only to those of us of Japanese descent.

What a blow this was! We all cried, including our non-Japanese friends. I decided to return to Kaua'i. However, I had to go to the airport for three days before there was room for me on the plane. The non-Japanese had priority.

Back on Kaua'i, I tried to do my part in the war effort. I joined the Kiawe Corps on Sundays and helped clear the shoreline of brush and *kiawe* trees, ostensibly to provide a clear line of fire for the U.S. Army in the event the Japanese attempted to invade by sea.

When the opportunity came to join the 442nd Infantry Regiment in March of 1943, I decided to volunteer and was stationed at Camp Shelby, Miss., where we did our basic training.

In September of 1943, I was one of 250 from the 442nd Regiment who were selected to attend the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage, Minn., to learn the Japanese language. After graduating in March 1944, I was sent to the Allied Translator Interpreter Service in a place called Indooroopilly in Brisbane, Australia, where we translated various documents that had come in from the front lines. Our camp was located in a sparsely populated area in the countryside. In our free time, my friend and I rented horses and often visited a picnic park called Lone Pine, about 3 miles from camp, to see koala bears, dingoes (wild dogs), cockatoos and wallabies.

In November of 1944, I was one of 20 sent to what was then known as Hollandia, in New Guinea. In May of 1945, I was sent to our camp at Santa Ana Racing Track in Manila, the Philippines, where I was commissioned a second lieutenant while preparing for the invasion of Japan.

However, with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the war came to an end.

I was then assigned to the Public Relations Office at General Headquarters, which took care of the many correspondents covering the war. On Aug. 28, I joined the correspondents, including Rick Labez from the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, and left Manila at 9:30 a.m. on a C-54 plane. We landed at Kadena Airfield in Okinawa, got a jeep and explored the island. We stopped at the Ishikawa Civilian Camp, where about 27,000 people were housed. [Editor's note: Although Yukimura's notes did not indicate so, he said it might have been a refugee camp for civilians who had lost their homes in the fighting.] I met Terry Muraoka (a *Kōloa*, Kaua'i, boy) there.

On Aug. 30, we left Okinawa for Atsugi Airfield near Tōkyō, our last leg to mainland Japan. In the early morning, we could see the beautiful pattern of farmlands out of the window of the plane. There were no signs of bombed-out areas. At about 7 a.m., we landed at Atsugi. The weather was cool and temperate. It was a remarkable feeling to know that I was one of the early ones to arrive on Japanese soil. One after the other, planes kept landing and taking off.

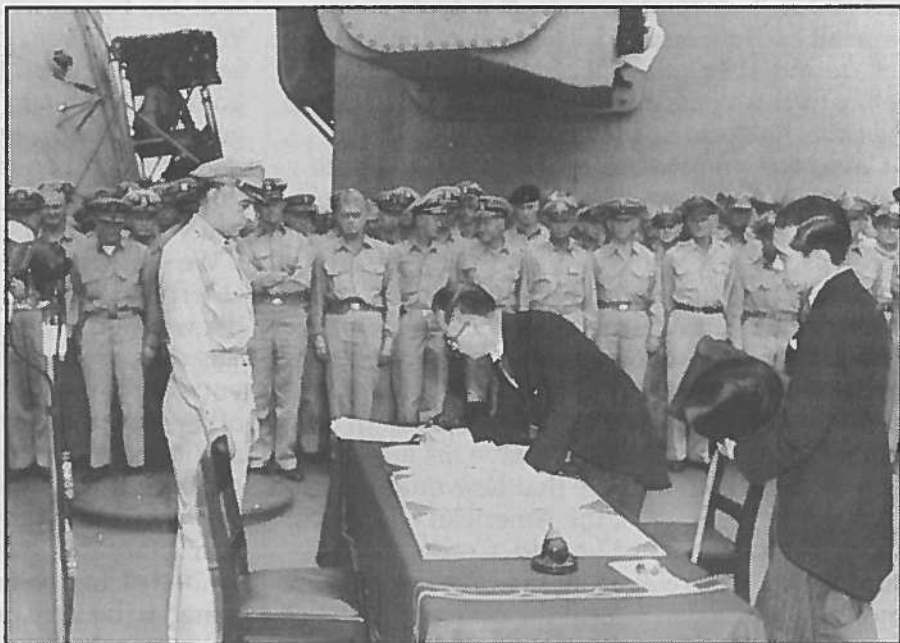
At 10 a.m., I boarded a truck loaded with correspondents and headed for Yokohama. We had lunch at the American Embassy and then returned to Atsugi to witness the arrival of Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

