

Personal Narratives of the Forced Removal and Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II

AFC 2001/001/112872

Guides to the Collections in the Veterans History Project



**Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
January 2019**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018655346>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadvhp.vh018011>

Prepared by Veterans History Project staff

Finding aid encoded by Rachel Telford, January 2019

Collection Summary

Title: Personal Narratives of the Forced Removal and Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II: Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Inclusive Dates: 1924-2018

Bulk Dates: 1924-2004

Call No.: AFC 2001/001/112872

Extent (video recordings): 61 video recordings.

Extent (photographs): 55 photographs.

Extent (sound recordings): 16 sound recordings.

Extent (manuscripts): 50 manuscripts.

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018655346>

Summary: Selected personal narratives relating to the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Collected by the Veterans History Project, 2002-2018. Collection includes personal narratives in the form of audio and video oral histories, biographical information, clippings, civilian papers, creative works, maps, memoirs, military papers, printed matter and photographs.

Online Content: Digitized versions of some items in the collection are available through the [Veterans History Project online database](#), by searching using the narrator's name or collection ID.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Aki, George, 1914-2018.

Akune, Kenjiro, 1923-2022.

Becker, Edna M., 1923-2017.

Fujimori, George Y., 1921-2012.

Fujimoto, Isao, 1933-2022.

Fukuhara, Harry K., 1920-2015.

Fukuoka, Ronnie Masaji, 1933-2021.

Furakawa, Sam S., 1925-

Furlong, Lewis J., 1925-2022.

Gapp, Alice A., 1916-2016.

Hanamoto, Asa, 1923-2015.

Hayano, Carl, 1934-

Hayashi, Alan Yoshiaki, 1945-

Hibino, Yukio A., 1920-2011.

Hirose, Masana Jack, 1918-2012.

Honda, Mike, 1941-

Horikawa, Noboru Richard, 1926-2015.

Ichikawa, Grant Hayao, 1919-2017.

Ichiuji, Joseph, 1919-2010.

Ikeda, John Atsumi, 1926-2016.

Imamura, Minoru S., 1926-2021.

Imoto, Shigeru Sam, 1927-2020.

Inoshita, Masaji, 1919-2015.

Kageta, Frank, 1920-2016.

Kamada, Norman Noboru, 1926-2018.

Kariya, Kiyo Jean, 1925-2020.

Kato, Haruo, 1933-2019.

Katsu, John Junji, 1927-2020.
Kawakami, Joe, 1929-2009.
Kessel, Velma Berryman, 1918-2004.
Kihara, Hayato, 1922-2008.
Kobayashi, Charles.
Kobayashi, Sylvia, 1923-2015.
Kono, Robert H.
Konoshima, Akio, 1924-2020.
Kunimura, Casey, 1925-
Kuramoto, Rosie F., 1927-
Kuroda, Andrew Yoshinobu, 1906-
Kuroda, Julia, 1916-2014.
Lee, Katsuko Fujikado, 1923-2019.
Masaoka, Etsu Mineta, 1916-2011.
Masaoka, Mike, 1915-1991.
Matsui, Victor Masao, 1923-2012.
Miho, James Noboru, 1929-2022.
Mitsumori, John, 1923-2020.
Miya, Tom S., 1923-2019.
Miyakawa, Edward, 1934-2022.
Miyamoto, Yukio W., 1920-2010.
Mizuta, Takanori, 1924-
Morimitsu, Arthur Takashi, 1912-1998.
Morris, Edwin I., Jr., 1922-
Namba, Kennie, 1925-2012.
Ninomiya, Calvin, 1926-2014.
Nitta, Alfred T., 1923-2010.
Okamoto, George, 1923-2013.
Okamoto, Toshikazu, 1926-2018.
Omoto, William Hisao, 1925-2021.
Ota, Peter K., 1925-
Oune, William T., 1915-
Oyama, Hank, 1926-2013.
Oyama, Roy M., 1923-2015.
Ozaki, Sam S., 1924-2015.
Sato, Kiyoo, 1923-
Sato, Rikio, 1927-2022.
Satow, Susumu, 1923-2012.
Shintaku, Helen Terada, 1921-2007.
Sleath, Doris Holloway, 1916-2013.
Sleath, Jack Crisp, 1906-1983.
Sugiyama, Curt Shinichi, 1934-2018.
Tanabe, Harry, 1923-2009.
Tanaka, Carolyn Hisako, 1935-
Tanaka, Taketora, 1926-2015.
Taoka, George Mazumi, 1916-2013.
Tashiro, Jack Taoashi, 1924-2005.
Tashiro, Marie H., 1922-2019.
Teramura, Yasu, 1922-2021.
Tsujiimoto, Mack F., 1921-2017.
Tsukamoto, Dorie Satsuki, 1933-2022.
Tsukamoto, Walter Takeo, 1904-1961.
Tsuneishi, Warren M. (Warren Michio), 1921-2011.
Wakiji, George Minoru, 1929-2017.

Yamabe, Jack Shuzo, 1921-2009.
Yamamoto, Frank Takaji, 1923-2017.
Yamasaki, Anne S., 1919-2010.

Organizations

American Folklife Center
Central Utah Relocation Center--Personal narratives.
Crystal City Internment Camp (Crystal City, Tex.)--Personal narratives.
Fresno Assembly Center (Fresno, Calif.)
Gila River Relocation Center--Personal narratives.
Granada Relocation Center--Personal narratives.
Heart Mountain Relocation Center (Wyo.)--Personal narratives.
Jerome Relocation Center (Ark.)--Personal narratives.
Manzanar War Relocation Center--Personal narratives.
Minidoka Relocation Center--Personal narratives.
Poston Relocation Center (Ariz.)--Personal narratives.
Puyallup Assembly Center (Puyallup, Wash.)--Personal narratives.
Rohwer Relocation Center (Ark.)--Personal narratives.
Santa Anita Assembly Center (Calif.)
Stockton Assembly Center (Stockton, Calif.)
Tanforan Assembly Center (San Bruno, Calif.)--Personal narratives.
Tulare Assembly Center (Tulare, Calif.)--Personal narratives.
Tule Lake Relocation Center--Personal narratives.
United States. Army. Counter Intelligence Corps.
United States. Army. Regimental Combat Team, 442nd.
United States. War Relocation Authority.
Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Subjects

Detention of persons--United States.
Internment camps--United States.
Japanese American veterans--Interviews.
Japanese Americans--Forced removal and internment, 1942-1945.
Japanese.
World War, 1939-1945--Japanese Americans.
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, American.

Places

Arizona.
Arkansas.
California.
Colorado.
Idaho.
Texas.
Utah.
Washington (State)
Wyoming.

Titles

Personal Narratives of the Forced Removal and Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War 2
Personal Narratives of the Forced Removal and Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War Two

Form/Genre

Manuscripts.
Oral histories.
Photographs.

Sound recordings.
Video recordings.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged in two series: Formerly Incarcerated People and War Relocation Authority Civilian Employees & Military Support. Materials within each series are arranged alphabetically by narrator's last name.

Acquisition

Accessioned from multiple donors, 2002-2018.

Accruals

Open collection, additional material relating to Japanese American veterans or military personnel who served in detention centers may have been collected since 2018. No additional material relating to civilian internees or civilian War Relocation Authority employees is expected for this collection. For more information please contact the Veterans History Project at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Copyright Status

Duplication of collection materials may be restricted.

Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research; access restrictions apply. To request collection materials, please contact the Veterans History Project at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>.

Online Content

Digitized versions of some items in the collection are available through the [Veterans History Project online database](#), by searching using the narrator's name or collection ID.

Preferred Citation

Personal Narratives of Forced Removal and Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II Collection (AFC/2001/001/112872), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

Administrative History

First-hand accounts of Japanese American incarceration, collected by the Veterans History Project.

Scope and Content

Selected personal narratives from the collections of the Veterans History Project, relating to the forced removal incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Narrators include formerly incarcerated people, many of whom served in the United States military during World War II or subsequent conflicts. Also included are a small number of civilian employees of the War Relocation Authority and military personnel whose service included assignments at detention

centers. Collection includes personal narratives in the form of audio and video oral histories, biographical information, clippings, civilian papers, creative works, maps, memoirs, military papers, printed matter and photographs.

Processing Information

Content notes for individual collection items were provided by donors and may vary in length and detail. Some attempt has been made to standardize language in accordance with Library of Congress Subject Headings and terminology used in related Library of Congress resources. However, euphemistic terms such as "evacuation," "relocation," "internment," or "assembly center" may be used interchangeably with, or in place of, terms such as "incarceration," "exclusion," "removal," and "prison camp."

Description of Series

Container

Series

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

George Aki Collection

Collection ID: 11135

Aki was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), and Jerome Relocation Center, Arkansas. In 1944, he volunteered to serve as a chaplain in the United States Army and was assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He served in Alabama, Mississippi, and Italy.

Kenjiro Akune Collection

Collection ID: 44468

Akune was incarcerated at the Merced Assembly Center and later, Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"). In December 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army, and served with the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater. Following his discharge, he worked as a civilian linguist with the occupation forces and provided translation during war crimes trials.

George Y. Fujimori Collection

Collection ID: 44387

Fujimori was incarcerated at Manzanar Relocation Center, California. In 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army and after training at Fort Snelling, Minnesota and Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, served with the Military Intelligence Service in the Philippines and Japan. Following his service, he became a carpenter and master cabinet maker.

Isao Fujimoto Collection

Collection ID: 8357

Fujimoto was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a child. Following their release in 1945, Fujimoto's family settled in California. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, served in the United States Army in Korea, and eventually pursued a career in community development.

Harry K. Fukuhara Collection

Collection ID: 52989

Fukuhara was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, before enlisting in the United States Army. During World War II he served with the Military Intelligence Service in New Britain Island (Bismarck Archipelago), New Guinea, Dutch New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan. He retired in 1971 with the rank of Colonel.

Ronnie Masau Fukuoka Collection

Collection ID: 82573

Fukuoka was incarcerated at Sacramento Assembly Center (a.k.a. Walerga Assembly Center), California, and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a child. He went on to serve in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War.

Sam S. Furakawa Collection

Collection ID: 68800

Furakawa was incarcerated at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served with Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in France and Italy.

Asa Hanamoto Collection

Collection ID: 85552

Hanamoto was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army and completed training at the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He later served as a linguist with the 187th Infantry Regiment at Fort Blanding, Florida, and in Manila, Philippines, Tokyo, Japan, and Ota, Japan. He was discharged in 1946 with the rank of Technician Three and went on to a civilian career as a landscape architect.

Carl Hayano Collection

Collection ID: 92795

Hayano was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, from 1942 to 1944.

Alan Yoshiaki Hayashi Collection

Collection ID: 49510

Hayashi was born in Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, in 1945. Following their release in September 1945, his family settled in San Diego, California. Hayashi attended San Diego State University before being drafted into the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Yukio A. Hibino Collection

Collection ID: 44211

Hibino was incarcerated at Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"). In August 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion in the European Theater.

Masana Jack Hirose Collection

Collection ID: 27146

Hirose was incarcerated at Manzanar Relocation Center, California, until he was drafted into the United States Army in September 1945. He was discharged in 1946, and went on to a civilian career in advertising.

Michael Honda Collection

Collection ID: 30550

Honda was incarcerated at the Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), as a child. He went on to serve in the Peace Corps in El Salvador, followed by a career in education and politics, including serving in Congress from 2001 to 2017.

Noboru Richard Horikawa Collection

Collection ID: 69966

Horikawa was incarcerated at Salinas Assembly Center, California, and Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, until December 1943, when he was released to attend Westtown Friends School in Pennsylvania. After graduating, he was drafted into the United States Army and served with Allied Translator and Interpreter Service, General Headquarters, Army Forces Pacific.

Noboru Richard Horikawa Collection

Collection ID: 71781

Horikawa was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, until December 1943, when he was released to attend Westtown Friends School in Pennsylvania. After graduating, he was drafted into the Army and served with Allied Translator and Interpreter Service, General Headquarters, Army Forces Pacific.

Grant Hayao Ichikawa Collection

Collection ID: 10685

Ichikawa was incarcerated at Turlock Assembly Center (Stanislaus County Fairgrounds), California, and Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona. In November 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army and served as a linguist with the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). He served at Camp Savage, Minnesota; Camp Shelby, Mississippi; Brisbane, Australia; Manila, Philippines; Tokyo, Japan; and Hokkaido, Japan. He was discharged in 1947, but was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and served with the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) in Japan for two years. Following his discharge, he began a career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Joseph Ichiuji Collection

Collection ID: 13535

Ichiuji was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona. In September 1941, he was drafted into the United States Army, and completed Field Artillery Basic Training at Camp Roberts, California. However, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was discharged due to his Japanese ancestry. While incarcerated, he volunteered to reenlist, and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy, France, and Germany.

John Atsumi Ikeda Collection

Collection ID: 83268

Ikeda was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Race Track), California, and Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), before relocating to Chicago, Illinois, in 1944. In 1945 he was drafted into the United States Army and served with the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), 6th Army, at Fort McClellan, Alabama; Fort Holabird, Maryland; Presidio, San Francisco, California; and Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

Minoru Imamura Collection

Collection ID: 46548

Imamura was incarcerated at Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), before being drafted into the United States Army in 1944. He trained as an infantryman and served in the European Theater.

Shigeru Sam Imoto Collection

Collection ID: 65048

Imoto was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a teenager. In 1946 he was drafted into the United States Army and served with Headquarters Company, European Command, in Heidelberg, Germany.

Masaji Inoshita Collection

Collection ID: 47655

Inoshita was incarcerated at Tulare Assembly Center, California, and Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona. In 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army and served as a translator

and interpreter with the Military Intelligence Services (MIS) in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater.

Frank Kageta Collection

Collection ID: 68430

Kageta was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California. In 1944, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France and Italy.

Norman Noboru Kamada collection

Collection ID: 83256

Kamada was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona. In 1944 he was drafted into the United States Army and served with the 2nd Squad, 2nd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, 5th Army Division, in France and Italy.

Kiyo Jean Kariya Collection

Collection ID: 27142

Kiyo Jean Kariya, née Ito, was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), and at Crystal City Internment Camp, Texas, as a teenager. Following World War II, her parents elected to move the family to Japan, and she worked as a civilian employee of the 720th Military Police Battalion, United States Army, in Sendai, Japan. She later worked for IBM, and returned to the United States.

Haruo Kato Collection

Collection ID: 113634

Kato was incarcerated at Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), as a child. Following their release, his family returned to Hayward, California. Kato eventually attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he pursued a degree in social welfare, and trained with the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps. After failing his flight physical due to allergies, he was drafted into the United States Navy in 1955, and served for 22 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander.

John Junji Katsu Collection

Collection ID: 89308

Katsu was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), before being released to attend high school in Kansas City. In 1945, he was drafted into the United States Army and served at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and with the United States Zone Constabulary and Military Government Office in Germany.

Joe Kawakami Collection

Collection ID: 30789

Kawakami was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), as a child. He went on to serve in the United States Navy during the Korean War, followed by a civilian career as an engineer.

Hayato Kihara collection

Collection ID: 25555

Kihara was a student at the University of California, Berkeley, before being incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"). In 1944, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with the Military Intelligence Service in Japan, Korea and the United States until his discharge in 1947. Following his service he continued his education at the University of Texas and the University of Wisconsin, and went on to a career as a research biochemist at the Lanterman Biochemistry Laboratory in Pomona, California.

Sylvia Kobayashi Collection

Collection ID: 10675

Kobayashi was incarcerated at Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. She was active in pursuing the rights of Japanese Americans during that war, and has published several works on the contribution of Japanese Americans and native Alaskans to the war effort.

Robert Hiroshi Kono Collection

Collection ID: 8063

Kono was incarcerated at Tulare Assembly Center, California; Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona; Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming; and Crystal City Internment Camp, Texas, as a child.

Akio Konoshima Collection

Collection ID: 27140

Konoshima was born in Tokyo and grew up in California. He was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, until 1943, when he was released to attend North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. He went on to study journalism at the University of Wisconsin, and worked as a journalist. In 1948, he joined the United States Army and served at G-2 Headquarters, Tokyo, and with the 8th Army Team in Seoul, Korea. Following his discharge in 1948, he attended Columbia University. During his civilian career he worked for Jiji Press in Japan, United Press International in Tokyo and London, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and served as press secretary for Hiram Fong.

Casey Kunimura collection

Collection ID: 101341

Kunimura was incarcerated at Salinas Assembly Center, California, and at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a teenager. In 1943, he was released to take a job in Chicago, Illinois. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1944, and served as a machine gunner with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France and Italy. He went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam, and worked as a civilian Air Force employee.

Rosie F. Kuramoto Collection

Collection ID: 15371

Kuramoto was incarcerated at Sacramento Assembly Center (a.k.a. Walerga Assembly Center), California; Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, as a teenager.

Andrew Yoshinobu Kuroda Collection

Collection ID: 27126

Kuroda and his wife Julia were incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, before being released to move to Colorado. He went on the serve with the Office of

Strategic Services (OSS) in Calcutta, India. Julia Kuroda was interviewed on behalf of Andrew Kuroda.

Katsuko Fujikado Lee Collection

Collection ID: 28183

Lee was incarcerated at Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho, until she moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, to live with a sponsor family and attend college. Prior to her incarceration, she was a student at the University of Washington. In the post-war period, she worked in a United States civil service position as a secretary in Japan.

Mike Masaru Masaoka Collection

Collection ID: 7426

Masaoka was active in the leadership of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) before and during World War II. In 1943 he entered the United States Army and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy. Following his discharge, he returned to work for the JACL and became a lobbyist and consultant. Masaoka's widow, Etsu Mineta Masaoka, was interviewed on his behalf. Mrs. Masaoka was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming. She is the sister of American politician Norman Mineta.

Victor Masao Matsui collection

Collection ID: 71663

Matsui was a student at the University of California, Los Angeles, before being incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas. In 1945, he was drafted into the United States Army and served with the Counter Intelligence Corps in Japan. After an honorable discharge in July 1952, he joined the American diplomatic service, serving in Cambodia, Egypt, Pakistan, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, and Zaire until his retirement in 1985.

James Noboru Miho collection

Collection ID: 66630

Miho was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a teenager. In 1950, he was drafted into the United States Army and served with C Company, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in Korea. Following his discharge in 1952, he attended Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, and went on to a career in advertising and graphic arts.

John Mitsumori Collection

Collection ID: 7195

Mitsumori was incarcerated at Tulare Assembly Center, California, and Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona. He was released to attend the University of Nebraska, before joining the United States Army. He served in Texas, Florida, and Alaska.

Tom S. Miya collection

Collection ID: 51626

Miya was a student at the University of California, Berkeley, at the outbreak of World War II. He was incarcerated at Fresno Assembly Center (Fresno Fairgrounds), California, before being released to attend the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. In 1945, he was drafted into the United States Army and after basic training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, he served with the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) at Camp Ritchie, Maryland and Fort Meade, Maryland. Following his discharge, he continued his education, and went onto a career in pharmacology and toxicology.

Edward Miyakawa Collection

Collection ID: 5771

Miyakawa was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a child. After completing a loyalty questionnaire, his father was permitted to move the family to Colorado, where he attempted to reestablish his produce business before eventually returning the family to California. Miyakawa served in the United States Navy from 1952 to 1956. He is the author of the novel, "Tule Lake".

Yukio W. Miyamoto Collection

Collection ID: 19359

Miyamoto was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, until 1943, when he was released to move to Chicago. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in Italy with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. After the 442nd was disbanded, he was transferred to the 5th Army Headquarters, and subsequently served with the 206th Army Ground Forces (AGF) Band; 117th Army Ground Forces (AGF) Band; and 74th Army Ground Forces (AGF) Band.

Takanori Mizuta Collection

Collection ID: 98950

Mizuta was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army and completed basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, before serving with the Quartermaster Corps, 3rd Army, in France and Germany.

Arthur Takashi Morimitsu Collection

Collection ID: 93003

Morimitsu was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, before enlisting in the United States Army. He trained at Camp Savage, Minnesota and served with the Mars Task Force, Military Intelligence Service in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater, and with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Japan.

Kennie Namba Collection

Collection ID: 8094

Namba was incarcerated at the Portland Assembly Center, Oregon, and Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1944 and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France and Italy. He was wounded by a German hand grenade while in combat in Italy, and spent 40 days in the hospital. Following his service he attended the University of Portland and worked at Pacific Power and Light for 30 years. In 1947, Namba and his father, Etsuo Namba, helped file a lawsuit, Kenji Namba v. McCourt, successfully challenging the constitutionality of Oregon's Alien Land Law that had prevented people of Japanese ancestry from owning land in the state.

Calvin Ninomiya collection

Collection ID: 71769

Ninomiya was incarcerated at Puyallup Assembly Center (a.k.a. "Camp Harmony"), Washington, and Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. After completing high school at Minidoka Relocation center, he attended Oberlin College, in Ohio. In 1946, he was drafted in to the United States Army and trained in military intelligence but was discharged on compassionate grounds after both of his parents died and his brother was killed in action. Following his discharge, he attended the University of Washington followed by law school at the University of Chicago and began a career with the United States Treasury.

