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# HIMPO 新報

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## Inouye Relates Strained Circumstances Under Which Nisei "Served" at 442nd Anniversary

HONOLULU.—Sen. Daniel K. Inouye told other Japanese American veterans of the famed 100th/442nd fighting units of World War II, that honor led the Nikkei to volunteer for service 40 years ago.

"All of us may give different explanations, use different words—some eloquent, some less so—but I believe it all boils down to a matter of honor," Inouye said in remarks prepared for delivery at the March 27 anniversary luau.

During the early stages of the war, Nisei were not allowed to serve in the armed forces. The restriction was lifted in 1943 at the personal order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"We volunteered," Inouye said, "with the expectation that we would be in combat to fight for a nation that had sent some of us or our families and loved ones into desolate barbed wire camps, euphemistically called 'internment centers.' We volunteered to uphold the flag of a nation that had declared us '4-C,' undesirable for military service, in the same category as enemy aliens. We volunteered to risk life and limb for a nation whose majority considered us 'Japs' and synonymous with the enemy."

Inouye, who lost his right arm during the last days of the war, said he and other volunteers were still considered "less than desirable" even after they were segregated into the 442nd.

The Democratic senator recalled how the Nisei were ill-treated as they were shipped to the European front in the converted troop ship U.S.S. Lurline.



Sen. Daniel K. Inouye

"We were guarded along the route by military police," Inouye said. "Instead of looking like proud and gallant warriors marching to battle, we must have appeared like prisoners of war being transported to some prison camp."

"Whenever we tried to wave to friends, the MPs would admonish us and make us stop. And if some agonized father or mother tried to rush out from the crowd to touch or shake a hand, or embrace in one last hug, they would be pushed away, or, as in one case that I witnessed, even beaten away. This was the farewell parade of the 442nd."

The homecoming parade was more auspicious. It was staged down Constitution Avenue, and ended at the South Lawn of the White House, where President Harry S. Truman presented

the unit with a presidential commendation award.

During the intervening years, the unit had become known as the "Go For Broke" 442nd.

The unit's greatest fame rests with the 1944 Battle of the Lost Battalion, involving a battalion of servicemen from Texas that was caught behind enemy lines in France.

For a week, other Texas units fought in vain to free the battalion, and in the end the Japanese Americans were thrown into the battle.

Two-hundred members of the 442nd were killed and 600 were wounded, but 211 of the 275 trapped Texans got out alive.

Although the 442nd was given its chance to win glory, Inouye said, "I am absolutely certain that all of us were well aware that we were being used in the rescue because we were expendable. . . it would have been inconceivable for the 442nd to call upon another regiment to rescue one of our own battalions."

"Notwithstanding the circumstances, the odds and the heavy casualties, we did succeed and we did win the battle. Yes, it was matter of honor."

## Obituaries

### KOU TAKUSAGAWA

GARDENA.—Private funeral services for Kou Takusagawa, 83-year old Yamanashi-ken-born Issei who passed away March 21 at South Bay Keiro Nursing Home, were held March 24 at Rosedale Mortuary with a minister from Zenshuji Buddhist Temple officiating.

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