That in itself was like an event. I felt like all the rest of the correspondents, I guess. He's a big man, and I guess they were looking forward to finding out more about him and writing about him.

We stayed at the Bund Hotel in Yokohama. My only complaint about this hotel was the hard straw bed. It rained the night before and the morning was chilly. Some correspondents were scheduled to meet with Gen. Jonathan Wainwright at the Grand Hotel, where Gen. MacArthur stayed.

On Sept. 2, the day the Instrument of Surrender was to be signed, I nearly missed the bus for the big event. We boarded the *USS Taylor*, a Fletcher-class destroyer, which took us from Yokohama Harbor to the middle of Tokyo Bay. We were served snails (pastries) and coffee. At about 7:30 a.m., we were transported to the 887-foot-long *USS Missouri*, which was anchored in the middle of Tōkyō Bay. We went up to the navigator's deck, from which we would watch the surrender ceremony. Two other MIS Nisei were on the *Missouri* that morning, both of them from the Mainland — Tom Sakamoto and Noby Yoshimura.

The sailors stood sharply on the quarterdeck and rendered crisp salutes to the arriving signatories representing the Allied nations: the United States, China, the United Kingdom, Soviet Union, Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands and New Zealand. They stood on the promenade with



Japan's Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signs the Instrument of Surrender on behalf of his country on board the *USS Missouri* on Sept. 2, 1945. (U.S. Army photo)

MacArthur's generals. At about 8:40 a.m., Gen. MacArthur arrived with his staff. Then, at 9 a.m., the Japanese delegation arrived, including Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu, accompanied by two others in black frocks and top hats, and others in army uniforms. Shigemitsu had a wooden leg and used a cane.

MacArthur read his short message and then called upon Gen. Wainwright and British Lt. Gen. Arthur Percival to sign the surrender document.

It was kind of pitiful to watch them (the Japanese delegation) standing there. I don't know how they felt. They were the defeated ones that were out there just by themselves, all surrounded by the Americans.

On Sept. 5, at 3 p.m., the woman who was accused of being "Tōkyō Rose" — Iva Toguri D'Aquino — was brought to the hotel for an interview. I sat in on this session with my MIS partner, Noby Yoshimura, who had been on the *Missouri* at the time of the surrender signing. We had a chance to ask her a few questions. When asked whether she considered herself an American, or Japanese, or Portuguese (since she was married to a Portuguese man), Toguri D'Aquino replied, "American." Asked whether she did a disservice to her country by being "the voice," she denied doing radio propaganda work. However, when portions of an announcement by "Tōkyō Rose" were brought to her attention, for example: "This is your playmate Orphan Annie speaking to you forgotten soldiers . . ." and so forth, she admitted being "Annie," but vehemently denied those words.

"How do you feel about Nisei fighting for America?" Noby asked her. She replied, "They are doing all right, I guess." "Don't you think you are no good to them?" Her answer: "That's up to you." I asked, "You consider yourself more as Japanese than American, don't you?" She answered, "I don't care what you think. That's up to you." She was then called away by the 8th Army photographers.

While we were still at the Bund Hotel in Yokohama, some correspondents confronted Gen. Joseph Dillon about their having to turn in their sidearms before entering the Japanese Diet Building. We all carried pistols in the early period of the Occupation. Gen. Dillon ruled that we had to submit to the regulations of the Diet.