Alfred T. Nitta Collection

Collection ID: 70270

Nitta was incarcerated at Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho, before enlisting in the United States Army. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy.

George Okamoto Collection

Collection ID: AFC2001/001/85765

Okamoto was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, with his family as a teenager, but was released when he secured a job as an illustrator in Chicago, Illinois. In 1944, he decided to join the military. After being rejected by the Marine Corps and the Navy, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with Company I, 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy. He was severely wounded during combat operations in Northern Italy. Following his recovery, he was discharged and returned to Chicago to work as an artist and illustrator.

Toshikazu Okamoto collection

Collection ID: 106737

Okamoto was incarcerated at Pinedale Assembly Center, California and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California. He was also briefly transferred to Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1944, and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy. Following his discharge, he worked as a mechanic in the motor pool for the Seattle Fire Department.

William Hisao Omoto Collection

Collection ID: 65384

Omoto was incarcerated at Salinas Assembly Center, California, and Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, before being drafted into the United States Army. He served with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in France and Italy.

Peter K. Ota Collection

Collection ID: 77134

Ota was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California and Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1944. He served with the 9206th Technical Service Unit in Kentucky and California as a Japanese interpreter for prisoners of war.

William T. Oune collection

Collection ID: 98428

Oune was incarcerated at San Joaquin County Fairgrounds (Stockton, California) and Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas. Following World War II, he and his family moved to Japan, where he lived until 1950. After moving back to the United States, Oune studied English and worked on farms. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1952, and served as a translator in Japan and Korea.

Hank Oyama collection

Collection ID: 82752

Oyama was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a teenager. In 1945, he was drafted into the United States Army and received orders to serve as an interpreter in the Pacific. However, he did not speak Japanese, but spoke Spanish as a first language. (His mother, Mary Matsushima, was raised in Mexico and spoke primarily Spanish.) He

was reassigned to a counterintelligence unit and deployed to the Panama Canal Zone as a Spanish translator. Following his release from active duty, Oyama earned degrees in education, pursued a career as an educator, and was an advocate for bilingual education. In addition to his career in education, he also served as an officer in the United States Air Force Reserve until 1982.

Roy M. Oyama collection

Collection ID: 19609

Oyama was incarcerated at the Pinedale Assembly Center, California; Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; and Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. During his incarceration, he was permitted to leave the camps to work on local farms. In April 1945, he was inducted into the United States Army, and after training at Camp Wolters, Texas, he served with the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in Germany. Following his discharge, Oyama studied auto mechanics and bookkeeping, and eventually began a career with the United States Postal Service.

Sam S. Ozaki Collection

Collection ID: 75775

Ozaki was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Jerome Relocation Center, Arkansas, before enlisting in the United States Army in 1944. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy and France.

Kiyo Sato Collection

Collection ID: 68443

Sato was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona. She left the camp to attend college in Michigan and became a nurse. During the Korean War, she joined the United States Air Force Nurse Corps and served in Texas, the Philippines, and Japan.

Rikio Sato Collection

Collection ID: 57663

Sato was incarcerated at the Portland Assembly Center, Oregon, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1945. He served in military intelligence at Fort Douglas, Utah; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Snelling, Minnesota; Presidio of Monterey, California; and Fort Ord, California.

Susumu Satow Collection

Collection ID: 42986

Satow was incarcerated at Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"). In July 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army, and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy and France.

Helen Terada Shintaku Collection

Collection ID: 439

Shintaku was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona. Prior to the war she was training as a nurse at Perez Valley Hospital in San Diego, California. While incarcerated, she worked as a nurse's aide in the camp. She was released from the camp to continue her training at Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Curt Shinichi Sugiyama Collection

Collection ID: 91060

Sugiyama was incarcerated at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona, as a child. In 1946, he and his family were released from the camp and moved to Michigan. In 1958, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with the Medical Service Corps at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Following his discharge in 1962, he pursued a career as a social worker.

Harry Tanabe Collection

Collection ID: 13251

Tanabe was incarcerated at Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"). He enlisted in the United States Army and served with the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) on Okinawa.

Carolyn Hisako Tanaka Collection

Collection ID: 7154

Tanaka was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a child. Following the war, her family moved to Fresno, California, and she eventually attended the Fresno General Hospital School of Nursing and became an emergency nurse. In 1966, she enlisted in the United States Army Nurse Corps and served with the 24th Evacuation Hospital, Long Binh, Vietnam.

Carolyn Hisako Tanaka Collection

Collection ID: 45225

Tanaka was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a child. Following the war, her family moved to Fresno, California, and she eventually attended the Fresno General Hospital School of Nursing and became an emergency nurse. In 1966, she enlisted in the United States Army Nurse Corps and served with the 24th Evacuation Hospital, Long Binh, Vietnam.

Taketora Tanaka Collection

Collection ID: 10120

Tanaka was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), as a teenager. In June 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served with Company A, 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment Combat Team in Italy, France, and Germany.

Taketora Tanaka Collection

Collection ID: 43935

Tanaka was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), as a teenager. In June 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served with Company A, 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment Combat Team in Italy, France, and Germany.

George Mazumi Taoka Collection

Collection ID: 35055

Taoka was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming. In May 1944, he enlisted in the United States Army, and served in the Pacific Theater with the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS). Following World War II, he continued to serve in the Army Reserve, retiring in 1976, with the rank of Major.

Jack Taoashi Tashiro Collection

Collection ID: 27114

Tashiro was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a teenager, before being drafted into the United States Army in 1944. He served at the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) and with the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS), at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and in Tokyo, Japan. He was interviewed jointly with his wife, Marie Tashiro, who was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona.

Yasu Teramura collection

Collection ID: 96325

Teramura was incarcerated at the Portland Assembly Center, but was released to work for the Farm Security Administration in Eastern Oregon, while his family was moved to Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served as a cook with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France and Italy. After his discharge, he returned to Oregon and a career as a farmer.

Walter Takeo Tsukamoto Collection

Collection ID: 10657

Tsukamoto was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, United States Army Reserve in 1926. At the outbreak of World War II, he requested a transfer to active duty, but was repeatedly denied. He and his family were incarcerated at Sacramento Assembly Center (a.k.a. Walerga Assembly Center), California, and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, until February 1943. In March 1943, Tsukamoto received orders to report for active duty. He served with the United States Army Judge Advocate General Corps at Camp Savage, Minnesota, and following the end of World War II, served in Japan, San Francisco, California, Korea, and Heidelberg, Germany. He served until his death in 1961. His daughter and son-in-law were interviewed on his behalf.

Mack F. Tsujimoto Collection

Collection ID: 71923

Tsujimoto was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, where he worked as a surgical assistant in the camp hospital. After being cleared by the FBI, he was released from Tule Lake and went to work at Women's Medical College Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1944, he was drafted into the Army and trained with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Replacement Unit. But due to flat feet, he was transferred to the Army Air Forces, and served in Colorado, the Philippines, and Japan. He was released from active duty in 1946, and served in the Air Force Reserve until 1954.

Warren Michio Tsuneishi Collection

Collection ID: 2153

Tsuneishi was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, before enlisting in the United States Army in 1943. He served as a translator with 306th Headquarters Intelligence Detachment, XXIV Corps, in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

George Minoru Wakiji Collection

Collection ID: 27117

Wakiji was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona, as a teenager. His family was released in July 1945. In 1950, he was drafted into the United States Army and served with H Company, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, at Fort Ord, California, and Chorwon, Korea. Following his service, he studied journalism, and later served in the Peace Corps in the Kingdom of Tonga.

Jack Shuzo Yamabe collection

Collection ID: 30310

Yamabe was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas, as a young man. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served as a translator in Japan.

Frank Takaji Yamamoto Collection

Collection ID: 85536

Yamamoto was incarcerated at Manzanar Relocation Center, California, before being released and relocated to inland California in June 1943. He was drafted into the United States Army in May 1944, and after training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, attended the Military Intelligence Service Language School and served as a Japanese language instructor at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. While serving with the Military Intelligence Service in Tokyo, Japan, and Manila, Philippines, his duties included serving as an interpreter and translator during war crimes trials. He served in the Army Reserve from 1947-1968, and worked in civil service positions with Legal Section, Supreme Commander for Allied Powers, 500th Military Intelligence Group, United States Civil Service Administration of Ryukyu Islands, NISO Japan, and NISO Treasure Island, 12th Naval District.

Ann Yamasaki Collection

Collection ID: 92981

Yamasaki was incarcerated at Marysville Assembly Center (a.k.a. Arboga Assembly Center), California, Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming.

Series II: War Relocation Authority Civilian Employees & Military Support

Edna M. Becker Collection

Collection ID: 9653

Becker worked as a secretary for the federal government in several locations, including Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming.

Lewis J. Furlong Collection

Collection ID: 91002

Furlong was drafted into the Army in 1943, and served with I Company, 3rd Battalion, 275th Infantry Regiment, 70th Infantry Division as a M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) man. His service included guarding the Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, in 1944, before volunteering for the infantry and shipping out to the European Theater.

Alice A. Gapp Collection

Collection ID: 5887

Gapp worked as a librarian for the War Relocation Authority at Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas, from 1943-1944.

Velma Berryman Kessel Collection

Collection ID: 9640

Kessel worked as a registered nurse at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, 1942-1945.

Edwin Isacce Morris Jr. Collection

Collection ID: 108611

Morris was drafted in 1942 and served with the 442nd Signal Heavy Construction Battalion (Aviation), 15th Signal Brigade, United States Army Air Forces. His service included working at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California.

Doris Holloway Sleath Collection

Collection ID: 20426

Sleath worked as a nurse at the Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona, where she ran the maternity department. She later lived at Manzanar Relocation Center, California, and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, where her husband, Dr. Jack Sleath, worked as a doctor.

Jack Crisp Sleath Collection

Collection ID: 20438

Sleath worked as a Chief Medical Officer and was stationed at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona; Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, and Manzanar Relocation Center, California, as well as in Washington DC.

Container List

Container	Contents
	<p>Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People</p> <p>George Aki Collection Collection ID: 11135 Digital content available Aki was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), and Jerome Relocation Center, Arkansas. In 1944, he volunteered to serve as a chaplain in the United States Army and was assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He served in Alabama, Mississippi, and Italy.</p>
BOX VHS-147	<p>Video interview with George Aki, December 5, 2003 58 minutes MV01: Topics covered include: Service as a chaplain; early life and education; thoughts on incarcerated of Japanese Americans; incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz") and Jerome Relocation Center, Arkansas; reaction to his decision to enlist; goal was to support other Japanese American volunteers; wife and family; fought against prejudice in the Army; thoughts on the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); thoughts on serving the country that served him; reconciling religious beliefs with war; work for peace; losing soldiers in battle; deployed to Italy near the end of the war; interactions with commanding officers; as a chaplain he could spend time with enlisted men and with officers; division between mainland and Hawaiian soldiers; thoughts on rank structure of the military; unit given particularly dangerous assignments; wife relocated to Missouri after he enlisted; lost a child while incarcerated; reporting officers for taking advantage of their rank; leaving the service; ship broke down on the way home; seeing the Statue of Liberty as ship approached New York; post-war career as a chaplain.</p>
BOX-FOLDER MSS-501/1	<p>Memoirs, undated 1 folder MS01: Memoirs written by the veteran entitled "My 30 Months (1944-1946)," detailing his experiences as a Japanese American chaplain during World War II. Topics covered include: volunteering for the Army while incarcerated at Jerome Relocation Center, Arkansas; assigned to 442nd Regimental Combat Team; remaining stateside with unit training replacements; officers' attitude toward chaplains; Buddhist services; transfer to Fort McClellan; dissention among enlisted men; discrimination; reporting senior officer for treating enlisted men and junior officers poorly; news from Europe; deploying to Italy; interactions with African-American troops; returning home and seeing the Statue of Liberty.</p>
	<p>Kenjiro Akune Collection Collection ID: 44468 Akune was incarcerated at the Merced Assembly Center and later, Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"). In December 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army, and served with the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater. Following his discharge, he worked as a civilian linguist with the occupation forces and provided translation during war crimes trials.</p>
BOX VHS-C	<p>Video Interview with Kenjiro Akune, June 6, 2006 65 minutes</p>

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

MV01: Joint interview with George Y. Fujimori (44387). Topics covered include: early life; impact of Executive Order 9066; people were afraid to interact with Japanese Americans; Fujimori was incarcerated at Manzanar Relocation Center; few people knew their rights; Fujimori volunteered to enlist, leaving his wife and newborn baby at Manzanar; settled in Chicago following the war; family members' thoughts on enlistment, opposition in camp; Akune's life in Japan as a child, impressions of Japanese military and government; Akune's decision to enlist and reactions from those around him, wanted an opportunity to prove his loyalty; living in a dictatorship in Japan meant information was censored; treatment while serving in the Army, learned later that they were ineligible for commission, Caucasian soldiers were trained to monitor for potential spies among the Japanese American soldiers; Akune went to Japan after the war, worked as a civilian linguist with the occupation forces and provided translation during war crimes trials, returned to the United States in 1950; Akune returned to school, saw more opportunities for career advancement for Japanese Americans than before the war; United States mission in Burma; Akune's reaction to racist remarks from another soldier; reasons for joining the Military Intelligence Service (MIS); Akune initially incarcerated in Merced Assembly Center and Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), living conditions were poor, barracks were poorly constructed; translators given travel priority; Akune's thoughts on General Douglas MacArthur's use of intelligence and language expertise among United States soldiers; receiving no medals for service; Fujimori wounded but did not receive a Purple Heart; enemy codes.

George Y. Fujimori Collection

Collection ID: 44387

[Digital content available](#)

Fujimori was incarcerated at Manzanar Relocation Center, California. In 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army and after training at Fort Snelling, Minnesota and Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, served with the Military Intelligence Service in the Philippines and Japan. Following his service, he became a carpenter and master cabinet maker.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with George Y. Fujimori, June 6, 2006

60 minutes

MV01: Joint interview with Kenjiro Akune (44468). Topics covered include: early life; impact of Executive Order 9066; people were afraid to interact with Japanese Americans; Fujimori was incarcerated at Manzanar Relocation Center; few people knew their rights; Fujimori volunteered to enlist, leaving his wife and newborn baby at Manzanar; settled in Chicago following the war; family members' thoughts on enlistment, opposition in camp; Akune's life in Japan as a child, impressions of Japanese military and government; Akune's decision to enlist and reactions from those around him, wanted an opportunity to prove his loyalty; living in a dictatorship in Japan meant information was censored; treatment while serving in the Army, learned later that they were ineligible for commission, Caucasian soldiers were trained to monitor for potential spies among the Japanese American soldiers; Akune went to Japan after the war, worked as a civilian linguist with the occupation forces and provided translation during war crimes trials, returned to the United States in 1950; Akune returned to school, saw more opportunities for career advancement for Japanese Americans than before the war; United States mission in Burma; Akune's reaction to racist remarks from another soldier; reasons for joining the Military Intelligence Service (MIS); Akune initially incarcerated in Merced Assembly Center and Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), living conditions were poor, barracks were poorly constructed; translators given travel priority; Akune's thoughts on General Douglas MacArthur's use of intelligence and language expertise

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

among United States soldiers; receiving no medals for service; Fujimori wounded but did not receive a Purple Heart; enemy codes.

Isao Fujimoto Collection

Collection ID: 8357

[Digital content available](#)

Fujimoto was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a child. Following their release in 1945, Fujimoto's family settled in California. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, served in the United States Army in Korea, and eventually pursued a career in community development.

Audio Interview with Isao Fujimoto, February 26, 2003

63 minutes

SR01: Topics covered include: background and current occupation; different camps Fujimoto was relocated to; wanted his family to stay together; items allowed in the camp; father's arrest prior to war; memorable moments in camp; typical daily life in camp; support system; romantic relationships in camps; length of time held in camps; how formerly incarcerated people were informed about events outside the camp; feelings upon release; length of time to settle down to a normal life; life in Berkeley; current occupation and war's impact on it; how life would be different if he had not been interred; why he chose Davis, California; father as role model; and closeness to his family.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-425/1 Transcript, February 26, 2003
23 pages
MS01: Transcript of SR01.

Harry K. Fukuhara Collection

Collection ID: 52989

[Digital content available](#)

Fukuhara was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, before enlisting in the United States Army. During World War II he served with the Military Intelligence Service in New Britain Island (Bismarck Archipelago), New Guinea, Dutch New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan. He retired in 1971 with the rank of Colonel.

BOX miniDV Video Interview with Harry K. Fukuhara, September 26, 2005
105 minutes

MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: Early life; father's motivation to come to America from Hiroshima; going to Japan, 1933; treatment by Japanese students as outsider; conditions in Japan; state of war; attempts to brainwash Japanese American students; return to United States; attack on Pearl Harbor; difficult position of being a Japanese American who had lived and studied in Japan; shipped to Poston Relocation Center, Arizona; volunteered for the Army and was shipped to Australia without physical; shipped to Rabual, New Britain; use of Niseis; working with locals; issued weapon and not trained on it; Caucasian bodyguard; distinction between attached and assigned units; meeting a prisoner of war (POW) who was his neighbor in Hiroshima; possibility of fighting against his own brother; atomic bomb; brother dies as result of atomic bomb; promoted to rank of master sergeant; job is to demobilize Japanese military; political unrest in Osaka on part of Korean nationals; award from the Emperor of Japan.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-1495/1 Biographical information, undated
1 folder
MS01: Outline of formal education, military history, major military and civilian assignments.

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER MSS-1495/2	Memoirs, undated 1 folder MS02: "My Story -- 50 Years Later..." An account by Fukuhara of his experiences during World War II and of the contribution to the United States war effort by Japanese Americans.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-1495/3	Printed Matter, undated 1 folder MS03: "America's Secret Weapon in World War II." A brief history of the contributions made by Japanese Americans to the United States war effort during World War II.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-1495/4	Photographs, 2005 1 folder PH01: Fukuhara accepting award from Congressman Mike Honda, on behalf of Nisei in MIS (Military Intelligence Service), Washington, DC (2005).

Ronnie Masau Fukuoka Collection

Collection ID: 82573

[Digital content available](#)

Fukuoka was incarcerated at Sacramento Assembly Center (a.k.a. Walerga Assembly Center), California, and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a child. He went on to serve in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War.

BOX CD/DVD-258	Video Interview with Ronnie Masau Fukuoka, February 14, 2012 81 minutes MV01: Topics covered include: family background and childhood; raised by mother and grandmother; sent to Walerga Assembly Center; Tule Lake; loyalty questionnaire; security and electric fence; no supervision as children; farms outside for food; "some resentment" among elders; schools were in English; incarcerated from 1942-1945, ages eight to eleven; Hunt Point in San Francisco; difficulty in school; Sacramento for high school graduation; joined the United States Marine Corps; mother resisted; wanted to be in the Airborne because it was "exciting"; had been in Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) which helped; boot camp in San Diego; three days of testing; yelling and orders from drill instructor; puppy on base; "feather merchants"; "had to work harder as shorter men"; bayonet practice every night; radio in field; Naval recruit rowing; getting into trouble; not homesick; enjoyed Marine chow; first sergeant Pickle Meadows; Korean occupation in Japan; Inchon harbor; assigned to Battery headquarters; transferred because he was mistaken for the enemy; annual reunions; visited Army hospital with wounded warriors; re-entered service; Baker Company; artillery support; "used math to use guns"; Bunker Hill; green flare; Chinese in skirmish; 50% casualties; mistaken for Korean; explanation of Bronze Star medal; patrolling Midway Islands; returned home; El Toro, California; required to go to Hawaii; located fellow soldiers on the internet; readjustments to civilian life; met wife; children and grandchildren; positive experience; commentary on Korea; "tried to do best in all endeavors".
----------------	---

Sam S. Furakawa Collection

Collection ID: 68800

[Digital content available](#)

Furakawa was incarcerated at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served with Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in France and Italy.

BOX VHS-567	Video Interview with Sam S. Furakawa, October 8, 2009 31 minutes
-------------	---

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

MV01: Topics covered include: detention center, Gila River, Arizona; 442nd Regimental Combat Team and history, composition; Executive Order 9066; prejudice; General John DeWitt and prejudice; family; brother killed in action; lost battalion; brother got the Bronze Star; Bronze Star citation; oak leaf cluster; each battle gives you a Bronze Star; battle field promotion; 14 Germans surrendering; photo of receiving the Bronze Star; Queen Mary, Japanese sent below decks; Po Valley, Italy; 34th Infantry Division; France; end of the war; occupation; monuments to veteran's regiment in Honolulu, Hawaii, Los Angeles, California, and on the USS Hornet; good luck from mother; after the service; discharge; officer in Europe; golf; hearing loss.

Asa Hanamoto Collection

Collection ID: 85552

Hanamoto was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army and completed training at the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He later served as a linguist with the 187th Infantry Regiment at Fort Blanding, Florida, and in Manila, Philippines, Tokyo, Japan, and Ota, Japan. He was discharged in 1946 with the rank of Technician Three and went on to a civilian career as a landscape architect.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Asa Hanamoto, July 12, 2012

126 minutes

MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: Family members in the military; activities leading up to World War II; forced removal to Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, 5/1942; knowledge of family's forced removal to detention center; Japanese immigrant parents and their naturalization; feelings about detention center; living conditions at Tule Lake; how he coped with time in detention center; work opportunities outside of Tule Lake; education and other work at Tule Lake; release from camp; drafted into Army; parents' release from detention centers; return to family ranch; education prior to service; reason for joining military; family's reaction to being drafted; coping during basic training; better treatment in basic training than in detention center; Fort Blanding, Florida; treatment as a Japanese American during basic training; Military Intelligence Service Language School, Fort Snelling, Minnesota; living conditions and food at basic training; morale and thoughts about World War II; feelings about end of war in Europe and Japan; part of holding unit in Manila, Philippines; duties in Manila; specialization as a linguist; rank of technical sergeant; treatment by locals in Manila; no apprehension as a Japanese American serving in the Pacific; brief assignment in Tokyo, Japan; treatment in Tokyo by locals; assignment in Ota, Japan; attachment to 187th Regiment as interpreter; mission of military intelligence in Ota; duties as interpreter; no segregation in unit as Japanese American; challenges of service in Ota; discharge, 1946; awards; final rank of Technician Third Grade; Congressional Gold Medal, 11/2011; biggest challenge of being a Japanese American soldier during World War II; education after active duty; career as landscape architect; retirement in 1974; career awards; Military Intelligence Service reunions; most difficult part of service; scariest moment in service; justifications of sacrifice during World War II; impact of service on outlook; need to remember World War II; advice for those entering military today; advice for future generations.

Carl Hayano Collection

Collection ID: 92795

Hayano was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, from 1942 to 1944.

BOX VHS-578

Video Interview with Carl Hayano, July 18, 1986

11 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: feelings about being incarcerated as a child; memory of the attack on Pearl Harbor; changes in attitudes of his friends immediately after the

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

outbreak of war; social and political motivations for incarceration; spared immediate forced removal from Los Angeles and allowed to move to Fresno because his father was an important citizen; furniture and other possessions sold off quickly. Note: recording is incomplete, ends abruptly after 11 minutes.

Alan Yoshiaki Hayashi Collection

Collection ID: 49510

[Digital content available](#)

Hayashi was born in Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, in 1945. Following their release in September 1945, his family settled in San Diego, California. Hayashi attended San Diego State University before being drafted into the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Alan Yoshiaki Hayashi, March 27, 2007

1 miniDV

MV01: Topics covered include: introduction; born April 1945 in Poston Relocation Center, Arizona; family released in September 1945; moved to San Diego, California, very hostile area for Japanese Americans, because WWII soldiers were returning to port; ten years later sister and brother born; graduated from San Diego State; married; drafted in 1969; boot camp at Fort Ord, California; assigned to 101st Airborne Division in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) of Vietnam; monsoon; fire base, artillery support; Hawaii for leave; home flight; discharged in 1971; 1989 got married again.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-1393/1

Biographical information, March 27, 2007

1 folder

MS01: Topics covered include: Brief overview of early life; college; draft; boot camp and training at Fort Ord, California; Vietnam protests; plane to Fort Lewis, Washington, then on to Anchorage, Alaska; from there to Vietnam with 101st Airborne Division, Light Weapons Infantry; Assistant Gunner for an M60 machine gun and light weapon was an M-16; discharged in March 1971.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-1393/2

Military papers, 1971

1 folder

MS02: Report of discharge.

Yukio A. Hibino Collection

Collection ID: 44211

[Digital content available](#)

Hibino was incarcerated at Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"). In August 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion in the European Theater.

Video Interview with Interview with Yukio A. Hibino, June 8, 2006

37 minutes

Topics covered include: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; World War II, Italy; segregation; mission of his unit; after the war; money; Texas regiment; reason for joining the Army.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-1260

Digital Print, June 8, 2006

1 folder

PH01: Contemporary photo of Hibino.

BOX CDDVD-51

Computer Files, June 8, 2006

1 optical disc

CF01: Interview in AVI format and Photograph (PH01) in JPEG format.

Masana Jack Hirose Collection

Collection ID: 27146

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- [Digital content available](#)
- Hirose was incarcerated at Manzanar Relocation Center, California, until he was drafted into the United States Army in September 1945. He was discharged in 1946, and went on to a civilian career in advertising.
- BOX miniDV** Video Interview with Masana Jack Hirose, February 7, 2004
60 minutes
MV01: Topics covered include: Mason and Shriner; parents from Yamanashi Prefecture; settled in Sacramento; father opened restaurant; stock market crash 1929, closed restaurant; moved to Santa Monica; opened another restaurant; life in Santa Monica in the 1960s; Masaoka family; organized the Washington, DC chapter of Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); life at Manzanar Relocation Center; opened a sign shop; entertainment at Manzanar; Army asked him to volunteer, he refused to fight Japan; job with the Washington Post advertising department; drafted in 9/1945; served for five months; discharged in early 1946; formed his own advertising firm in 1951; consulted for the Pentagon at the Industrial College and Fort McNair; real estate on Chincoteague.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-888/1** Memoirs, 1995-2003
1 folder
MS01: Hirose's typewritten autobiography with handwritten notes (1/1995); Handwritten notes about incarceration experiences and military career (4/2003).
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-888/2** Military papers, October 4, 1945
1 folder
MS02: DD-214; Discharge Certificate.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-888/3** Photographs, 1935-1945
1 folder
PH01: Digital print of Army portrait of Private First Class Hirose on his 27th birthday, Washington, DC (6/6/1945).
PH02: Digital print of Hirose and his brother, Toro, in uniform, Riverdale, Maryland (1945).
PH03: Digital print of Toro Hirose, Mrs. Hirose (mother), Kinu Hirose (wife) holding baby and Jack, Riverdale, Maryland (1945).
PH04: Digital print of Hirose planting wild seeds with Mickey Rooney, California (1935).

Michael Honda Collection

Collection ID: 30550

[Digital content available](#)

- Honda was incarcerated at the Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), as a child. He went on to serve in the Peace Corps in El Salvador, followed by a career in education and politics, including serving in Congress from 2001 to 2017.
- BOX miniDV** Video Interview with Michael Honda, July 26, 2005
63 minutes
MV01: Topics covered include: introduction; grandparents from Japan, father served in Military Intelligence Service, birth, incarceration at Amache, Colorado, camp life, family resettled in Chicago; returned to California 1953, strawberry sharecroppers in Blossom Valley, San Jose, California; 1965, volunteered for the Peace Corps, wanted to do something, served two years in El Salvador, privileges of living in America, education, social changes; development of Silicon Valley; Peace Corps influence, helping young people to accomplish objectives; tribute to Norman Mineta, Secretary of Transportation, San Jose Planning Commission and Unified School Board; election to Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, election to California State Assembly; American government distrust of Japanese Americans, heroism and

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- loyalty of Japanese American soldiers helped change attitudes; election to House of Representatives in 2000, role in the House; changes in outlook on ethnic differences; new generation of Japanese Americans maintain heritage.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-981/1** Biography, August 8, 2005
1 folder
MS01: A biography of Michael Honda.

Noboru Richard Horikawa Collection

Collection ID: 69966

[Digital content available](#)

Horikawa was incarcerated at Salinas Assembly Center, California, and Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, until December 1943, when he was released to attend Westtown Friends School in Pennsylvania. After graduating, he was drafted into the United States Army and served with Allied Translator and Interpreter Service, General Headquarters, Army Forces Pacific.

- BOX CD/DVD-174** Video Interview with Noboru Richard Horikawa, March 9, 2010
102 minutes
MV01: Topics covered include: Early life and family; father immigrated to Canada in 1924; father attended San Francisco college; mother immigrated to the United States; father was a solicitor for farmers, printer; mother did embroidery; parents married 1924; one brother, psychologist; memories of San Francisco, friends of mixed race; YMCA, camping; high school, grammar school, Presbyterian church; parental guidance, Japanese language and reading schools; sports; discrimination; city attractions; attack on Pearl Harbor, reactions of family and community; detention of Japanese people, opening of camps; concerns for family's future; plans to protect family and assets; friends arrested; days after attack on Pearl Harbor; 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt law on incarceration; preparations to leave; father not allowed to become citizen; citizen's children bought assets; difference in treatment of Japanese immigrants and German, Italian immigrants; movement to temporary incarceration camp camps; permanent detention center in Arizona, July 1942; family held for three years; assembly camp in Salinas (Salinas Assembly Center); accommodations in Arizona camp (Poston Relocation Center); living conditions and family space; difference in climates, California to Arizona; building construction; family adjustment to conditions; daily family life; schools, residents constructed adobe building; resident interns served as teachers; camp morale, interest in sports; social activities; access to national news; different national areas of incarceration; lenience of laws; Quakers offered schooling; left camp in December 1943 to attend Westtown Friends school; family separation; absence of discrimination; studies at Westtown and social life; draft status; Japanese American combat team; 1945 inducted in Army in Philadelphia; loyalty questionnaire; Tule Lake, separation; accelerated education; graduated Westtown Friends, May 1945; Army assignment based on language skills; west to Fort Snelling, basic training, intelligence training; pup tent friend; drill instructors, no discrimination; Army plans without war; shipped to Japan, December 1945; father wrote letter to relative explaining him being in the Army; continued studies on ship in reading and writing Japanese; poorest students sent to Korea; emotion on being in Japan; visiting relatives in Shirakawa; assignment to Allied service Translation, British area; translated documents concerning Japanese attack plans were sent to Washington; enlisted quarters; historic documents; memories of Japan, Buddhist memorial service; social times in USO (United Services Organization); deported Niseis asked for help in returning to United States; Tokyo bombed; questions by Japanese soldier; 1946 return to United States scheduled; AWOL (absent without leave) visit to relatives in Nara; leave in special hotel north of Tokyo; promoted to Technician Five, asked to stay as civilian; discharge in San Francisco; meeting wife at Japanese Social Club,

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

she worked at Smith, Kline and French, worked at Philadelphia Quartz; studied at Mary Lyons School, Swarthmore College; two children, five grandchildren; parents not bitter about incarceration; mother naturalized under new law; disturbed at denial of constitutional rights; children did not understand war; apology and payment did not cover losses; 1942 public attitude fostered by Governor Earl Warren; Letters from Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton; photographs of family.

Noboru Richard Horikawa Collection

Collection ID: 71781

[Digital content available](#)

Horikawa was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, until December 1943, when he was released to attend Westtown Friends School in Pennsylvania. After graduating, he was drafted into the Army and served with Allied Translator and Interpreter Service, General Headquarters, Army Forces Pacific.

BOX CD/DVD-182

Audio Interview with Noboru Richard Horikawa, March 2010

145 minutes

SR01: Topics covered include: family background; life in San Francisco, California, school, church, sports; attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; preparing for incarceration; Executive Order 9066; incarceration at Salinas Assembly Center and Poston Relocation Center; Santa Cruz, California; left Poston camp to attend Westtown Friend School, Pennsylvania; veteran drafted into the Army; loyalty questionnaire; graduation from high school; boot camp; Military Intelligence Service Language School; orders to Japan, duties; attended Buddhist memorial service for his Uncle who was killed fighting for Japan at the Battle of Saipan; left Japan and the Army; meeting his wife; college at Penn State University, Pennsylvania; children; parents became United States citizens; reflections on incarceration life; National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, DC; Civil Liberties Act of 1988; growing up during the Great Depression; religious life, relationship to parents; Japanese school; Japanese customs upheld in San Francisco; life at Salinas and Poston; incarceration; ordering clothes for camp through the mail; news from the outside, camp newspaper; thoughts about the war during incarceration; friend from California in Japan; 442nd Regimental Combat Team; racial slurs; brother; death of parents; thoughts about constitutional rights, pledge of allegiance, incarceration of people based upon race.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-2182/1

Biographical information, April 17, 2010

1 folder

MS01: Interviewer's student paper including information about the veteran's military experiences (4/17/2010).

BOX-FOLDER MSS-2182/2

Transcript, March 2010

1 folder

MS02: Transcript of SR01.

Grant Hayao Ichikawa Collection

Collection ID: 10685

[Digital content available](#)

Ichikawa was incarcerated at Turlock Assembly Center (Stanislaus County Fairgrounds), California, and Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona. In November 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army and served as a linguist with the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). He served at Camp Savage, Minnesota; Camp Shelby, Mississippi; Brisbane, Australia; Manila, Philippines; Tokyo, Japan; and Hokkaido, Japan. He was discharged in 1947, but was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and served with the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) in Japan for two years. Following his discharge, he began a career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

BOX miniDV	<p>Video Interview with Grant Hayao Ichikawa, August 29, 2003 111 minutes MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: family background; early education; attending University of California, Berkeley; job discrimination against Japanese Americans; curfew, forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans; family housed in horse stalls at a racetrack; volunteering for the Military Intelligence Service as a linguist; segregation in the Army, Japanese not considered white or black; working for the Allied Translator and Interpreter Services in Australia; assigned to interrogation section; transferred to the Philippines; rounding up Japanese prisoners; surveying the damage in Hiroshima after the war; courtship and marriage to Millie Yamamoto; head of the linguist section in ATIS; discharged Inactive Reserve; resumed farming career; recalled for second tour of military service during the Korean War; sent to Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC); civilian employee of the Agency; 1955 Acting Base Chief in Tokyo; the 20 safes; a year in the States for training, then sent to Tokyo as a GS-11; 1961 assignment at Japan desk in Washington, DC; 1962 assigned to Indonesia; facing a demonstration, Communists; saved by the Blue Helmets; 1966 Jakarta; life with a Vespa; next assignment, head of the Korean desk; the most significant tour Vietnam; April 29, 1975 the day of forced removal; burned out and retiring; sponsored a Vietnamese family for resettlement; teaching how to become a "do-it-yourselfer", the MISLS Registry and Supplementary Registry.</p>
BOX AC-224	<p>Audio Interview with Grant Hayao Ichikawa, April 12, 2008 60 minutes SR01: Topics covered include: family and background; working his way through college; studied to be an accountant at University of California, Berkeley, graduated in 1941; couldn't find a job as an accountant so went into farming; memories of learning about attack on Pearl Harbor; experiencing prejudice and discrimination; no desire to join Army; curfew imposed; forced to turn in radios and firearms; forced removal orders; friend took over the lease on his farm; relocated to Turlock Assembly Center (Stanislaus County Fairgrounds), California, shared horse stall with another family; feelings upon being incarcerated; after three months, moved to Gila River; got job as chief accountant for a farm project; volunteered for Army three months later; trained in military intelligence at Camp Savage; locals treated them well; basic training in Mississippi, trained with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; experiencing the segregated south; Allied Translator Interpreter Service in Brisbane, Australia; interrogating prisoners; Philippines; stocking the non-commissioned officers' club with liquor; receiving a field commission; negotiating a surrender with Japanese troops; serving in Occupation Force, atomic bombing survey unit, assignment officer; met wife in Japan; left Army in 1947, went back to farming; recalled to service during Korean War; given a choice between Korea and an intelligence position in Hokkaido, Japan, choose Hokkaido; interrogated suspected spies; offered civilian job in intelligence, worked in Indonesia, Vietnam; reflecting on life and service; family's feelings post-war.</p>
BOX-FOLDER MSS-483/1	<p>Printed Matter, 2000 1 folder MS01: Publication of the Military Intelligence Corps Association in which Japanese American intelligence veterans discuss their motivations for fighting for a country which imprisoned their family in detention centers and refused to treat them like American citizens (2000).</p>
BOX-FOLDER MSS-483/2	<p>Transcript, undated 1 folder MS02: Transcript of MV01 and MV02.</p>
BOX-FOLDER MSS-483/3	<p>Photograph, 1943 1 folder</p>

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

PH01: Copy of photograph of the veteran posing with his brother upon completion of linguist training at Camp Savage, Minnesota (1943).

PH02: Copy of photograph of the veteran with his wife.

Joseph Ichiuji Collection

Collection ID: 13535

[Digital content available](#)

Ichiuji was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona. In September 1941, he was drafted into the United States Army, and completed Field Artillery Basic Training at Camp Roberts, California. However, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was discharged due to his Japanese ancestry. While incarcerated, he volunteered to reenlist, and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy, France, and Germany.

BOX MoM

Audio Interview with Joseph Ichiuji, May 27, 2004

13 minutes

This interview was conducted by Veterans History Project volunteers on the National Mall in Washington, DC during the National World War II Reunion: Tribute to a Generation, May 27-30, 2004. Topics covered include: Japanese American; served with the army in Battery A, 442nd Regimental Combat Team; served in Europe; Italy and Germany; drafted in 1941 after Pearl Harbor; discharged because of Japanese ancestry and reclassified as 4-C, enemy ineligible for service; family evacuated to Poston, Arizona; volunteered for combat while in camp; wanted to prove he was an American citizen; 10/1944 rescued the Lost Battalion, a group of Allied troops surrounded by the Germans; rescued 211 men and suffered 800 casualties; sent to invade Germany in 3/1945; Germans surrendered; present during the release of concentration camp prisoners; condition of concentration camp prisoners.

BOX MoM

Photograph, 1943

1 folder

PH01: Ichiuji before going to France for the invasion of Germany (1943).

John Atsumi Ikeda Collection

Collection ID: 83268

[Digital content available](#)

Ikeda was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Race Track), California, and Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), before relocating to Chicago, Illinois, in 1944. In 1945 he was drafted into the United States Army and served with the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), 6th Army, at Fort McClellan, Alabama; Fort Holabird, Maryland; Presidio, San Francisco, California; and Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

BOX CDDVD-265

Video Interview with John Atsumi Ikeda, February 28, 2012

75 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: Childhood in Los Angeles; youngest of four siblings; parents' work in barbershop; family's bathhouse used by Swedish lumberjacks; father's move to San Francisco to work on railroad; move to Juneau, Alaska and Yukon Territory to work as a cook; gold prospecting using dog sleds; rejection from Canadian Army; parents only spoke Japanese; Japanese school; attack on Pearl Harbor; brother devastated by beginning of war; incarceration; father's work as cook; orders to Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Race Track), California; Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"); brother's ulcer operation extreme anger over incarceration; move to Chicago after high school; draft reserve status; sister a nurse cadet; parents in detention center for four years; boot camp at Fort McClellan; court martial for not cleaning up someone else's mess KP duty; captain who defended him; not good with guns; Minneapolis in winter; Fort Snelling for counter intelligence training; transfer to 6th Army; early release at end of war; work at defense factory;

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

difficulty of post-war adjustment; Washington University; math degree; living with brother in Cleveland; work as quality control manager for General Electric 33 year career; meeting wife at school; marriage; four children; effect of military experience on life; desire to find captain who saved him from court martial; life lessons; forgiveness; hatred at President Franklin Roosevelt and then forgiveness; a good life.

Minoru Imamura Collection

Collection ID: 46548

[Digital content available](#)

Imamura was incarcerated at Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), before being drafted into the United States Army in 1944. He trained as an infantryman and served in the European Theater.

BOX Hi8

Video Interview with Minoru Imamura, January 6, 2006

41 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: introduction; family background; Pearl Harbor attack; Holocaust reflection; United States Government taking away property; racism toward Japanese; relocated to Granada Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Amache"); views on President Franklin Roosevelt; getting drafted; training as infantryman; recreational time; living conditions; thoughts on being shipped out to war; technology; daily load; sightseeing; scariest experience; fears; worst scene; discharged; feelings at end of war; post-war experiences; closing.

Shigeru Sam Imoto Collection

Collection ID: 65048

Imoto was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a teenager. In 1946 he was drafted into the United States Army and served with Headquarters Company, European Command, in Heidelberg, Germany.

BOX Hi8

Video Interview with Shigeru Sam Imoto, March 29, 2008

49 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: introduction; being drafted, had to go into Army, in an detention center at time of draft; friends and family being drafted, brothers; no career plans; going through training, real war; unit, treated badly at first; assignment in Germany, desk job; weapons, rifle; sergeant rank, taking two years, better pay; committing his time, time in service; life after service, farming, working in Tulare County Probation Department; prejudice towards Japanese; coming back from incarceration, still had a home to go to; life in detention center, older sister living in a different block, brothers drafted; job at headquarters; picked-on because he was Japanese; awards; education in detention center; stories, fights, incidents; knowledge of judo; Army Boxing Team; racial fights, judo was a life saver; German prisoner of war (POW) experience; guarding Russian prisoners; glad to be at headquarters, advice to stay out of infantry; family.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-1879

Photographs, 1948-2008

1 folder

PH01: A black and white print of Imoto standing on a balcony in Paris, France (1948).

PH02: A black and white print of Imoto crouching in uniform, Heidelberg, Germany (1948).

PH03: A color print of Imoto standing outside his house in Lindsay, California (3/29/2008).