When we moved to Tōkyō, I shared an office in the Radio Tokyo Building with two administrative officers, Capts. Roberts and Fenwick. I had my own desk, but no particular job to do. In other words, I was free to do whatever I wanted. However, I had lots of learning to do. For ex-

VOITATUOO

ample, when I answered the telephone, I would say, "Moshi moshi," and the caller, too, would say, "Moshi moshi," which went on for a while with both sides saying, "Moshi moshi." It was a hilarious situation. The correct response, I later learned, was to answer, "Hai hai," as only the caller says, "Moshi moshi."

Once in a while, I would be called upon to help the correspondents make a radio connection with their stations back in the states and had to deal with Japanese technicians. I found that I didn't have to learn all the technical terms they used, such as "call signs," "oscillator," "antenna," "interference," etc. — I just got the American and Japanese technicians together, as they were familiar with their common radio jargon.

From Oct. 11 through 15, I made an official trip to Hakata, Kyūshū, with a Public Relations Office team consisting of Capt. H.C. Herman, Morris Landsberg of the Associated Press, Cpl. Clyde Hodge of Photo Pool, T/4 James Wolfe and T/4 Dan Witte of Signal Corps and T/5 E.J. Kelbar of Movie. We were accompanied by Col. Hiroishi of the Japanese army, who gave me his pistol, saying he would no longer be able to have a gun. I brought the gun home as a souvenir. The crew on the plane included Capt. Lofthouse, 1st Lt. B.A. Mitchell and three other crewmembers. This trip to Hakata was to get a story about Japanese soldiers returning from Korea.

Another memorable incident from my work with Radio Tōkyō occurred when Lowell Limpus of the *New York Daily* sought my help in finding a little Japanese girl, who has apparently gotten lost, and returning her to her parents. We got into the jeep and started our search. With the information we had been provided, we traveled to the outskirts of Tōkyō, stopping frequently to ask for help until

we finally found her. It was after midnight by the time we finally got her home. Her grateful parents invited us in for hot tea. We were happy that we were able to find her and return her to her worried parents and get back to our normal routine.

About a month later, I received a letter from my friend, Ichiro Okada, who, having been wounded in Italy, was recovering in a hospital in London. He mentioned that he had read a story about me in the *New York Daily*. Lowell Limpus had written a human interest story about that incident in Tōkyō.

I was fortunate to have had interesting experiences while stationed in Japan. Capt. Lofthouse, whom I had gotten to know on our trip to Hakata, called me to join him on his flights. We flew around Mt. Fuji, Hiroshima, Kure-shi and, at my request, flew over Yanai City in Yamaguchi-ken, my parents' home city.

Later, my friend George Fujikawa and I took the train and visited Ōsaka, Kōbe, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, my relatives in Yamaguchi-ken and even traveled down to the southern city of Kagoshima before heading back to Tōkyō.

When George and I went to Yanai City, we went to the police station to ask for directions to Shinjōmura, the suburb where my parents had lived before immigrating to Hawai'i. A policeman got us into a police car and drove us to our destination.

After about five months in Japan, my three years of service in the U.S. Army was coming to an end. On Feb. 6, 1946, with a sword and a pistol as souvenirs, I joined a few soldiers from Hawai'i at Yokohama and boarded the *USS Coontz*. We sailed first to Okinawa to pick up about 1,600 Puerto Ricans. It was here that Capt. Howard Cox and



Jiro Yukimura with Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. aboard the Battleship Missouri on Veterans Day. (Photo by Karleen Chinen)

Masaji Marumoto joined us. On Feb. 8, we headed for Honolulu, arriving at Pearl Harbor on Feb. 17. I was discharged in March 1946, after a full three years of military service.