Masaji Inoshita Collection

Collection ID: 47655

[Digital content available](#)

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

	Inoshita was incarcerated at Tulare Assembly Center, California, and Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona. In 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army and served as a translator and interpreter with the Military Intelligence Services (MIS) in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater.
BOX CDDVD-60	Video Interview with Masaji Inoshita, July 12, 2004 182 minutes MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: father immigrated in 1900, became a hog farmer, built roads, and surveyed land; older brother died in infancy; mother came to the United States as a "picture bride"; put in care of Apache family until he was six; failed first year of school, only spoke Apache and Japanese; learned English; father started farming again in 1927; grew up in farm country of Santa Maria, California; parents advised him he was a "second class citizen," still better than first class in Japan; told him he would lead family; parents said he could not succeed as a Japanese American due to racism; childhood ambition and accomplishments; always aware of dangers of contact between Japanese male and Caucasian female; isolated to Japanese community; attended Hancock Junior College (Allan Hancock College); father's stroke; left school to run farm with brother; was still not a citizen; had to have someone else "run" the farm; at age 21 inherited farm leases; drafted; classed 1A at Army exam; then as a farmer classified 3A; war was good for business; Japan's military aggression; anti-Japanese feeling in United States; after naval losses in Pearl Harbor, clear that Japanese Americans would be affected; five days after war started, FBI arrested his father; no reason given; other families in the valley raided; more than 4,000 people picked up by Department of Justice (DOJ); questioned in Missoula; father and others sent to Fort Lincoln Internment Camp; travel restrictions, curfew; firearms and radios seized; bank accounts frozen; evacuated with "what you can carry in your two hands"; huge problem for property owners; had to sell their expensive horses cheaply; could not sell crops, gave them to Filipinos to harvest; wiped out the family farm financially; put money in frozen bank account; sold trucks; friend of father's offered his empty barn for storage; told the friend that he would face abuse for helping Japanese Americans; agreed to store belongings in barn; barber offers him a farm in Wichita, Kansas, but he could not accept; broader community afraid to help for fear of being ostracized; taken to train station in Guadalupe, CA; windows of train nailed shut; taken to Tulare Assembly Center; guards with rifles; 10 family members in row 7 stall 12; no space for the cots; inadequate facilities; septic tank overflowing, told to use bathroom and shower less; disastrous food supply, lack of food; protested, wrote letters to politicians over conditions; had to include family number (like in prison); no one answered mail; got extra food once due to council visit; August 21, 1942, 500 put on train to Los Angeles; heard they were going to Arizona; rumors of being killed in Arizona; relief on arriving in Casa Grande (Gila River Relocation Center); civilians ran camps; farming near Gila River; asked to raise seeds; Seed Farm Road; supplied produce to other camps; veteran first served as a cook, then picked cotton; Army's need for Japanese translators; 4C classification for Japanese, could only "volunteer"; 29 at Gila River volunteered, including Inoshita; sent to Camp Savage, Minnesota; resentment over volunteers in Japanese community; brother was socially isolated, became mentally ill; Army wanted to draft Japanese Americans; sent loyalty questionnaires; questions 27 and 28; implications of questions; bring "Yes-No" and "No-No" to Tule Lake; people expatriated to Japan (Gripsholm); Gordon Hirabayashi and others sent to camp on Mount Lemmon, near Tucson, including 10 Hopi people; most people wound up serving in 442nd Regimental Combat Team; Mark Clark in Italy; Sgt. Kazuo Masuda's bravery; Masuda's cremated remains; Ronald Reagan, redress, and Civil Liberties Act; medals of honor for 442nd Regimental Combat Team; story of the Lost Battalion; President Harry Truman's honor for 442nd Regimental Combat Team; 442nd Regimental Combat Team's impact on American attitudes towards Japanese; Immigration and Nationality Act of

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

1952; presidential apology; Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS); graduated language school in 1943 but couldn't leave until 1944 due to Liberty ship delays; roundabout route around Australia; discussion of war tactics abroad; Burma campaign; Joseph Stillwell and General Haydon Boatner; Inoshita served under a British Unit; interrogation work; was selected to go to headquarters in Delhi; assigned to Queensway barrack; given American uniforms; trying to learn Hindi; wound up on front line in Burma; bodies of Japanese soldiers who committed suicide; interrogated survivor; gave him anti-malarial pill, Lucky Strike cigarette; received commendation for his work with the survivor; working as translator with fourth grade reading level, asks prisoner for help; questioning Japanese prisoner; asking prisoner to read documents to help with translation; British need for interrogators after end of the war; flown with partner to Chabua, India; unit transferred to China; flown over "Himalayan Hump" in C-46 airplane; very dangerous for pilots; job was to find landing places for troops in China to attack Japan; not successful; playing bridge at night while sailing; attacked by Chinese pirates; fired only shot in overseas duty at pirate ship; threatened with charge for discharging firearms without orders; saved ship from pirates; charge dropped; took part in surrender ceremonies; wound up in Okinawa; sent to Hiroshima to assess atomic bomb damage in 1945; examining the beach in Hiroshima; locals not prepared for invasion; report on beaches was buried; opinion that atomic bombs were not necessary; requested to go home; discharged in early January of 1946; worked as migrant farm laborer across Arizona for two and a half years; bought own farm; married wife Betty, raised three children; retirement at 72; community education work about experiences with incarceration, in Arizona and beyond; work honoring veterans; work with Japanese American Citizens League of Arizona; awards, medals, and certificates awarded to Inoshita; working with Native American (Gila River Indian) communities to memorialize former detention centers; non-Japanese people who wound up in detention centers; discrimination against Mexican woman who wound up in a camp with her husband; baseball games at the Gila River Relocation Center (Nisei Leagues); helped establish Buddhist church at the detention center; getting searched by other enlisted man (non-Japanese) entering and exiting camp; asked to translate surrender from Japanese to English; wound up being delivered in English; speaking to Chinese people in Japanese; goal of convincing people that incarceration should never be repeated in the future.

Frank Kageta Collection

Collection ID: 68430

[Digital content available](#)

Kageta was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California. In 1944, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France and Italy.

BOX CDDVD-162

Video Interview with Frank Kageta, August 6, 2009

64 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: introduction; early years, growing up in Northern California; discrimination in Sacramento, California; moved to Loomis, California, large Japanese American community; after war, incarceration at Tule Lake Relocation Center in California; loyalty questionnaire, father said "Don't sign"; after signing, was reclassified from 1-A to 4-C; Omaha, worked on large ranch; boot camp; Fort Lansing, Florida, "Happy to be wanted"; all Japanese American boot camp; boot camp cut short, needed for Replacement Unit; overseas to Marseille, France; 442nd Regimental Combat Team; R & R; Campaign Campaign; Gothic Line of defense in Italy, 5th Army; "Ike didn't want Japanese Americans"; first combat at Gothic Line; gas mask story; left machine gun, had to get German POWs; Italian family took into house, cellar; bombed out homes and cities; mentions book on 442nd Regimental

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

Combat Team; no communication with parents; brother wounded, passed each other; autograph of movie star; duties: processed prisoners of war (POWs), guarded supply depot; German stole trucks; shipped back to New York; discharged; GI loans, bought farm with brother; worked for County Water Agency; joined American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW); should have draft today, for discipline; would do all over again; devastation of Italy was terrible; Italian people were good to them.

Norman Noboru Kamada collection

Collection ID: 83256

[Digital content available](#)

Kamada was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona. In 1944 he was drafted into the United States Army and served with the 2nd Squad, 2nd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, 5th Army Division, in France and Italy.

BOX CDDVD-265

Video Interview with Norman Noboru Kamada, January 30, 2012

27 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: childhood in Dinuba, California, on a farm; family was sent to Poston Relocation Center, Arizona; drafted into Army at Fort Douglas; basic training in Florida; sent to Italy as a replacement; chased Germans in the Apennines; most terrifying experience involved the "screaming meemies"; hit with shrapnel but still dug fox hole; discussion of medals; deloused German prisoners of war (POWs); one day of rest in France; got Jinx Falkenburg's autograph on Italian lira; had good relationships with fellow G.I.'s and officers; re-enlisted into the Army; sent to Fort Lewis, Washington; used G.I. Bill to attend trade school; became a big rig driver for 30 years; good friends with men from unit; joined veterans organization; marriage and children; retired to "take it easy"; "positive" service experience; earned Congressional gold medal in 2011.

Kiyo Jean Kariya Collection

Collection ID: 27142

[Digital content available](#)

Kiyo Jean Kariya, née Ito, was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), and at Crystal City Internment Camp, Texas, as a teenager. Following World War II, her parents elected to move the family to Japan, and she worked as a civilian employee of the 720th Military Police Battalion, United States Army, in Sendai, Japan. She later worked for IBM, and returned to the United States.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Kiyo Jean Kariya, February 16, 2004

98 minutes

MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: father arrived in the United States in the early 1900s; wanted an education; mother came to the United States in the early 1920s and worked for the Japanese Consul General in San Francisco; settled in Oakland, California; spoke Japanese at home; petrified after attack on Pearl Harbor; father's home and office ransacked by the FBI; description of forced removal; Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California; conditions at Tanforan; schooling at Tanforan; father arrested and taken to jail, eventually sent to Bismarck, North Dakota; moved from Tanforan to Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"); life at Topaz; people could leave the camp for education or jobs; spent three years at Topaz and Crystal City Internment Camp, Texas; joined father in Texas; life in Crystal City; graduated from high school while at Topaz; parents elected to repatriate to Japan 12/25/1945; landed at Uruga Bay, near Tokyo; worked for United States Army in Sendai; job with 720th Military Police Battalion; treated well by military personnel, but not by civil service workers; took a job with IBM as a secretary, interpreter/ translator; bought house in Yokohama for parents; taught English to prominent

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container	Contents
	family; General Douglas MacArthur's accomplishments; Japanese view of MacArthur; transferred to IBM New York; joined Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); married.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-888/1	Memoirs, undated 1 folder MS01: Autobiography covering Kariya's early life and her return to the United States after World War II.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-888/2	Other Manuscript Material, 1998-2001 1 folder MS02: Text of two Speeches: Speech on Prejudice given on 09/30/2001; Living in Occupied Japan (Dec. 1945--June 1951) given to the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) on 03/14/1998.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-888/2	Transcript, undated 1 folder MS03: Non-verbatim transcript of MV01-MV02.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-2959/1	Transcript, February 16, 2004 1 folder MS04: Transcript of MV01-MV02.

Haruo Kato Collection

Collection ID: 113634

Kato was incarcerated at Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), as a child.

Following their release, his family returned to Hayward, California. Kato eventually attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he pursued a degree in social welfare, and trained with the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps. After failing his flight physical due to allergies, he was drafted into the United States Navy in 1955, and served for 22 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander.

BOX CDDVD-564	Video Interview with Haruo Kato, January 2, 2018 100 minutes MV01: Topics include: Father was a landscaper; mother was a homemaker; one of eight siblings (two girls, six boys); lived in a home that father built; living next to the Western Pacific Railroad and witnessing an accident; attended San Lorenzo Elementary and Hayward High School; Kato was eight years old when Japanese Americans were transported to detention centers; Kato and family went to Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), Utah, for two and a half years; older and younger brother were drafted into Army; Kato played football all four years of high school; didn't get a scholarship despite having high grades; attended University of California, Berkeley, to pursue Social Welfare degree; cadet in Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); goal of becoming a pilot; going to Camp Parks (Parks Air Force Base) for flight physical and failing exam due to allergies; drafted in December 1955 into the United States Navy due to an under-manning of 50,000 personnel; another draftee suffering from a seizure, administered aid; served as Company Chief throughout recruit training; Commander organized for Kato to be picked up by a Douglas A-1 Skyraider aircraft in order to go to Los Alamitos Airfield to have pilot physical examination; failed examination a second time for not meeting the height requirement by a quarter of an inch but the doctor helped him pass the next morning; worked as an aircraft mechanic during college; immediately became Battalion Adjutant at Officers Training School; attending Navigation School in Orlando, Florida; transferred to Naval Air Station Barbers Point in Oahu, Hawaii as an Ensign; served with Navy Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (VW) 12; spending time in Waikiki; sent to Hickam Air Force Base to attend Air Force navigation training because there were no aircrafts to utilize for training; Tachikawa Airfield in Tokyo, Japan and New Delhi, India for flight training; traveled to Burbank, California to pick
---------------	---

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

up newly constructed L-1049 Super Constellation aircrafts for the squadron; met up with brother in Los Angeles, California; became Department Head for Navigation; extended military service for two more years; transferred to Naval Air Transport Wing Pacific at Moffett Field, California; received immediate orders to transfer to Antarctic Development Squadron Six (VXE-6); flew the P-2 (P2V) Neptune; grid navigation; Monterey, California for Science post-graduate certification; became Officer in Charge of Defense Mapping Agency located in Atsugi, Japan; job offer to manage engineering contracts from friend immediately upon retiring; kept in touch with old friends living in Missouri and Kentucky; 200 lb. bomb dropping down a weapons elevator on the USS Ticonderoga and being thrown into the Yellow Sea; Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and Branson Veterans Task Force; future generations should work hard and pursue their dreams.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-3006/1 Biography, undated
1 folder
MS01: Brief summary of Kato's life.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-3006/2 Military papers, June 30, 1977
1 folder
MS02: Discharge form.

John Junji Katsu Collection

Collection ID: 89308

[Digital content available](#)

Katsu was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), before being released to attend high school in Kansas City. In 1945, he was drafted into the United States Army and served at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and with the United States Zone Constabulary and Military Government Office in Germany.

BOX CDDVD-310 Video Interview with John Junji Katsu, January 25, 2013
124 minutes
MV01: Topics covered include: Childhood in California; parents coming over from Japan; San Francisco, California fires; moving to Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California; living in horse stalls; life at camp; culture; organization; what helped them get through camp; taking the train to Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"); life at the new camp; schools and hospitals at the camps; effects on family dynamics; effect of not knowing their fate; options available for work and college; reunions of incarcerated Japanese Americans; moving to Kansas City to attend high school; very warm reception by student body; moving with his sister to Washington, DC; adjusting to the feeling of freedom; impressions of Washington, DC; how playing sports helped Katsu with people; being drafted into the Army; Fort Bragg, North Carolina for field artillery training; shipping off to Germany; boxing aboard ship; having German prisoner of war (POWs) aboard the ship for transport back to Europe; landing in Belgium; memory of an incident with a roommate in Germany; meeting a Japanese American from Hawaii who made Katsu a Japanese meal; being reassigned to Schweinfurt, Germany; radio operator for an armored car; having to perform in front of a commanding general for his first assignment; guarding the border between Czechoslovakia and Germany; seeing a football player he knew from Washington, DC; transferring to the Military Government Office; being part of the civil court; impressions of German people; helping to organize activities for German youth; teaching German youth about democracy; coming back home; helping his parents get back on their feet after being in the detention center; college at the University of Maryland; going to Oakland, California for commercial art; work and interests; art; gardening; family; how service helped in life.

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

Joe Kawakami Collection

Collection ID: 30789

[Digital content available](#)

Kawakami was incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), as a child. He went on to serve in the United States Navy during the Korean War, followed by a civilian career as an engineer.

BOX CD/DVD-25

Audio Interview with Joe Kawakami, March 28, 2005

163 minutes

SR01-SR03: Topics covered include: the attack on Pearl Harbor, reactions, going to school; order to go to detention center, father sold business, packing; school in the camps; losing contact with people; living conditions; relocating, father's artwork, a pictorial history of their life in the camps; being children in the camps; victory gardens; feelings parents kept to themselves, Germans and Italians; food at the camps; shipped to Topaz from Tanforan; new school, airplane crashing; brothers volunteering for military service, soldiers from the camp who died; housing; a dog in the camp; throwing water on his dad; the water tower; sneaking out of the camp; Military Police relaxing, gave passes to go outside camp; Kawakami's brother; a painting commissioned; 1992 reunion for formerly incarcerated people, visiting camp; farms; atomic bomb being dropped; future wife lived in Japan during World War II; relocating to Chicago; joined the Navy during Korean War, work as an engineer for Standard Oil; started own engineering firm.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-987

Creative works, 1942-1945

1 folder

MS01: A copy of five paintings of scenes of the Tanforan and Topaz Internment Camps, and one painting of Kawakami's father, Chukaji Nanpo Kawakami. All the painting are watercolors by Chukaji Nanpo Kawakami.

Hayato Kihara collection

Collection ID: 25555

[Digital content available](#)

Kihara was a student at the University of California, Berkeley, before being incarcerated at Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"). In 1944, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with the Military Intelligence Service in Japan, Korea and the United States until his discharge in 1947. Following his service he continued his education at the University of Texas and the University of Wisconsin, and went on to a career as a research biochemist at the Lanterman Biochemistry Laboratory in Pomona, California.

BOX Hi8

Video interview with Hayato Kihara, September 20, 2004

50 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: family background; father's boardinghouse; 1906 San Francisco earthquake; born in Oakland, California, in 1922; childhood experiences in the Great Depression; Japanese Americans expelled from West Coast; initially sent to Tanforan Assembly Center (Tanforan Racetrack), California; poor living conditions at Tanforan; coping strategies; attempt to teach; became recreation director for children; forced removal Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"); crowded housing; deprivation; soil testing for arable land; horrible food; black market for food; rationing; grew produce near camp; joined the military; show of patriotism despite mistreatment; attended Japanese language school as a child; wanted to join the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; recruitment of Japanese Americans; sent to Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) in Camp Savage, Minnesota; accelerated class; basic training in Alabama; costs of previous college in Texas; gained weight; SOS military food; earned five stripes, Zebra Platoon; ill-fitting uniforms;

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container	Contents
	brother was instructor at MISLS; en route furlough to San Francisco; visited parents at Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"); train to Salt Lake City; first assignment to Japan mistakenly redirected to the Philippines; Liberty ship; typhoon en route to Okinawa; sent to Korea; plane to Seoul; directed to Pusan (Busan); family moved back to Monterey; moved MISLS location; family's jobs; sent back to Japan; considered re-enlisting; hired as a chemist for medical research lab in Tokyo; contracted dysentery and hepatitis; sent back to American Army hospital; used GI Bill for graduate school in biochemistry at University of Wisconsin; married in 1950.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-831/1	Military papers, January 11, 1947 1 folder MS01: Kihara's enlisted record and report of separation with his discharge certificate.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-831/2	Photograph, September 20, 2004 1 folder PH01: Digital print, contemporary image of Kihara sitting in a chair, Claremont, CA.
BOX CDDVD-18	Computer Files, undated 1 optical disc CF01: CD-R containing military papers (MS01) in PDF and photograph (PH01) in JPEG format.
Sylvia Kobayashi Collection	
Collection ID: 10675	
Digital content available	
Kobayashi was incarcerated at Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. She was active in pursuing the rights of Japanese Americans during that war, and has published several works on the contribution of Japanese Americans and native Alaskans to the war effort.	
BOX VHS-138	Video Interview with Sylvia Kobayashi, 1990-1997 116 minutes MV01: A collection of interviews Kobayashi did in the early 2000s, some of them on public television. Topics covered include: size of Asian population in Alaska; description of Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho; Aleutian villagers placed under house arrest in Japan so as not to divulge information to Americans; husband's home in California burnt down by anti-Japanese; success of 442nd Regimental Combat Team raised morale among Japanese Americans back home; brief description of husband's military career; German soldiers perplexed about why Japanese would be fighting for the Americans.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-483/1	Printed Matter, undated 1 folder MS01: Papers written by Kobayashi on topics relating to the experiences of Japanese Americans and Aleutians during World War II. Items include: "Alaska at War," detailing the racism that led to the incarceration of Japanese American civilians, with graphic details of the hardships and cruelty inflicted on elderly and young Japanese; "The Silent Warriors," about Japanese American who served while their families were still in detention centers; "Jewels in the Snow," about Japanese immigration into Alaska; "East Meets West," details the imprisonment of Aleutian civilians in World War II by the Japanese; "Mark Hiratsuka," the story of an Eskimo man who joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; "Japan Trip with Nicholas Golodoff," documenting Kobayashi's travel to Japan with an Aleutian man who had been a civilian prisoner of the Japanese in Hokkaido when he was a child; "Forced to Leave," about the forced detention of Japanese Americans and Aleuts by the United States; "Aleuts in Japan," about Aleutians detainees in Japan during World War II.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-483/2	Photographs, 1924 1 folder

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

PH01-PH02: Kobayashi at a reception at Anchorage Airport.

PH03-PH04: Kobayashi's mother and father (1924).

Robert Hiroshi Kono Collection

Collection ID: 8063

[Digital content available](#)

Kono was incarcerated at Tulare Assembly Center, California; Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona; Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming; and Crystal City Internment Camp, Texas, as a child.

BOX VHS-100

Video Interview with Robert Hiroshi Kono, June 17, 2003

82 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: Early life in Los Angeles, California; child of the Great Depression; during that time, moving around a great deal, trying to get jobs, a place to live; life as an only child; fondest childhood memories of five-acre farm near Torrance; having pets; two mile hike to elementary school; father was a fisherman with a leased boat and sold scrap metal that he collected, often to the Japanese government; Pearl Harbor; FBI agents came to take away his father; his father was Issei and spoke little English; mother was second generation and spoke more English; did not see his father for two and a half years; like all fishermen, his father was suspect; Kono and his mother were in dire financial straits; May 1942 forced removal; recollections of his mother being terribly distraught; Kono thought it was all a huge misunderstanding; a train to central California; Tulare Assembly Center, where they lived in barracks; warned to stay six feet away from barbed wire fence; a communal life totally devoid of privacy; felt bewildered, uncertain, and angry; sent to Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona; his mother decides they should join relatives at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming; Boy Scouts; baseball tournaments; schooling; ice skating on frozen ponds; \$3.50 clothing allowance from the Sears-Roebuck "Wish Book;" his mother worked hard at the canteen and in the sugar beet field; they saved enough to buy war bonds; loyalty questionnaire; loyal and disloyal segregated; call for volunteers for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; near end of war, went to Crystal City Internment Camp, Texas, detention center, where he was reunited with his father; housed a handful of Germans and Italians, and Peruvian Japanese; Issei/Nisei schism; against his family's wishes, father wanted to be repatriated to Japan; feelings about returning to Japan; going to a school represented by 30 different nationalities; returning to the United States in 1959 to finish college, get married; bringing his parents back to the United States in 1979.

Akio Konoshima Collection

Collection ID: 27140

[Digital content available](#)

Konoshima was born in Tokyo and grew up in California. He was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, until 1943, when he was released to attend North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. He went on to study journalism at the University of Wisconsin, and worked as a journalist. In 1948, he joined the United States Army and served at G-2 Headquarters, Tokyo, and with the 8th Army Team in Seoul, Korea. Following his discharge in 1948, he attended Columbia University. During his civilian career he worked for Jiji Press in Japan, United Press International in Tokyo and London, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and served as press secretary for Hiram Fong.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Akio Konoshima, March 22, 2004

100 minutes

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: parents from Japan; father taught school; came to United States at age six with mother; grew up in California; graduated high school in 1941; attack on Pearl Harbor was a turning point in his life; Executive Order 9066; sent to Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California; incarcerated at Heart Mountain; left camp in 1943 for Naperville, Illinois to attend North Central College; attended University of Wisconsin's Journalism School; won a boxing scholarship; graduated in 1947; Ypsilanti Daily Press; 6/1950 on a troop ship to Japan; assigned to General Headquarters in Tokyo; assistant mimeograph operator; visited relatives while in Japan; assessment of occupation, eliminated class structure; democratization of Japan; Niseis served as a bridge between Japanese and American officials; volunteered for psychological warfare department; transferred to Korea one week later; assigned to 8th Army; spent 2 months in subzero weather near Chuncheon; discharged at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey; GI Bill; went to Columbia University East Asian Institute after the war; obtained United States citizenship; worked for Jiji Press in Japan; worked for United Press International (UPI) in Tokyo and London; press secretary for Hiram Fong; worked for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); redress movement; President's apology; token compensation.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-887/3** Memoirs, undated
1 folder
MS01: Topics covered include: returning to the United States after years working in Tokyo and London; work for UPI; discussing World War II with veterans; going to work for Senator Hiram Fong; work with the Department of Justice and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); attack on Pearl Harbor; incarceration at Santa Anita and Heart Mountain; agricultural work; leaving camp for Naperville, Illinois, to attend college; transfer to the University of Wisconsin, Madison to study journalism; joining the boxing team; enlisting in the Army; language school; thoughts on the occupation; transfer to Korea; Columbia University East Asian Institute; early life and family.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-887/1** Clippings, 1998-2003
1 folder
MS02: A one page article from the Congressional Record about Konoshima's brother, Joji Konoshima's activities with the 40th Congressional Staff Delegation to China and Hong Kong and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) (9/17/1998); a two page pamphlet for a tribute to Joji Konoshima by the US-Asia Institute, includes a biography of Joji Konoshima (9/26/2003).
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-887/2** Correspondence, April 26, 2005
1 folder
MS03: A letter to Konoshima about his brother, Joji Konoshima, from Hwa-Wei Lee of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress.

Casey Kunimura collection

Collection ID: 101341

Kunimura was incarcerated at Salinas Assembly Center, California, and at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a teenager. In 1943, he was released to take a job in Chicago, Illinois. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1944, and served as a machine gunner with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France and Italy. He went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam, and worked as a civilian Air Force employee.

BOX CDDVD-434

Video Interview with Casey Kunimura, April 1, 2015
56 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: President Franklin Roosevelt signed executive order to remove all Japanese from three western states; boarded a train to detention center in Arizona (Poston Relocation Center); draft classification was 4C but also classified enemy alien; joined 442nd Regimental Combat Team; draft status; 442nd

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

Regimental Combat Team rescued; lost battalion in France; Germany surrendered; 442nd Regimental Combat Team was most decorated unit in World War II; returned to United States and family still in detention center; family moved back to Gilroy, California; not allowed citizenship or to buy property; re-enlisted in Army; sent to Japan for five years and extended service time; participated with 8th Army; finished tour and returned to the United States; entered San Jose College on probation status; finished college in three years; accepted position at Hill AFB in Utah; Air Force Reserve for 22 years; served four years in Vietnam; no animosity during bad times; never bitter; feels good about his country.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-2703/1

Printed Matter, April 1, 2015

1 folder

MS01: Front cover of interview disc that includes image of Kunimura at the time of the interview, Lehi, Utah.

Rosie F. Kuramoto Collection

Collection ID: 15371

[Digital content available](#)

Kuramoto was incarcerated at Sacramento Assembly Center (a.k.a. Walerga Assembly Center), California; Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, as a teenager.

BOX VHS-182

Video Interview with Rosie F. Kuramoto, November 28, 2003

73 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: taking an Americanized name; parents; father getting sent back to Japan; brothers and sisters; childhood; Pearl Harbor attacks; curfew; changes after Pearl Harbor; fears; Executive Order 9066; preparing to move to forced removal detention center; traveling to Walerga Assembly Center; describing the center; Tule Lake Relocation Center; brother drafted into the Army, loyalty questions; Heart Mountain; teachers at Heart Mountain; camp social life; allowance; school days and activities; food at camp; news of the outside world; contact with old friends; camp guards; resistance; way out of Sacramento; going to Chicago; first apartment in Chicago; first job; night school; becoming a house wife, buying first home; meeting husband; incarceration with family; public speaking on incarceration; citizenship of mother; mother post-camp life; visiting camp site.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-620/1

Transcript, November 28, 2003

1 folder

MS01: Transcript of video recording MV01.

Andrew Yoshinobu Kuroda Collection

Collection ID: 27126

[Digital content available](#)

Kuroda and his wife Julia were incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, before being released to move to Colorado. He went on the serve with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Calcutta, India. Julia Kuroda was interviewed on behalf of Andrew Kuroda.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Julia Kuroda, December 15, 2003

86 minutes

MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: Julia's family moved to Livingston, California, with 30-40 Japanese families; Yamamoto Colony; father grew sugar beets; parents from Shizuoka Prefecture; not pushed to study Japanese; Andrew believed Japan was on path to war in 1930s; thought he would be drafted; came to United States to study theology; served pastorates in Washington and Oregon; Julia graduated from University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in education; married Andrew;

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

shocked by attack on Pearl Harbor; FBI agents visited their home and confiscated the cameras; Andrew was a photography enthusiast; forced removal; took what they could carry; train guarded by soldiers with weapons; sent to Tule Lake Relocation Center; description of camp; Andrew spoke up at resident's meeting and was beaten up; family moved to Granada, Colorado; Andrew applied to teach Japanese at University of Michigan Ann Arbor; Julia and the children stayed in Colorado; Julia had two brothers in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; Andrew joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS); trained in New York and sent to Calcutta, India; prepared propaganda leaflets that were dropped over Japanese troop centers in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater; family moved to Washington, DC, after the war; Andrew served on the United States Survey team that traveled to Nagasaki and Hiroshima; specialized in the psychological aspects of bomb victims; Andrew worked for the Library of Congress, Orientalia Department (now the Asian Division); became Unitarian minister; appointed head of Japan section; served at Library of Congress for 30 years; son served in the Air Force during Vietnam as a bomber pilot; Julia had polio at age four; Andrew became a United States citizen in 1954; family.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-2881/1 Transcript, December 15, 2003
1 folder
MS01: Transcript of MV01-MV02.

Katsuko Fujikado Lee Collection

Collection ID: 28183

[Digital content available](#)

Lee was incarcerated at Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho, until she moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, to live with a sponsor family and attend college. Prior to her incarceration, she was a student at the University of Washington. In the post-war period, she worked in a United States civil service position as a secretary in Japan.

BOX audio cassette Audio Interview with Katsuko Fujikado Lee, March 6, 2005
20 minutes
SR01: Topics covered include: being sent to detention center, Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho; environment and living conditions in camp; three brothers being drafted into the United States Army; going to life with "sponsor" family in Salt Lake City, Utah; life with family while her parents remained in camp; corresponding in Japanese with mother; returning to Seattle after the war to help parents, once they were released; working to pay off damage to house during their absence; learning about civil service openings for secretaries in Japan; travel to Japan; meeting husband in Japan.

Mike Masaru Masaoka Collection

Collection ID: 7426

[Digital content available](#)

Masaoka was active in the leadership of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) before and during World War II. In 1943 he entered the United States Army and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy. Following his discharge, he returned to work for the JACL and became a lobbyist and consultant. Masaoka's widow, Etsu Mineta Masaoka, was interviewed on his behalf. Mrs. Masaoka was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming. She is the sister of American politician Norman Mineta.

BOX miniDV Video Interview with Etsu Mineta Masaoka, June 30, 2003
91 minutes
MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: first meeting her husband; Etsu Masaoka's childhood in San Jose, California; attended Japanese school; traveled to Japan in 1924; attack on Pearl Harbor; neighbor took care of the family's house while they

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

were incarcerated; incarcerated at Heart Mountain, Wyoming; family moved to Chicago; Mike Masaoka volunteered for the United States Army; Mike's involvement in Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); lobbying for Japanese interests in Washington, DC; papers at the University of Utah; started consulting firm Masaoka Associates; family moved to Utah; brother, Norman Mineta.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-391 Transcript, June 30, 2003
1 folder
MS01: Transcript of MV01-MV02.

Victor Masao Matsui collection

Collection ID: 71663

[Digital content available](#)

Matsui was a student at the University of California, Los Angeles, before being incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas. In 1945, he was drafted into the United States Army and served with the Counter Intelligence Corps in Japan. After an honorable discharge in July 1952, he joined the American diplomatic service, serving in Cambodia, Egypt, Pakistan, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, and Zaire until his retirement in 1985.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Victor Masao Matsui, August 21, 2009

122 minutes

MV01-MV02: Topics include: Matsui's parents, Tomi Tamura Matsui and Masanaka Matsui, born in Kochi, Japan; parents' journey to the United States; one of six siblings (three boys, three girls); in his youth he attended Moneta Gakuen, Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) Japanese Language School; father taught him the importance of loyalty to America despite anti-Japanese environment after WWII; father was taken by FBI agents to Santa Fe, New Mexico, released and joined family during their transfer from Santa Anita Assembly Center to Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas; making camouflage nets for soldiers while at detention center; difficulties selling crops due to WWII; many of those housed at the detention center including Matsui's mother and father traveled to Seabrook, New Jersey, for employment with frozen food company Seabrook Farms after the war ended; communicating the lessons learned from parents to his own children (two boys, two girls); children's education and careers; listening to the radio and studying when Pearl Harbor occurred; not believing America was justified in incarceration of Japanese Americans; agricultural community in California disseminating anti-Japanese sentiment; various frustrations with questions 27 and 28 of the loyalty questionnaire; training at Camp Blanding in Starke, Florida; attending Military Intelligence Training Unit (MITU) at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, to study Pacific Island(s) military tactics; going to Fort Holabird, Maryland, to train in the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) upon the end of the war in the Pacific; not liking the cold weather in Camp Zama, Japan; being offered a commission as a Chief Warrant Officer (CW01) in 1946; the duties as a CIC Officer to advise/inform military members on the complexities of the Japanese environment post-WWII in order to mitigate future riots; Japanese student movements and labor unions joining together for demonstrations; sabotage of the Japanese National Railways (JNR); social rhetoric of American involvement in the disappearance and death of Sadanori Shimoyama (president of JNR); speaking to Japanese media about the Shimoyama incident; Japanese prisoners of war (POWs) (mostly field grade officers) being held by Russia and made into agents released back to Japan; Japanese Communist Party's (JCP) involvement in socialist movements; half of a million students not able to attend universities due to extremely high academic standards; conservative mindset of Japanese during American occupation; thoughts on what could have been done differently in re-building Japan and Germany; changes in Japan could be considered "superficial"; rice farming; Kenji Osano (owner

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

of Kokusai Kogyo Corp); how Japanese Americans could be considered a bridge between the cultures of America and Japan after WWII; importance of Nisei; Charles Willoughby (Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G2) during Japan occupation); special operations missions conducted during Korean conflict; establishing maritime routes for transporting narcotics; rumor of plague in North Korea during Korean War; receiving Legion of Merit from General Charles Willoughby for role in Korean conflict despite not having set foot in Korea physically; stationed in Cambodia, Egypt, Pakistan, Madagascar, Zaire (Congo).

James Noboru Miho collection

Collection ID: 66630

[Digital content available](#)

Miho was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a teenager. In 1950, he was drafted into the United States Army and served with C Company, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in Korea. Following his discharge in 1952, he attended Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, and went on to a career in advertising and graphic arts.

BOX miniDV

Video interview with James Noboru Miho, July 23, 2009

79 minutes

MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: Introduction; grew up in a small town in California and had an isolated childhood; was incarcerated for four years during World War II; learned that it was possible to lose everything overnight, but as a kid those things do not matter; Japanese classes in the detention centers because they thought they would be sent back; students studied martial arts and Japanese language; his father was a member of Buddhist clubs and was taken away for about a year; his father said the war was over because Germany and Japan should just give up; after World War II things got tough, poverty; his father's Italian partner tried to get him out, the family wanted to stick it out together; being Japanese was not always pleasant; sent to Los Angeles, California, when released, Buddhist temple helped them find a home; went to high school in Pasadena, California; brother's service in Japan, was wounded; when they were going into the military their father said do not get captured; he was drafted; thought boot camp was fascinating; experienced segregation between African-Americans and Caucasians; training was fierce, took it seriously because he knew he would go to Korea; was a crack shot with a rifle; he met a diverse group of people; went to Asia because of knowledge of Japanese; troop ship was filthy and there was a lot of sea sickness; went to Iwo Jima, observed what it would have been like to fight; everything happened at night; volunteers put in safer positions; nothing happened for weeks, got used to it; moved off the front to a frequently mortared hill; started working in communication; had an assistant who believed he could smell death coming; let his assistant do the wiring, could hear the enemy's line tapping; the captain was afraid of being attacked from the side; as soon as you relaxed you would get scared again; this could go on for months; men were scared but ready to fight; lost fear of fighting, way of life; captain put guard on him, as Miho was suspected of being a spy for the Japanese Imperial Army; Russians supplying communists with supplies; Douglas MacArthur was fired by President Harry Truman for wanting to use the atomic bomb; seven months in the military he had Joseph Cotton's brother as a driver, but got rid of him because Miho thought he was too nervous and it worried him; was given the rank of sergeant; the captain had a problem with the Turkish soldiers, they would go out with knives at night and bring back noses and ears of Koreans, the captain wanted them trained; Miho trained Turkish soldiers by bribing them with cigarettes; given time off and sent to Japan; on a plane going to Tokyo, Japan, and the engine caught fire; shocked by the site of Tokyo, the city was in rubble; was there in winter, very cold; Japanese veteran was begging, the Japanese around

him were insulted by Miho giving him money because they believed the veteran should be dead, “die for the emperor”; Karo, Japan to Yashima, Japan; black-market in Tokyo; there was an agreement not to bomb Karo because of its spiritual value, it looked like the 18th century; had a taxi driver that was a monk who drove him around the city; shocked by the beauty of the place, decided not to go to Virginia Military Institute (VMI) or West Point; Tokyo had a lot of problems like gangs; went back to Korea, told Captain he wanted to get out of there as soon as possible; trained in infantry then communications; when he got back to Camp Roberts, California, he was trained in tanks; he spent 10-11 months in Korea; such as beautiful site to see the San Francisco Bridge; he heard Kate Smith sing the Star-Spangled Banner; really felt like he was back at home; back to Fort Roberts then back to school; did not want any of the medals, his brother got one (Purple Heart) and died; parents did not think it was normal; received Bronze Star for not losing a battle; should be given to those who volunteered; the effects of problems with race were shown in obtuse ways; could not understand why captured communist soldiers had given up; prisoners gave names, rank, and serial numbers because of Geneva Convention laws; thought they gave up because they wanted a warm meal; Miho did not want to interrogate the prisoners; that was the closest he ever got to the enemy; he told his men that if you could see their faces you were too close; weapons and the black market, having trouble getting supplies because of it; stole supplies from black market vendors because of fear of Japanese; seeing injured child; he and his assistant stole a division headquarters jeep; batteries were used to power GI radio; the casualties were bloody, did not want to talk about it; after the battles the sides would not fire on each other when picking up the dead, saw the softer side of war; a man shot right next to him in a tent because of a dispute over the murderer's sister; under-manned at the front; military tribunal; did not write really write letters home because it was dangerous and because he did not want to remember it; Korean history; dream about sleep because of fear and cold; even at Camp Roberts they wanted him to go to West Point; want to be a designer or architecture; went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; amazed by Civil War battles, comparison to Korea; saw assistant's name on Vietnam Memorial Wall; taught to move on because he did not die in the war; had Russian pistol, Korean bayonet and flag of North Korea and traded them for books; received medals and uniforms at Camp Roberts, threw it all out because he wanted to forget.

John Mitsumori Collection**Collection ID:** 7195[Digital content available](#)

Mitsumori was incarcerated at Tulare Assembly Center, California, and Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona. He was released to attend the University of Nebraska, before joining the United States Army. He served in Texas, Florida, and Alaska.

Audio Interview with John Mitsumori, March 12, 2003

60 minutes

SR01: Topics covered include: ranks and war; "buzz bombs"; Elgin Field, Florida air show; reaction to Pearl Harbor attack; relocated to Tulare Assembly Center, California, and then Gila River Relocation Center; released to attend University of Nebraska; living conditions in camps; brother in France, father in Japan; Mitsumori is in Alaska testing; aircrafts and cars; leisure time; friendships from Alaska; testing in Elgin Field P-80 airplane; bombing site; races in the war; training with Japanese/American combat teams; gas; live fire; mortars marches; feelings at the end of the war; what went on in Alaska; traveling home; had to stay in Canada; experience back home; after the war; father still in Japan; finding work; work experiences.

Photographs, circa 1944

1 folder

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

PH01: Photocopy of a photograph of Mitsumori at the University of Nebraska in Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) uniform.

Tom S. Miya collection

Collection ID: 51626

[Digital content available](#)

Miya was a student at the University of California, Berkeley, at the outbreak of World War II. He was incarcerated at Fresno Assembly Center (Fresno Fairgrounds), California, before being released to attend the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. In 1945, he was drafted into the United States Army and after basic training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, he served with the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) at Camp Ritchie, Maryland and Fort Meade, Maryland. Following his discharge, he continued his education, and went onto a career in pharmacology and toxicology.

BOX CDDVD-73

Video Interview with Tom S. Miya, January 4, 2007

29 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: Japanese incarceration; parents sent to an temporary incarceration camp in California and then incarcerated at Jerome Relocation Center, Arkansas; student at UC Berkeley; went to Fresno Assembly Center (Fresno Fairgrounds), California, released to attend the University of Nebraska, Lincoln; drafted; basic training at Camp Robinson; selected for Officer Candidate School (OCS) but orders changed, sent to Camp Ritchie, counterintelligence training center; Provost Marshal General's office, Fort Meade; carried top secret papers to the Pentagon; discharged early because he agreed to remain in the Army Reserve; returned to Nebraska, continued his education; reaction to being incarcerated, parents' reaction; worked in hospital in temporary incarceration camp; found Nebraskans very accepting; had little contact with family during the war; daily life in the temporary incarceration camp; duties in counter intelligence; did not experience racism or prejudice as an individual; counterintelligence training; first trip to the Pentagon.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-1456

Photograph, undated

1 folder

PH01: Group of soldiers standing in front of the Counter Intelligence Corps Center.

Edward Miyakawa Collection

Collection ID: 5771

[Digital content available](#)

Miyakawa was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a child. After completing a loyalty questionnaire, his father was permitted to move the family to Colorado, where he attempted to reestablish his produce business before eventually returning the family to California. Miyakawa served in the United States Navy from 1952 to 1956. He is the author of the novel, "Tule Lake".

BOX VHS-81

Video Interview with Edward Miyakawa, April 29, 2003

93 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: Growing up in Japanese community in Sacramento, California; father highly educated, worked in produce business; attack on Pearl Harbor; prejudice against Japanese Americans; racism; forced removal; Executive Order 9066; moving from home to temporary incarceration camp; on train to Tule Lake Relocation Center, Quaker woman and daughter passing out sandwiches, symbolic of people who didn't agree with what the government was doing; living conditions, shared latrines, laundry, mess hall; didn't like food, stopped eating and began losing weight; had a miserable time in camp, felt friends turned against him; loyalty questionnaire; forced removal from Tule Lake to Colorado; first Japanese

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

American family in Boulder, Colorado; moving back to California; reasons for joining the military; joined the Navy for GI Bill; surveyor with Seabees; serving in Japan.