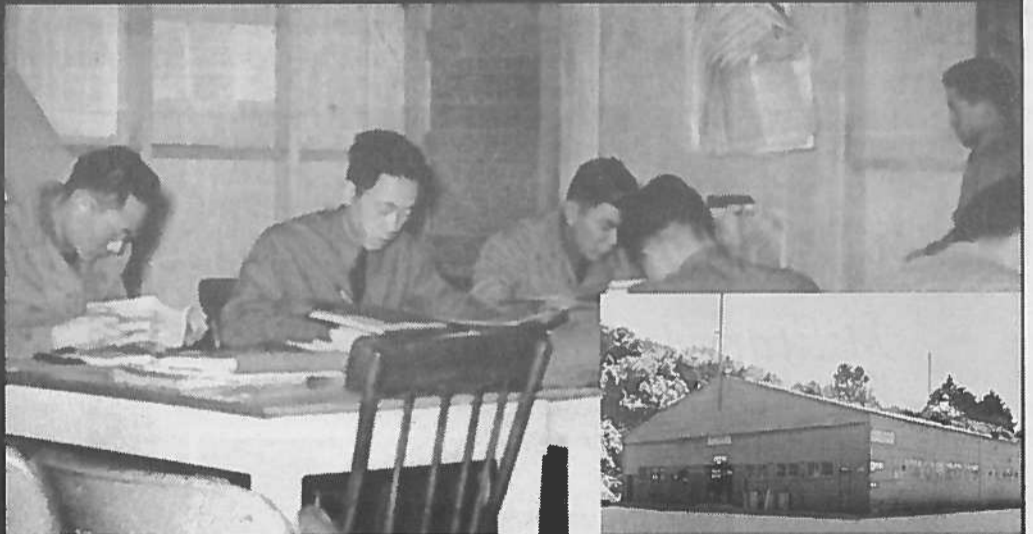
I often wonder what might have happened to me if I had remained with the 442nd Regiment and had not been picked to join the MIS. I am thankful that I managed to survive and am able to enjoy life thus far. My family and friends got together recently, on Nov. 17, to celebrate my 93rd birthday. How fortunate can a person be? **HH**

Jiro Yukimura lives in Līhu'e, Kaua'i, with his wife Jennie. The Yukimuras raised five children, among them current Kaua'i County Councilwoman and former mayor JoAnn Yukimura.

SALUTING THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE



Where
it all
began...



Support the inaugural opening of the **Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center at Building 640** in our nation's National Park -- the Presidio of San Francisco and honor the 6,000 MIS soldier linguists who served during World War II and the Allied Occupation of Japan.



John Sutton Photography

Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center at Building 640 in the Presidio of San Francisco is now open on weekends, 12 noon to 5 pm. Admission \$10. Veterans free.

The story...

On the eve of war with Japan in November 1941, the US Army recruited 58 Japanese American (Nisei) and 2 Caucasian soldiers for the coming war. Trained in the utmost secrecy as military linguists, these enlisted men comprised of the first class at Building 640 at Crissy Field in the Presidio of San Francisco. From its humble beginnings, the MIS grew to over 6,000 graduates, and evolved into the renowned Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey.

Serving in every major battle and campaign in the Pacific Theatre of War, while their families languished behind barbed wire in America's concentration camps, the Nisei MIS were credited for shortening the war by two years. During the Occupation of Japan, the MIS worked to establish a lasting peace. For their role, the MIS have been honored with a Presidential Unit Citation and most recently with a Congressional Gold Medal along with veterans of the 100th Battalion / 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The place...

Set in the breathtaking Presidio of San Francisco (a designated National Historic Landmark District of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service), Building 640 still stands as a place of historic significance. Spearheaded by the

National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. (NJAHS) together with the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust, and bolstered by grass roots support from the JACL and veterans groups, this effort continues to preserve the site and develop it as an adaptive reuse project -- an interactive MIS Historic Learning Center devoted to the MIS Legacy of peace and reconciliation. To date, it has already received nearly \$5 million in federal and private support. **Today, NJAHS seeks matching private dollars to ensure its long-term viability.**

What you can do...

Honor our heritage and make a contribution to the MIS Historic Learning Center! Gifts of \$2500 and up will be recognized on the Inaugural Donor Wall through 2014.

Join our campaign to realize this dream!

To learn more, call **415-921-5007** visit www.njahs.org/mis or email njahs@njahs.org

NJAHS