Yukio W. Miyamoto Collection

Collection ID: 19359

[Digital content available](#)

Miyamoto was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, until 1943, when he was released to move to Chicago. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in Italy with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. After the 442nd was disbanded, he was transferred to the 5th Army Headquarters, and subsequently served with the 206th Army Ground Forces (AGF) Band; 117th Army Ground Forces (AGF) Band; and 74th Army Ground Forces (AGF) Band.

BOX VHS-250

Video Interview with Yukio W. Miyamoto, April 24, 2004

54 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: early life; thoughts on being drafted; training; first experiences in battle; use of weapons; casualties; enemy prisoners of war (POW); transferred to the 5th Army Headquarters; changes in attitudes towards Japanese Americans; work post war; memorable experiences.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-701/1

Biographical information, undated

1 folder

MS01: Unattributed biographical sketch of Miyamoto entitled, "Moving With Music";
Unattributed biographical sketch of Miyamoto entitled, "Proving Their Loyalty."

BOX-FOLDER MSS-701/2

Military papers, 1946

1 folder

MS02: Separation form; Honorable Discharge certificate; Honorable Discharge form;
Presidential Commendation certificate signed by President Harry S. Truman.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-701/3

Photographs, circa 1944-1946

1 folder

PH01: Photocopy of photograph of Miyamoto wearing false "bugged-out" eyes unfolding a pin-up picture, Italy.

PH02: Photocopy of photograph of an unidentified soldier, Italy.

PH03: Photocopy of photograph of Miyamoto playing a string bass, Italy (12/1946).

Takanori Mizuta Collection

Collection ID: 98950

[Digital content available](#)

Mizuta was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army and completed basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, before serving with the Quartermaster Corps, 3rd Army, in France and Germany.

BOX CD/DVD-408

Video Interview with Takanori Mizuta, January 29, 2010

30 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: reaction to being drafted; incarcerated at Heart Mountain War Relocation Center, Wyoming; basic training; experiencing racial segregation for the first time; arrived in Europe after the end of the war; attending college classes while in Europe; giving candy a child and finding her again many years later; occupation duty; rarely wrote to his family; brother's service; difficulty remembering everyday things; photography; sightseeing trips; travel to Europe; friendships; Japanese Americans in the service; feelings about having served; adjusting to civilian life.

Arthur Takashi Morimitsu Collection

Collection ID: 93003

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

Digital content available

Morimitsu was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, before enlisting in the United States Army. He trained at Camp Savage, Minnesota and served with the Mars Task Force, Military Intelligence Service in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater, and with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Japan.

BOX VHS-579

Video Interview with Arthur Takashi Morimitsu, July 15, 1985
60 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: early life and attitudes towards Japanese Americans; Japanese Americans' role in agriculture; special interest groups that turned people against Japanese Americans; sent to Assembly Center; life in forced removal camp in California, Tule Lake; Army needed to recruit translators and interpreters; reactions to his decision to enlist; entry into the Army; sent to language school at Camp Savage; sent to North Burma in a commando unit as a muleskinner and interpreter for Japanese prisoners of war; arrival in Burma; commanding officer's instructions in the event of capture; duties as a muleskinner; Burma road mission; translating documents and learning Japanese order of battle; interrogating Japanese prisoners.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-2479/1

Civilian Papers, September 1998
1 folder

MS01: Copy of Morimitsu's death certificate.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-2479/2

Clippings, 1998
1 folder

MS02: "NJAMF announces agenda for upcoming board meeting," Pacific Citizen, 10/16/1998 - 11/05/1998. Includes notice regarding Morimitsu's memorial service.

Kennie Namba Collection

Collection ID: 8094

Digital content available

Namba was incarcerated at the Portland Assembly Center, Oregon, and Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1944 and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France and Italy. He was wounded by a German hand grenade while in combat in Italy, and spent 40 days in the hospital. Following his service he attended the University of Portland and worked at Pacific Power and Light for 30 years. In 1947, Namba and his father, Etsuo Namba, helped file a lawsuit, Kenji Namba v. McCourt, successfully challenging the constitutionality of Oregon's Alien Land Law that had prevented people of Japanese ancestry from owning land in the state.

BOX VHS-147

Video Interview with Kennie Namba, July 10, 2003
122 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: family, farming, and the depression prior to the war; reactions and verbal abuse from whites prior to war; executive order to move to camps; losing everything and being loaded into trucks and taken to camp; reparation from the government; living conditions in the camps; decision to join the Army; service in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; return to the states and discrimination by locals in spite of being in uniform; wife Ruth's discrimination in the town she grew up in; "No-no" group who refused to state their loyalty to the United States and service in the Army; split in the Japanese American community over the No-nos; and Ruth's war work in Minneapolis. Kennie Namba's wife, Ruth Inukai Namba, was also interviewed along with her husband for the last 30 minutes of the interview. Their joint segment focuses on her experience as a Japanese American formerly incarcerated person at Tule Lake, California, and life in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during World War II.

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

Calvin Ninomiya collection

Collection ID: 71769

[Digital content available](#)

Ninomiya was incarcerated at Puyallup Assembly Center (a.k.a. "Camp Harmony"), Washington, and Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. After completing high school at Minidoka Relocation center, he attended Oberlin College, in Ohio. In 1946, he was drafted in to the United States Army and trained in military intelligence but was discharged on compassionate grounds after both of his parents died and his brother was killed in action. Following his discharge, he attended the University of Washington followed by law school at the University of Chicago and began a career with the United States Treasury.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Calvin Ninomiya, September 23, 2009

86 minutes

Topics covered include: born in Seattle, Washington; unknown eldest sibling; lived in Seattle up to age 15; little contact with parents; father from Okayama; parents came separately for economic reasons; grew up in Japantown; 15 when Pearl Harbor was bombed; curfew; no understanding of direct effect of the war; street signs about forced removal; too young to be too concerned; sent to Puyallup Assembly Center (a.k.a. "Camp Harmony"), Washington; fairgrounds converted to barracks; 9,000-10,000 people there, mostly from Seattle; arrived in May 1942; sent to Minidoka Relocation Center in August 1942; Bainbridge Island experience; considerable property losses for Japantown residents; forced removal was an example of militarized racism, used to usurp Japanese properties, prejudicial action; bad mark on United States government; amends and compensation not sufficient; brother was in service; was a student leader at Minidoka high school; Caucasian teachers at Minidoka; Minidoka located near Jerome, Idaho; how and why teachers were recruited; teachers lived close to gate of the Center; guidance counselor to help resettle or relocate children at the camp; attended Oberlin College in Ohio; difficult adjustment; brother was killed in action while Ninomiya was at Oberlin; senior roommate took him to congregational minister for counsel; received draft notice; went to Cleveland for physical examination; after first semester, went back to Minidoka ahead of draft (early 1946); worked at camp newspaper and for minister until called into service in June; inducted at Fort Douglas, Utah, with other Japanese Americans; sent to Camp Fannin, in Texas; integrated with white inductees (not black); notified that father had died while at Camp Fannin; parents had left Minidoka by 1946; father killed in hit-and-run, no ID at the time; mother left alone; compassionate leave for funeral; became member of different company on return; provision for sole surviving sons; transferred to Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling; mother hospitalized; difficulty speaking to mother in Japanese; mother died before he could be discharged; discharged at Camp McCoy despite parents' death; had attended Japanese language after-school in Seattle; entered service around end of European War; brother served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in Bruyeres; brother had poor eyesight; brother sent to Fort Sheridan, Illinois to do medical work; then directed to Camp Shelby to join 442nd Regimental Combat Team; letter from fellow service member; wife and Ninomiya visited Bruyeres; wrote article for Seattle Times; meeting other Japanese veterans through the article; brother's body sent to Seattle cemetery; wound up being the beneficiary of brother's GI insurance; after discharge, returned to Seattle; sister and brother-in-law operated a hotel; moved into a room in the hotel; attended University of Washington; graduated early; attended University of Chicago law school; decided to go into government work; got a job with the United States Treasury in Chicago; transferred to Washington DC; career with the Treasury.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-2020/1 Clippings, May 30, 1999

1 folder

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- MS01: Clipping pulled from "Seattle Times" about Ninomiya visiting the place where his brother died in World War II; also includes several images provided by Ninomiya's family that include: his brother, Ban's burial site at Epinal, France after his death in battle; Ninomiya's family standing at the monument of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the woods outside Bruyeres, France; Ninomiya and Ban before drafted in the Army; Ninomiya and wife stopping at a road sign "Rue du 442eme Regiment Americain d'Infanterie" in Bruyeres, France.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-2020/2** Digital Prints, 1945-2009
1 folder
PH01: Service portrait of Ninomiya [06/1945 - 02/1946].
PH02: Ninomiya at the time of interview [2009].
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-2020/3** Photocopy of photographic prints, 1945-1946
1 folder
PH03: Photocopy of a photograph of an unidentified man. PH04: Photocopy of a photograph of an unidentified woman. PH05: Photocopy of a photograph of Ninomiya and buddy. PH06: Photocopy of a photograph of an open field.

Alfred T. Nitta Collection

Collection ID: 70270

[Digital content available](#)

Nitta was incarcerated at Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho, before enlisting in the United States Army. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy.

BOX CD/DVD-177

Video Interview with Alfred T. Nitta, February 17, 2010

39 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: Early life and family; boyhood working on farm with siblings; enlisted while incarcerated at Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho; service due to father's accident; basic training in Florida; emergency furlough; basic training again; after V-E Day; Camp Ritchie, Maryland; Japanese soldiers with weapons for troops on way to Pacific Theater; after V-J Day to Italy; Naples to Pisa; guard duty; public profile; members of 442nd Regimental Combat Team; treated well by Italians; lots of passes and no KP; German prisoners of war (POW) worked for United States Army; from Pisa with integrated unit; traveled all over Italy; citations; the usual but no combat; after 13 months in Italy spent 13 months in the United States; Camp Beale, California for discharge in 1946; not much communication; retired to farm; GI Bill; bought ranch from father with loan; own family with five children; military today does a good job; would do service again if asked; glad to be in 442nd Regimental Combat Team and honored everyone; gave money to National World War II Museum; name is on museum's wall; being asked by Army to play enemy soldier which was the worst experience in service.

George Okamoto Collection

Collection ID: AFC2001/001/85765

[Digital content available](#)

Okamoto was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, with his family as a teenager, but was released when he secured a job as an illustrator in Chicago, Illinois. In 1944, he decided to join the military. After being rejected by the Marine Corps and the Navy, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with Company I, 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy. He was severely wounded during combat operations in Northern Italy. Following his recovery, he was discharged and returned to Chicago to work as an artist and illustrator.

BOX AC-657

Audio Interview with George Okamoto, January 10, 2007

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- SR01: Topics covered include: Life in Poston Relocation Center, Arizona; brother drafted; enlisting to be with brother; Japanese Americans only allowed in Army and not other branches; digging fox hole; getting shot by Germans; one year in hospital; V-mail sent to parents.
- BOX CDDVD-288** Without Due Process: Japanese Americans and World War II, 1992
44 minutes
MV01: Documentary about Japanese detention centers in the United States including interviews with the Okamoto, family members and others.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-02316/1** Military papers, July 26, 1946
1 folder
MV01: Okamoto's discharge paperwork (07/26/1946).
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-02316/2** Printed Matter, 2001
1 folder
MS02: Cover submitted with documentary film MV01 (2001).

Toshikazu Okamoto collection

Collection ID: 106737

[Digital content available](#)

Okamoto was incarcerated at Pinedale Assembly Center, California and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California. He was also briefly transferred to Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1944, and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy. Following his discharge, he worked as a mechanic in the motor pool for the Seattle Fire Department.

- BOX CDDVD-494** Video Interview with Toshikazu Okamoto, August 31, 2016
20 minutes
MV01: Topics covered include: biographical information; detention detention centers; drafted into Army; heavy duty mechanic, tanks, DUKW; unit forms, training in California; put with other Japanese soldiers, go to Italy; replacements for 442nd Regimental Combat Team; attached to the 88th Infantry Division 08/1944 to 09/1945; after war, visiting veterans; language problem, barrier at hospital; founding of Keiro nursing home; end of career, retirement; legacy, children.

William Hisao Omoto Collection

Collection ID: 65384

[Digital content available](#)

Omoto was incarcerated at Salinas Assembly Center, California, and Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, before being drafted into the United States Army. He served with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in France and Italy.

- BOX CD/DVD-137** Audio Interview with William Hisao Omoto, July 26, 2007
56 minutes
SR01: Topics covered include: birth in Los Gatos, California, moving to Monterey, California, growing-up pleasant; how Monterey changed, more small town than now, walking to get places; parents, father moved to Monterey to work for Owl Cleaners, owned by friend, good with tools; after Pearl Harbor family moved to Gonzalez, sent to Salinas Assembly Center, California; train to Poston Relocation Center, Arizona; graduated from high school in detention center; enlistment in Army; living at camp being harder on parents than younger generation, participating in athletics, layout of camp; loyalty questionnaire received in detention center, asked if he pledged allegiance to the United States, if he would enlist in military, a few people replied no and were sent to federal prison; basic training; protest, anti-Japanese sentiment, Monterey close-knit community; when camp closed Monterey Herald published advertisement welcoming Japanese American citizens; Monterey Savings

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

and Loan took care of house so still owned property; pay for work at camp, many families lost homes; when Pearl Harbor attacked, watching movie with brother, movie interrupted and soldiers told to report to base, parents worried, some families burning everything they owned with Japanese writing on it; government confiscated cameras, father collected old cameras, were returned after war; served in 442nd Regimental Combat Team, after basic training in Florida, visited family, some Japanese went into military intelligence; train back home, stopped in south, experiencing racial segregation, confusion over what bathroom to use; treated with respect while serving in Army, invited to sit in first class seating, preferential dining service on train; joining 100th Battalion, hearing about rescue of Lost Battalion in France, about 800 casualties, knew replacements were to be needed, serving on border between Italy and France; making friends with other Japanese Americans from Monterey area; work consisted of going on patrol in region, unit pulled out, sent to Italy, diversionary operation, supposed to trick Germans thinking it was full attack, was expected to just hold Germans but overran them to Lake Pomo, elite German troops left; what it was like going to war, aloof about participation in Europe, everyone thought Germany would be defeated, men of 442nd Regimental Combat Team worried they would not be sent to Pacific because of ancestry; when one patrol helping to carry ammunition for machine gun, sniper shot at them, bullet hitting his rifle, had to find another gun, finding a Thompson machine gun; named squad leader, leading men down vineyard to village, Germans firing on them, using vineyard as cover, Thompson gun had bad range, had to find new gun; man shot in stomach by sniper, died, from Monterey, friendly fire; in constant combat, not considered the worst, too young to be affected; not treated differently than white soldiers, the white soldiers often stuck up for them, when discharged in Chicago, Army members would buy them drinks; VE-Day, sent on time killing tasks, sightseeing, guarding prisoner of war (POW) camp, mostly old men; receiving medals, some upgraded by government years later; life after war, discharge, time in Chicago, moving to Monterey, fixing family home for father and brother, GI Bill for college at Hartnell, time working for bank, plumbing company, for county of Monterey, real estate appraiser, retirement; proud of service, friends who died from basic training by 88 millimeter shell, family proud of service, brother sending newspaper clippings about 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-1885/1

Photograph, July 26, 2007

1 folder

PH01: A contemporary photograph of Omoto sitting in his home, Monterey, California (7/26/2007).

BOX CD/DVD-137

Computer file, July 26, 2007

1 CD

CF01: A CD-R containing audio recording (SR01) in MP3 format and photograph (PH01) in JPEG format.

Peter K. Ota Collection

Collection ID: 77134

[Digital content available](#)

Ota was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California and Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"), until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1944. He served with the 9206th Technical Service Unit in Kentucky and California as a Japanese interpreter for prisoners of war.

BOX CD/DVD-222

Video Interview with Peter K. Ota, February 17, 2011

52 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: introduction; growing up in Los Angeles, mix of nationalities; parents born in Japan immigrated to United States in early 1900s; father in agriculture started own business; younger sister; Japanese incarceration; father, who

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

was member of Chamber of Commerce, picked up by FBI, the family did not know where he was for two months; family sent to Santa Anita Assembly Center, father stayed in jail; detailed background on family being separated during incarceration; Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"); attended school in the detention center; drafted 1944; segregated boot camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky; military did not know what to do with them; sent to Fort Meade, Maryland then orders overseas to Europe; end of war in Europe; sent to Angel Island, California; interpreter for Prisoners of War (POWs), Imperial Marines die-hards from Guadalcanal and Saipan, didn't believe war was over, included civilian soldiers and teenagers aged 14-16 from Okinawa; the teenagers wanted to stay in America, nothing left in Okinawa, they were kept separate from Marines; recreation, off base to visit friends in Oakland and San Francisco, California; wrote letters; moved to Los Angeles, California, after service father and sister already there; school on GI Bill, Accountant; met with friends from detention center, Joe Guerra, from elementary school; treatment by others, racism; spoke during government hearings on treatment of Japanese.

William T. Oune collection

Collection ID: 98428

[Digital content available](#)

Oune was incarcerated at San Joaquin County Fairgrounds (Stockton, California) and Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas. Following World War II, he and his family moved to Japan, where he lived until 1950. After moving back to the United States, Oune studied English and worked on farms. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1952, and served as a translator in Japan and Korea.

BOX CDDVD-398

Video Interview with William T. Oune, January 14, 2015

90 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: Early life in Lodi, California; grandparents immigrated through Hawaii (Kauai Island) in early 1900s, worked on a sugarcane farm, returned to Hiroshima, Japan; mother and father both born on Kauai; parents were American citizens, grandparents weren't; in 1931, parents wed in Japan then went to Hawaii; father's older brother was in Lodi; parents moved to California, worked in vineyards and fruit farms; childhood recollections; mother used box for makeshift crib while she picked grapes; went to Hamilton Elementary, then Buchanan Grammar School; at Buchanan when war started; spoke Japanese and English; parents' names; eldest of four siblings; got notice to assemble in 1942; some belongings, left furniture, cars; after Pearl Harbor, Oune suddenly became 'enemy' at school; peers were no longer friendly; harassment got worse; stopped attending school; aunt from Los Angeles came to stay in Lodi; parents were disappointed and angry; parents' attitudes about Pearl Harbor; grandparents in Japan had to surrender metal religious objects to government; living conditions for relatives in Japan during the war; parents kept working; farmer friend stored parents' belongings when they were incarcerated; assembled at Stockton horse racing track (Stockton Assembly Center); some people had to live in horse stalls; Oune and family lived next to aunt; waited for camps to be built; took train to Arkansas (Rohwer Relocation Center); swampy place; catching crayfish in flooded ditches at camp; attended third grade at camp; loyalty questionnaire; father was so angry about forced removal he signed "No-No", sent to Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; Tule Lake formerly incarcerated people made snail shell necklaces; father would harvest cypress cones in Rohwer for decorations; father excavated arrowheads at Tule Lake; farmland outside Rohwer; too isolated to try to escape; incident where guard shot an unjustly removed person, riot followed; tank came through camp as scare tactic; after war ended, family went to Japan in 1946; friend's recollections of Hiroshima bombing, black rain falling, people burned; grandparents protected by a mountain; injured Japanese had to go

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

through grandparents' village to escape, impromptu nursing station set up for victims; cousin was in Hiroshima at the time of the bombing, was protected by a wall falling on her, had radiation cancer years later; impact of radiation on survivors of the Hiroshima bombing; family lived on grandparents' farm; father had a short-wave radio they smuggled into the detention center; heard news on the radio, like Emperor's surrender; discussion in the camp about why the war had even happened; rationing after war; ten people had to share a 100-pound bale of rice; made rice into gruel, add whatever vegetables handy; picked matsutake mushrooms; made compost; visited Hiroshima (city) unaware of radiation risks; desolation, ruins of city; went to see Atomic Bomb Dome; 13 years old when went to Japan, stayed till 18; grandfather said farm boys didn't need education; father was angry, said to study in America; parents wanted to return; Oune returned to United States in 1950; went to Lodi with relative; picked cherries, grapes; went to San Francisco to study English; started high school (freshman year) in 1951; picked pears in summer of 1952; got drafted into the Army that summer (age 20); no animosity from white people; parents' decisions re: staying in United States versus going to Japan; free boat ride to Japan; father and siblings returned to United States later; basic training at Fort Ord (infantry); sent to Japan, near Tokyo; ordered to Chiba for Korean language school; assigned to 23rd Company, Military Intelligence Service (MIS) as replacement for translator; sent to Korea; able to visit parents in Hiroshima; grandparents passed away during service; after Korean War ended, wanted to be a mechanic; used GI Bill to go to Northrop (mechanic school); caught Asian flu/pneumonia six months in; spent all money on medical care; had to work instead of go to school; mother stayed in Japan; after flu, worked in Japanese hardware store in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles for 12 years; bought a house in Fountain Valley; became a gardener, tree-trimmer; met wife through friend; dance group; first date; [wife joins interview]; wife's experiences in America; meeting each other in 1958; married in 1960; first child in 1962; childrens first visit to Japan; children and their occupations; family life; retirement; reflections on American attitudes and Muslim people; desire for global harmony.

Hank Oyama collection

Collection ID: 82752

[Digital content available](#)

Oyama was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a teenager. In 1945, he was drafted into the United States Army and received orders to serve as an interpreter in the Pacific. However, he did not speak Japanese, but spoke Spanish as a first language. (His mother, Mary Matsushima, was raised in Mexico and spoke primarily Spanish.) He was reassigned to a counterintelligence unit and deployed to the Panama Canal Zone as a Spanish translator. Following his release from active duty, Oyama earned degrees in education, pursued a career as an educator, and was an advocate for bilingual education. In addition to his career in education, he also served as an officer in the United States Air Force Reserve until 1982.

BOX CDDVD-260

Video Interview with Hank Oyama, November 20, 2011

77 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: born in Tucson, Arizona; grew up in Mexican-American neighborhoods; mother grew up in Mexico; father died before Oyama was born; didn't speak Japanese but spoke Spanish and English; sent to Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) to be interpreter in South Pacific; switched to counterintelligence because didn't actually speak Japanese; became counterintelligence agent in Central America in Canal Zone; education; buddies in Tucson asked him for help getting into LULAC, League of United Latin American Citizens; 15 when family was incarcerated; incarcerated for a year and two months; Del Webb's detention centers in Arizona; sent to Poston War Relocation Center, Arizona, which was on

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

reservation land; sent to Phoenix by Greyhound then to Mayer finally to Poston; sandy jellybeans for dinner; mattresses filled with grass; housed in barracks; wire to form rooms; could not finish high school; signed up to cook at camp to secure food for family; schooling at the camp; activities and entertainment at the camp; jitterbug; needed a waiver to enlist, parents wouldn't sign; young men drafted from camps; friend refused service by barber because he was Japanese American; life at camp; nothing compared to European concentration camps; drafted at 18; no experiences of discrimination; basic training in Fort Hood, Texas; six or seven people including Oyama put in remedial Japanese; snow; USO shows; counterintelligence training in Baltimore; loyalty checks; had to do some surveillance, protect high ranking officers; given car and apartment; became an officer through ROTC; after the war ended, enrolled at University of Arizona; GI Bill; veterans' advisor Dave Windsor; easy English class; influence of mother, late wife, and present wife; childhood in Tucson; knew Linda Ronstadt and her father; 442nd Regimental Combat Team were highly decorated; Oyama was not in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; advanced military in ROTC; when camp closed, ordered to report to Greyhound bus station and travel to Phoenix; bachelor's, Master's, honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Arizona; WWII helped the average American; gain wisdom in the service; GI Bill and middle class; worked at Safford Junior High School; went into Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) after time in Panama; Lieutenant Colonel in First Wartime Information Squadron detachment; one small unit per port of entry, including Tucson; inspection procedures; experiences as agent; inactive Air Force Reserve after University of Arizona; teaching at the same time; career as an educator; bilingual education; relationship to Mexican American community; racial and ethnic diversity in Tucson and elsewhere; reflections on military service and subsequent career; importance of education and Veterans History Project.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-2249/1

Biography, 2011

1 folder

MS01: A summary of Oyama's incarceration, service in the Army as a Spanish translator, and service in the Air Force as a reserve officer.

Roy M. Oyama collection

Collection ID: 19609

[Digital content available](#)

Oyama was incarcerated at the Pinedale Assembly Center, California; Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; and Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. During his incarceration, he was permitted to leave the camps to work on local farms. In April 1945, he was inducted into the United States Army, and after training at Camp Wolters, Texas, he served with the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in Germany. Following his discharge, Oyama studied auto mechanics and bookkeeping, and eventually began a career with the United States Postal Service.

BOX CDDVD-14

Video Interview with Roy M. Oyama, December 2, 2003

68 minutes

MV01: Topics include: grew up on a farm in Auburn, Washington; two brothers and one sister; graduated from Auburn High School in 1941; participating in judo tournaments; not knowing what to do after school; on the day of the Pearl Harbor attack he heard the news on the radio and was shocked; receiving correspondence in their town from the "Western Defense Command and Fourth Army Wartime Civil Control Administration" regarding instructions for those with Japanese ancestry; feeling humiliated by being classified as an enemy alien (4-C) by the government; brother drafted into the Army in 1941; family evacuated and traveled by train for three days and nights to Pinedale Assembly Center, California, on May 10, 1942; relocating to Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, and then Minidoka Relocation

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

Camp, Idaho; no guarantee that their belongings would be returned to them after the war; stuffing bags with straw to serve as their mattress; sinking into the asphalt while sleeping through the night; having to use community toilets; families were able to stay together while incarcerated; parents proud of brother's service regardless of anti-Japanese sentiment during that time; drafted in April 1945 and classification changing to eligible for military service (1-A); Japanese housed at Tule Lake camp, became primary facility for Japanese that answered No and No to questions 27 and 28 of loyalty questionnaire; met wife Nori at Minidoka camp; wrote to his brother about volunteering for military service, leaving it up to the government on whether to serve in the Army or not; physical conducted in December of 1944; playing pinochle; writing to the General Services Administration requesting documents regarding time spent at detention centers upon approval of H.R. 442 in 1988; jeep patrols conducted at camp, not feeling any negative feelings from soldiers; Japanese Americans were extremely important in sugar beet harvesting; parents' bank account was put into older brother's name during stay at detention centers; mother packed many of their personal belongings before moving to camp; radios while in camp; wanted to join the 442nd Regimental Combat Team but not able to; proud to serve in the Army; VE-Day; training at Camp Wolters, Texas; mother was living in Ogden, Utah when Oyama received word that her appendix had ruptured, he traveled back home and stayed with his mother for about a month; VJ-Day; going to Germany for Occupation duty; having conversation with Caucasian soldier about joining the Army despite anti-Japanese environment; government gave Japanese people who were forcibly removed from their homes \$25 (only if family had less than \$500 in savings) to relocate their families after ceasing detention centers; churches in Seattle, Washington, opened their doors for formerly incarcerated people that had no place to go; soldiers from the Minidoka Relocation Center suffered the most casualties and two Medal of Honor recipients (James K. Okubo and William Nakamura); returned to Idaho after tour in Germany; worked for the United States Post Office for 30 years; three sons, living with second son; not traveling back to Japan; mother was a "picture bride"; received letter from President George H. W. Bush apologizing for injustice of Japanese detention centers during World War II.

Sam S. Ozaki Collection

Collection ID: 75775

[Digital content available](#)

Ozaki was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Jerome Relocation Center, Arkansas, before enlisting in the United States Army in 1944. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy and France.

BOX CD/DVD-210

Audio Interview with Sam S. Ozaki, September 19, 2009

67 minutes

SR01-SR02: Topics covered include: initial reaction to the bombing of Pearl Harbor; sent to Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and then to Jerome Relocation Camp, Arkansas; thoughts on incarceration; loyalty questionnaire; reasons for enlisting; facing prejudice at Camp Shelby, Mississippi; BAR Man (Browning Automatic Rifle) in his platoon; serving with Daniel Inouye; experience with the Lost Battalion; keeping in touch with family; emotions experienced during battle; entertainment; brother, Yoji, also served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; recollections of high school friends in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; career in education; incarcerated with only the possessions he could carry; father taken by the FBI, separated from the family; early education; job in the recreation department while incarcerated; reasons for enlisting; Lost Battalion; liberation of Dachau; impact of service on his life.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-2189

Transcript, September 19, 2009

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

1 folder
MS01: Transcript of SR01.

Kiyo Sato Collection

Collection ID: 68443

[Digital content available](#)

Sato was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona. She left the camp to attend college in Michigan and became a nurse. During the Korean War, she joined the United States Air Force Nurse Corps and served in Texas, the Philippines, and Japan.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Kiyo Sato, August 27, 2009

57 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: Early life; reason for joining Air Force in 1951; rejected by Navy during World War II because she was Japanese American; nursing school; prejudice in Texas, 1951; assigned to Philippines; time at Clark Air Force Base (AFB); officers club; sent to Japan; father goes to America; pre-war prejudice in America; brother in 442nd Regimental Combat Team; Japanese reaction to her; goes to father's hometown and meets family for first time; discharged in Japan; awaiting orders; leaves Japan on USS Stillman; land issues while in camps; reaction to how her family was treated; Poston Relocation Center, Arizona; allowed to go East to college; federal investigation of her; Ms. Cox, school teacher saw her off to camps; brother went into Army; how people tried to normalize life for children's sake; father hid things in bedrolls; people brought seeds; young allowed to work outside of camps if they stayed away from West Coast; farming in camps; homelessness issue; locals' reactions to camps; guards' treatment; pranks played on guards; presentations to schools; life in the camps.

Rikio Sato Collection

Collection ID: 57663

[Digital content available](#)

Sato was incarcerated at the Portland Assembly Center, Oregon, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1945. He served in military intelligence at Fort Douglas, Utah; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Snelling, Minnesota; Presidio of Monterey, California; and Fort Ord, California.

BOX CD/DVD-100

Video Interview with Rikio Sato, September 10, 2007

65 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: family life before the war; renting a farm from the local Indian tribe; difference between Nisei and Issei; family being friendly with the neighbors until Pearl Harbor; not expecting to be evacuated; family getting orders to leave and only having two weeks to get ready; ending up in the Portland Assembly Center, terrible conditions; "I still don't understand why as an American citizen, you should be going anywhere if you don't want to"; just going along with the situation; a lot of people volunteering for the service to prove their loyalty to the government; conditions at the "apartments" in the Heart Mountain Camp; having traditional Japanese activities in the camp; guards at the camp; jobs; working with German prisoners; registering for the draft when he turned 18; Japanese Americans who were drafted and refusing to serve; being trained in Military Intelligence; possibility of being used for the invasion of Japan; parents' feelings about him being drafted; the government not extending any extra incentives or benefits to his family when he entered the military; Japanese American women entering the service; meeting a lot of different people and making friends while in the service; not experiencing any prejudice while in the service; thoughts on the war ending; experiencing prejudice by a local barber upon returning to his hometown; dealing with prejudice; feeling dissatisfied with the amount of compensation received; how his

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

perceptions of prejudice and racism in America have changed over the years; thoughts on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; thoughts on Tokyo Rose and the lack of Japanese American sabotage; family members who have also served in the military.

Susumu Satow Collection

Collection ID: 42986

[Digital content available](#)

Satow was incarcerated at Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"). In July 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army, and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy and France.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Susumu Satow, January 31, 2006

55 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: military service, locations of assignments; high school baseball, outfielder, family of 11; enlisting in Army; Japanese American experience; news and media; assignments, camps; incarceration at Granada Relocation Center, Colorado (a.k.a. "Amache"); working on local farm until volunteered for military; training at Camp Shelby; 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Italy; part of a 81 millimeter mortar squad, Europe, Rome, regimental combat team; wounded in France with shrapnel; Bronze Star, radio lineman, assisting wounded staff sergeant at forward outpost and called in artillery; coming home by ship; working as an apprentice at McClellan, radar electronics; coming home, to Chicago; news report; hobbies, golf, gardening.

Helen Terada Shintaku Collection

Collection ID: 439

[Digital content available](#)

Shintaku was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona. Prior to the war she was training as a nurse at Perez Valley Hospital in San Diego, California. While incarcerated, she worked as a nurse's aide in the camp. She was released from the camp to continue her training at Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

BOX AC-12

Audio Interview with Helen Terada Shintaku, May 2, 2002

18 minutes

SR01: Topics covered include: Early life and family; Pearl Harbor; nursing training at Perez Valley Hospital; family's reaction to incarceration; Poston Relocation Center, Arizona; mother suffered a stroke; working as a nurse in camp, lack of medicine; strike in camp; formerly incarcerated people and workers suffering heat stroke; writing to hospitals that needed nurses; meeting husband; leaving camp for Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia; leaving nurse's training to get married; getting her parents out of the camp; depression while in camp.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-39/1

Transcript, May 2, 2002

33 pages

MS01: Transcript of SR01.

BOX FD-2

Electronic file of manuscript, May 2, 2002

1 floppy disc

CF01: Transcript (MS01) in TXT format.

Curt Shinichi Sugiyama Collection

Collection ID: 91060

[Digital content available](#)

Sugiyama was incarcerated at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona, as a child. In 1946, he and his family were released from the camp and moved to Michigan. In 1958, he enlisted

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- in the United States Army and served with the Medical Service Corps at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Following his discharge in 1962, he pursued a career as a social worker.
- BOX** audio cassette Audio Interview with Curt Shinichi Sugiyama, July 4, 2013
56 minutes
SR01: Topics covered include: incarceration camp; parents had been American citizens for years; no bitterness on his parents or his part; they moved to Michigan after release from camp; in 1958, applied for a commission but was inducted into the Army before the commission came; started boot camp at Fort Ord in California; only there a few weeks when commission finally came through; boot camp was of drill instructors teaching "Boots" to obey orders; life experiences; went to Fort Jackson, South Carolina; assigned to a medical service unit; caring for both Army personnel and family members; worked with medical team of psychologists, social workers, and psychiatrists; worked in mental health clinic with new recruits who were having difficulty adjusting to military life; worked with military families; crisis intervention; dealing with patients alcoholism; functional alcoholics able to do their jobs because of military structure (SOPs-standard operating procedures) but not able to handle life outside military; service very helpful for reinforcing skills he had learned in graduate school; University of Michigan; served there three years; about to be discharged but all was frozen; sent to Fort Ord for six months until discharge; good memories of his service life; happy to be in his chosen profession; crisis intervention and working with families; spent rest of his career as a social worker; believes military is necessary but war is not necessary; Japanese saying "If you can't help it, just deal with it."
- BOX-FOLDER** MSS-02435/1 Printed matter, 2013
1 folder
MS01: A part of a newspaper article and narrative that includes Sugiyama and other formerly incarcerated people's experiences.
- BOX-FOLDER** MSS-02435/2 Photographs, 1959-2013
7 photographs
PH01: B/W print, Sugiyama and wife Jean on wedding day, San Francisco, California (1959).
PH02: Color print, Sugiyama at the time of the interview, Atlantic Beach, Florida (07/04/2013).
PH03-PH04: B/W print, Japanese detention center, Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona (1944).
PH05-PH07: B/W print, Eleanor Roosevelt, accompanied by Dillon Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority, visiting the Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona.

Harry Tanabe Collection

Collection ID: 13251

[Digital content available](#)

Tanabe was incarcerated at Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"). He enlisted in the United States Army and served with the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) on Okinawa.

- BOX** audio cassette Audio interview with Harry Tanabe, May 27, 2004
8 minutes
SR01: This interview was conducted by Veterans History Project volunteers on the National Mall in Washington, DC during the National World War II Reunion: Tribute to a Generation, May 27-30, 2004. Topics covered include: served in the Pacific; Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC); 3rd Marines; interrogate and interpret radio messages; Okinawa veteran; lost his sense of smell; experienced discrimination as a Japanese American soldier; attended Officer Candidate School (OCS), but didn't get 2nd Lieutenant bars; wounded on Okinawa; debriefed Japanese officer prisoners of

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

war (POWs); stench of death; volunteered to join the Army to get out of Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz").

Carolyn Hisako Tanaka Collection

Collection ID: 7154

[Digital content available](#)

Tanaka was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a child. Following the war, her family moved to Fresno, California, and she eventually attended the Fresno General Hospital School of Nursing and became an emergency nurse. In 1966, she enlisted in the United States Army Nurse Corps and served with the 24th Evacuation Hospital, Long Binh, Vietnam.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-655

Memoirs, August 2001

105 pages

MS01: An unpublished manuscript by the veteran about her 18 months in Vietnam as a United States Army Nurse and later civilian career in public service. Topics covered include: Life in Guadalupe; incarceration at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona; Edison High School and nursing school; Army Nurse Corps; service in Vietnam; life after Vietnam; nursing administration; Vietnam Women's Memorial; volunteerism.

Carolyn Hisako Tanaka Collection

Collection ID: 45225

[Digital content available](#)

Tanaka was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, as a child. Following the war, her family moved to Fresno, California, and she eventually attended the Fresno General Hospital School of Nursing and became an emergency nurse. In 1966, she enlisted in the United States Army Nurse Corps and served with the 24th Evacuation Hospital, Long Binh, Vietnam.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Carolyn H. Tanaka, January 12, 2005

37 minutes

MV01: Topics include: Growing up for first six years in Guadalupe, California; father born in Guadalupe, mother born and raised in Fresno, California; father was a farmer, rented land with grandfather while living in Guadalupe; met mother in California and brought her back to Guadalupe; Japanese sent to detention centers after Pearl Harbor attack; moving to Dinuba, California, in order to be sent to the same detention centers as family; did not forget the impact of being detained at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona, for three years; the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; America made a big mistake in Japanese detention centers; younger brothers enlisted in the Army; older brother a veteran of the Korean War; felt a sense of duty to join the military; joined the Army Nurse Corps because it was the only guarantee that she would be stationed in Vietnam; attached to the 24th EVAC Hospital in Long Binh, Vietnam; becoming Head Nurse; ten years older than most of the nurses; difficulty of learning how to take care of the wounded in war, comparison to caring for wounded in the civilian sector; saw areas of improvement in the hospital and took notes in black book, utilized those notes upon becoming Head Nurse; most memorable moment was taking care of Rory Bailey, a soldier who suffered severe face wounds from a rocket explosion; didn't make too many friends due to being busy in the emergency room; spoke with Rory Bailey on the phone and talking a lot about sports; wrote to People Magazine about paying for Rory Bailey's trip to Washington D.C. for Vietnam Memorial event on Veteran's Day in 1993; fundraising for Vietnam Women's Memorial Project; writing the book "Road Runner."

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

Taketora Tanaka Collection

Collection ID: 10120

[Digital content available](#)

Tanaka was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), as a teenager. In June 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served with Company A, 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment Combat Team in Italy, France, and Germany.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Taketora Tanaka, July 10, 2003

41 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: drafted out of Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"); loyalty questionnaire; early days in service; experiencing racism from white troops; travel on freight trains; rifleman and BAR ammo bearer; casualties within unit; medals; keeping touch with family; food and supplies; unit made up of Japanese Americans from Hawaii and the mainland; recreation; pranks pulled on soldiers on guard duty; really liked his commanding officers; memories of day war ended; guarding prisoners of war (POWs); return to the United States; education; working to support family; educating students about incarceration of Japanese Americans.

Taketora Tanaka Collection

Collection ID: 43935

[Digital content available](#)

Tanaka was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, and Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"), as a teenager. In June 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served with Company A, 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment Combat Team in Italy, France, and Germany.

BOX VHS-454

Video Interview with Taketora Tanaka, March 13, 2005

35 minutes

MV01: Topics include: drafted into Army while at the Central Utah Relocation Center (a.k.a. "Topaz"); love of country despite being housed in detention center; the concept of "haji" (shame) among Japanese families and its impact on Nisei soldiers, doing their best in military; scared when arriving in France; serving as a rifleman during the Gothic Line (German defensive line) breach; promotion process; staying in contact with family members via mail; the use of mules during war; one chocolate piece from rations equaled one full meal; touring France and Italy while on leave; visiting Switzerland after the war; story of a soldier who had to bury a German soldier; pictures of his time at the detention center; no privacy at the detention center; FBI agents would take leaders of Japanese communities to interrogate/question them; Medal of Honor recipients in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; discharge from the Army at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, not wanting to re-enlist; visiting girlfriend in Detroit, Michigan immediately upon discharge; wanting to go to college after the war but had to go to a trade school in order to help the family financially; closeness of soldiers stemming from being in combat together; being part of the Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization; the horrors of war; having to deal with Anti-Japanese sentiment after the war; businesses having forced removal sales.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-1253/1

Biographical information, undated

2 pages

MS01: A brief summary of Tanaka's life experiences and accomplishments.

BOX-FOLDER OVZ-115/1

Maps, undated

1 page

MS02: Copy of United States map of all camps (Assembly vs. Relocation vs. incarceration)

BOX-FOLDER MSS-1253/2

Printed matter, undated

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- 2 pages
MS03: Copy of loyalty questionnaire; Medals/Citations received for the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-1253/3** Photocopy of photographic print, undated
1 page
PH01: United States Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

George Mazumi Taoka Collection

Collection ID: 35055

[Digital content available](#)

Taoka was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming. In May 1944, he enlisted in the United States Army, and served in the Pacific Theater with the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS). Following World War II, he continued to serve in the Army Reserve, retiring in 1976, with the rank of Major.

BOX audio cassette

Audio Interview with George Mazumi Taoka, January 5, 2006
50 minutes

SR01: Topics covered include: returning to Japan; Stanford University; 1941 research in Japan; interview with Japanese secret police in Japan; interview with Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in United States 5/1941; Pearl Harbor attack; hysteria toward Japanese in the United States; forced removal of Japanese from West Coast; marriage; forced removal to Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California; shipped to detention center 9/1942, Heart Mountain Relocation Center; release from camp; University of Toledo; draft number, enlistment 5/1944; racial issues, Aniston, Alabama, Fort McClellan; Philippines, Manila, Japanese resentment; Japan, post-war occupation duty; visit family in Hiroshima; discharge; post-war, graduate school, Columbia.

Jack Taoashi Tashiro Collection

Collection ID: 27114

[Digital content available](#)

Tashiro was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, as a teenager, before being drafted into the United States Army in 1944. He served at the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) and with the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS), at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and in Tokyo, Japan. He was interviewed jointly with his wife, Marie Tashiro, who was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Center, Arizona.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Jack Taoashi Tashiro and Marie Tashiro, February 22, 2004
70 minutes

MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: father came to the United States in 1898; returned to Japan to get married; settled in Portland, Oregon; father died in 1937; mother took Tashiro back to Japan for school; returned to Portland in 1939; was playing baseball when Pearl Harbor was attacked; attended Japanese school; participated in kendo; sent to Tule Lake Relocation Center; worked on farms in eastern Oregon during the summers; mother sent to Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho; drafted in November 1944; trained at Camp Blanding; sent to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, Military Intelligence Language School (MISLS); sent to Tokyo on August 3, 1946; took part in War Crimes trials; assigned to Fukuoka for one year; discharged in January 1947; attended University of Oregon; met wife in Minneapolis in 1946; job offer from the CIA; job with Office of Technical Services; secret writing and clandestine photography; assigned to Japan for four years; worked in Vietnam learning how to

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- identify Viet Cong; Deputy Director of Office of Technical Services; retired in 1979 and opened his own security firm; occupation of Japan vs. Iraq War.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-2744** Transcript, February 22, 2004
1 folder
MS01: Transcript of MV01-MV02.

Yasu Teramura collection

Collection ID: 96325

[Digital content available](#)

Teramura was incarcerated at the Portland Assembly Center, but was released to work for the Farm Security Administration in Eastern Oregon, while his family was moved to Minidoka Relocation Center, Idaho. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served as a cook with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France and Italy. After his discharge, he returned to Oregon and a career as a farmer.

BOX CDDVD-373

Video Interview with Yasu Teramura, February 20, 2014

55 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: served in Army from September 1944 until discharged in December 1946; born in Portland, Oregon, in 1922; Japanese Ambassador Nomura trip on December 5, 1941; Teramura lived across from the editor of The Oregon Journal; Mrs. Jackson called him to meet the ambassador; remembers discussion with Nomura; days later, heard about Pearl Harbor; attended trade school in Portland for diesel-electric engineering; graduated February 1942; professor worked at Kaiser Shipyards; professor initially invited Teramura to work at Kaiser, but because he was Japanese he was not allowed to work there; returned home and helped father on farm until family was evacuated on May 10, 1942; went to Portland Assembly Center for six or seven days; restricted areas in Oregon based on Cascades; went to Eastern Oregon on May 15, 1942 to work for farmers through ASC (Amalgamated Sugar Company) with two other families; worked with Kino Saito (?); worked in beet fields; then worked at a company based in Wilder with a farm in Brogan; returned to Camp until December 31, 1942; on January 1, 1943 went to work for Mark Zameda (?) for a year; January 1, 1944 moved to farm labor camp in Caldwell; another job until drafted in July 1944; physical examination in Boise, Idaho; September 1, 1944 inducted in Army; sent to Fort Douglas, Utah; transferred to Camp Blanding, Florida for basic training; stationed at Fort Mead, Maryland; shipped overseas in March 1945; all-Japanese company at Camp Blanding, roughly 150 people; learned to fire 57-millimeter anti-tank gun; physical shape; visited parents in Minidoka between Camp Blanding and Fort Mead; went to holding place in New York; 39 ship convoy to Le Havre, France; trip description; disembarked at nighttime; took the train to Marseille where the 442nd Regimental Combat Team had recently fought in the Battle of the Bulge; attached to the 88th Black Battalion, 34th Division, 92nd Division; sent to Leghorn (Livorno), Italy in October; PFC at that time; description of tents; rations; spent most of his time abroad in Leghorn; discussion of photographs; physical fitness; towards end of war, assignment processing Germans, confiscating guns, delousing with DDT; was part of F Company, 442nd Regimental Combat Team; 442nd Regimental Combat Team disbanded in June 1946; signed up for 232nd Engineers; became company head cook in July 1945; friend who was discharged told him to take over cooking; witnessed someone being shot in Leghorn kitchen; kept 45 in pocket; had to dispose of body; refused to be sergeant rather than T5; no one asked for MOS for him to be a cook; daily schedule and cooking tasks; learned to bake from German prisoner; five prisoners did kitchen work; type of food they served; 232nd was not Japanese-only; head chlorinator of water then guard duty then motor pool; trained "colored" companies; perceptions of those troops; discharged in October of 1946; on ship from Leghorn to New York; then to Fort Mead to wait for discharge; train to Fort

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

Lewis, Washington; \$300 to travel home; went to sister in Portland; train to Ontario, Oregon; March 1947 goes to work for brother's farm in Ontario; 1948 rented piece of ground to farm sugar beets, onions, lettuce, celery; married in 1951; five children, one killed, one son and three daughters; did not use GI Bill; in 1975 borrowed \$10,000 when hail hurt farm; picture of friend and fellow veteran at 442nd Regimental Combat Team memorial in Los Angeles; photo album; little contact with 442nd Regimental Combat Team friends; one friend in Honolulu; gained experience in the Army; truck license; wanted to go to France; regrets not going to Germany to see liberation; "blood on the sand is all red" (Reagan); dislike of prejudice.

Walter Takeo Tsukamoto Collection

Collection ID: 10657

[Digital content available](#)

Tsukamoto was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, United States Army Reserve in 1926. At the outbreak of World War II, he requested a transfer to active duty, but was repeatedly denied. He and his family were incarcerated at Sacramento Assembly Center (a.k.a. Walerga Assembly Center), California, and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, until February 1943. In March 1943, Tsukamoto received orders to report for active duty. He served with the United States Army Judge Advocate General Corps at Camp Savage, Minnesota, and following the end of World War II, served in Japan, San Francisco, California, Korea, and Heidelberg, Germany. He served until his death in 1961. His daughter and son-in-law were interviewed on his behalf.

BOX miniDV

Video Interview with Dorie Tsukamoto and Charles Kobayashi, October 20, 2003
60 minutes

MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: working as a civil rights advocate before the war; Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at the University of California, Berkeley; receiving appointment as Judge Advocate General (JAG) in the United States Army, first Japanese American to be employed as such; anti-Japanese sentiment in America; rejected for military after Pearl Harbor; forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans; released from Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, to go onto active duty; assigned to Germany; recognized as one of the nine best JAGs in the Army and promoted to full colonel.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-482/1

Biography, undated

MS01: Topics covered include: Childhood; ROTC at the University of California, Berkeley; first Japanese American to receive commission from Berkeley; working for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); offered appointment as Judge Advocate General in United States Army; attempt to apply for active service in the Army was denied; curfew imposed on Japanese Americans; family placed in detention center; abuse in the camps; left detention center to serve in the Army; Camp Savage, Minnesota; presiding over cases during the Korean War; promoted to colonel.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-482/2

Transcript, undated

MS02: Transcript of MV01-MV02.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-482/3

Photograph, 1904-1962

PH01: Tsukamoto's parents posing with mayor of family's hometown (1904).

PH02: Tsukamoto as a teenager (1922).

PH03: Tsukamoto upon receiving commission as a Second Lieutenant, United States Army Reserve (1926).

PH04: Tsukamoto during a visit with family while on furlough (1944).

PH05: Tsukamoto at Camp Savage, Minnesota (1943).

PH07: Tsukamoto with wife and children, Sacramento, California (1939).

PH08: Group photo of Judge Advocate General's Corps officers, Tsukamoto is second from left.

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

PH09: Plaque in remembrance of Tsukamoto at entrance to the Presidio in San Francisco (1962).

Mack F. Tsujimoto Collection

Collection ID: 71923

[Digital content available](#)

Tsujimoto was incarcerated at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, where he worked as a surgical assistant in the camp hospital. After being cleared by the FBI, he was released from Tule Lake and went to work at Women's Medical College Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1944, he was drafted into the Army and trained with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Replacement Unit. But due to flat feet, he was transferred to the Army Air Forces, and served in Colorado, the Philippines, and Japan. He was released from active duty in 1946, and served in the Air Force Reserve until 1954.

BOX CDDVD-184

Video Interview with Mack F. Tsujimoto, May 26, 2010

48 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: early years on farm; high school; three brothers and one sister; in State Guard when war started; unit sent to San Francisco, California, but he was sick that day, and didn't join them, later told by his commander that he was safer where he was; sent to Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, with family; worked as surgical assistant at hospital; FBI cleared him to work outside the camp; job at Women's Medical College Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; drafted in 1944; sent from Colorado to Florida; trained in 442nd Regimental Combat Team Replacement Unit; flat feet, rejected; sent to Army Air Corps in Texas; overseas to South Pacific with Medical Group; stationed in the Philippines (6/1945); assigned to air base near Tokyo, Japan (10/1945); still heavy fighting, lost supply ship to submarine attack; family was ok, did not write; brother in 442nd Regimental Combat Team; end of war, Japanese soldier stole their food; translating for commander; sent to Colorado with commander; discharged; served in reserve until 1954; joined parents as tenant farmers; bought pear ranch; inspector with California Department of Agriculture; married in 1948; joined American Legion and served as commander.

Warren Michio Tsuneishi Collection

Collection ID: 2153

[Digital content available](#)

Tsuneishi was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, before enlisting in the United States Army in 1943. He served as a translator with 306th Headquarters Intelligence Detachment, XXIV Corps, in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

BOX VHS-24

Video Interview with Warren Michio Tsuneishi, July 2, 2002

82 minutes

MV01-MV02: raw footage of interview with Tsuneishi. MV01 is the camera view of the interviewers.

BOX VHS-24

Video Interview with Warren Michio Tsuneishi, July 2, 2002

82 minutes

MV03: Topics covered include: born in California to Japanese parents; incarceration in 1942 at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming; businessmen lost everything, economic disaster; comparison to Dachau; University of California; War Relocation Authority; working on farms in Idaho; Heart Mountain Relocation Center; correspondence with outside; elementary school; sister was teacher; father had carried books, donated to school; bachelors in dormitories; loss of liberty was depressing; last \$15 lost in poker game; orderly in hospital in Wyoming; brother Arthur worked as draftsman in Chicago; Syracuse University; feeling American at heart; Boy Scout duty; resisted learning Japanese; dual citizenship but one national loyalty; renounced

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

	Japanese citizenship; volunteered for Army service in 1943; Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS); Hawaii, National Guard; volunteers for Japanese language specialists; brother at Camp Savage; six month total immersion course to learn Japanese; classified as translator; infantry basic training; visited parents at Heart Mountain; guards at gate wearing same uniform; Japanese mother's mixed feelings about outcome of war; International Red Cross to check on well-being; father's haikus; views as Japanese American unchanged; job as translator, translating documents; Camotes Islands under fire; Okinawa friendly fire; assigned bodyguards to protect from own forces; non-commissioned officer (NCO); brother in field artillery; government two-headed policy; parents released from incarceration; best years of my life; message: "never give up hope"; never lost sight of promise of equality in Gettysburg address, in Constitution, Franklin Roosevelt's promise; America is nation in process of living up to its dreams; Ceremony of Reconciliation; draft resisters contested forced removal; draft resisters vilified and ostracized; wounds festered; essay contest for DAR; USS Maine inscription of nine Japanese casualties.
BOX audio cassette	Audio Interview with Warren Michio Tsuneishi, September 30, 2003 103 minutes SR01-SR02: Topics covered include: born in California to Japanese parents; father a farmer, then became Christian missionary in the United States, born in Japan, immigrated to the United States in 1907; mother was a school teacher in Japan; Tsuneishi was one of ten children (nine survived: six boys and three girls); incarceration in 1942 at Heart Mountain, Wyoming; businessmen lost everything, economic disaster; "Take only what you can carry" policy; comparison to concentration camp; comparison to how Muslim-Americans are treated in the United States today; University of California; War Relocation Authority; working on farms in Idaho; Heart Mountain Relocation Center; correspondence with people outside the camp; elementary school; sister was teacher; father had carried books, donated to school; bachelors in dormitories; loss of liberty depressing; last \$15 lost in poker game; orderly in hospital in Wyoming; brother Arthur worked as draftsman in Chicago; Syracuse University; feeling American at heart; Boy Scout duty; resisted learning Japanese; dual citizenship but one national loyalty; renounced Japanese citizenship (philosophy of Japan that all are Japanese no matter where you are born compared to United States policy of birthright citizenship); did not have official Japanese citizenship but felt obligated to renounce; to further education, volunteered for Army service, 1943; Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS); Hawaii, National Guard; volunteered for Japanese language specialists; older brother drafted in November 1941; sent to old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Camp Savage; six month total immersion course to learn Japanese; classified as translator; Infantry basic training; visited parents at Heart Mountain; guards at gate wearing same uniform; Japanese mother's mixed feelings about outcome of war; International Red Cross to check on well-being; father's haikus; views as Japanese American unchanged; details job as translator, translating Japanese classified military documents; Camotes Islands under fire; Okinawa friendly fire; took some Japanese prisoners of war (POWs); facing Japanese soldiers; experience details how he felt.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-179/1	Biographical information, June 30, 2002 1 folder MS01: Tsuneishi's Curriculum Vitae.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-179/2	Military papers, January 24, 1946 1 folder MS02: Discharge form and certificate.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-179/3	Printed Matter, 1995-2003 1 folder

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container	Contents
	MS03: Excerpt from "MIS in the War Against Japan: Personal Experiences Related at the 1993 MIS Capital Reunion, 'The Nisei Veteran: An American Patriot,'" edited by Stanley L. Falk and Warren M. Tsuneishi (1995); "Nisei Soldiers in the War Against Japan," by Stanley L. Falk, printed in 2003 by the Japanese American Veterans Association.
BOX-FOLDER MSS-2580/1	Transcript, July 2, 2002 1 folder Transcript of MV03
BOX-FOLDER MSS-2580/2	Transcript, September 30, 2003 1 folder Transcript of SR01-SR02
BOX-FOLDER MSS-179/4	Photographs, 1942-1943 1 folder PH01: Tsuneishi (left) and a buddy from the Philippines, seated with tents and palm trees in background, Philippines, 1944. PH02: Tsuneishi's mother and a friend holding service flags, each with four stars representing four sons in service, Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming [1942-1943]. PH03: A soldier standing outside a United Service Organizations (USO) building at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming (1942-1943). PH04: Two of Tsuneishi's colleagues at the Army Military Intelligence Service Language School, Camp Savage, Minnesota.
BOX CD/DVD-2	Computer file, 2004 1 optical disc CF01: Electronic files of photographs PH01-PH04.

George Minoru Wakiji Collection

Collection ID: 27117

[Digital content available](#)

Wakiji was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona, as a teenager. His family was released in July 1945. In 1950, he was drafted into the United States Army and served with H Company, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, at Fort Ord, California, and Chorwon, Korea. Following his service, he studied journalism, and later served in the Peace Corps in the Kingdom of Tonga.

BOX miniDV	Video Interview with George Minoru Wakiji, May 13, 2004 102 minutes MV01-MV02: Topics covered include: parents from Wakayama Prefecture; father came to United States for economic reasons; worked on railroad construction and nursery in Pasadena; started his own nursery business; mother came to United States in 1910; grew up in predominantly white neighborhood; attended Japanese language school; shocked by attack on Pearl Harbor; looked at forced removal as adventure at age 13; evacuated with family to Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California; slept in temporary barracks; father lost nursery; catching up on education due to poor schools in camp; family left detention center in July 1945; brother drafted and sent to Fort Snelling; drafted for Korea; basic training at Fort Ord, California; treated equally; leadership school; managed the football team; shipped to Japan and then Korea; assigned to 1st Cavalry Division; deployed near the DMZ; he looked like the enemy; recreation in Korea; went to Japan in 1952 for R&R; visited grandmother and relatives in Wakayama Prefecture; desegregation; two or three soldiers in his unit were illiterate; combat experiences; used GI Bill for education; returned to Pasadena; joined the Peace Corps after college; director for the Kingdom of Tonga; went to
------------	---

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- journalism school; 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service (MIS) proved the loyalty of Japanese Americans; executive director of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation; Civil Liberties Act of 1988; President Gerald Ford's rescinding Executive Order 9066.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-887/1** Memoirs, undated
1 folder
MS01: Four-page memoir entitled, "Biography of George M. Wakiji."
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-887/2** Military papers, September 16, 1952
1 folder
MS02: DD-214; Discharge Certificate
- BOX-FOLDER MSS2674/1** Transcript, May 13, 2004
1 folder
MS03: Transcript of interview (MV01-MV02).

Jack Shuzo Yamabe collection

Collection ID: 30310

[Digital content available](#)

Yamabe was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, and Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas, as a young man. In 1944, he was drafted into the United States Army, and served as a translator in Japan.

- BOX miniDV** Video Interview with Jack Shuzo Yamabe, July 18, 2005
18 minutes
MV01: Topics include: born in Hollywood, California; growing up in poor family; 21 years old during his stay in detention center; family didn't lose land and/or business like a lot of Japanese; father was a WWI veteran; drafted in the Army in 1944 while he was living in Chicago, Illinois; incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack), California, facility prior to being sent to Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas; working as a truck driver prior to moving into the detention center; dealing with racism; acceptance of Jewish community; viewing time stationed in Japan as a vacation since there were better translators residing there than veteran; helping with the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE) in Japan; soldiers playing pranks on each other; getting the measles right before the Battle of the Bulge campaign; seeing General Douglas MacArthur frequently in Japan; working on taxis in Chicago, Illinois after the war; marrying his wife Sumi before military service; daughter and two grandchildren; becoming a teacher; regret of not having combat experience.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-973** Photograph, 2005
1 folder
PH01: Contemporary photo of Yamabe.
- BOX CDDVD-23** Computer File, July 18, 2005
1 optical disc
CF01: Contains photograph (PH01) in JPEG format.

Frank Takaji Yamamoto Collection

Collection ID: 85536

[Digital content available](#)

Yamamoto was incarcerated at Manzanar Relocation Center, California, before being released and relocated to inland California in June 1943. He was drafted into the United States Army in May 1944, and after training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, attended the Military Intelligence Service Language School and served as a Japanese language instructor at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. While serving with the Military Intelligence Service in Tokyo, Japan, and Manila, Philippines, his duties included serving as an

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

interpreter and translator during war crimes trials. He served in the Army Reserve from 1947-1968, and worked in civil service positions with Legal Section, Supreme Commander for Allied Powers, 500th Military Intelligence Group, United States Civil Service Administration of Ryukyu Islands, NISO Japan, and NISO Treasure Island, 12th Naval District.

BOX Hi-8

Video Interview with Frank Takaji Yamamoto, July 8, 2012

62 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: family members that served in the military; knowledge of activities leading up to United States involvement in World War II; forced removal to the Manzanar Relocation Center, California; living conditions at Manzanar; sentiments about being incarcerated; how he coped with time in the detention center; release from camp and forced removal to inland California in June 1943; education prior to service; work experience prior to military; family's reaction to being drafted; basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama; duties and instruction received during basic training; treatment as a Japanese American soldier during basic training; how he coped during basic training; most difficult thing about basic training; living conditions and food while in basic training; sent to Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) for training at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, in 1944; treatment as Japanese American soldier at Fort Snelling; classes other than language taken at Fort Snelling; assigned as Japanese language instructor at Fort Snelling in 1945; felt he was respected while an instructor; living conditions; most difficult thing about being an instructor; morale; opinions of fellow soldiers and superiors while at Fort Snelling; felt the language and military intelligence training was very good; sent to Tokyo, Japan, in April 1946; military specialty as a linguist; feelings and preparedness for assignment in the Pacific; no apprehension as a Japanese American serving in the Pacific; assigned to Manila, Philippines in May 1946; mission of military intelligence in Manila; feelings upon arrival in Philippines; duties in Manila as an interpreter and interrogator during the war crimes trials; methods used to interrogate Japanese Prisoners of War (POW); surprised reaction of prisoners of war (POWs) at his being a Japanese American soldier; duty to witness punishment and execution of Japanese prisoners of war (POWs); living conditions in Manila; felt he should have received additional training to live through the monsoons and bad weather conditions in Manila; poor morale while assigned in Manila due to bad weather; difficulties while assigned in Manila; next assigned to the Interpretive Services Headquarters in Tokyo in 1947; Team Captain in the Interpretive Services; Congressional Gold Medal; discharged from service on November 11, 1947 in Japan; feelings upon discharge from military; enlisted in the Army Reserve from 1947-1968; rationale for joining the Army Reserve; training and duties while in the Reserves; served in Reserves during the Korean and Vietnam Wars; never called to active duty; release from Army Reserves on April 2, 1968; education and degrees received after active duty service; post military career in civil service position with Legal Section, Supreme Commander for Allied Powers, 500th Military Intelligence Group, United States Civil Service Administration of Ryukyu Islands, NISO Japan, and NISO Treasure Island, 12th Naval District; most interesting aspects of post military career; views on toughest part of service; scariest moment in service and World War II; thoughts on whether sacrifice during World War II was justified; how military training and service impacted outlook on life; most memorable experience while serving on active duty; advice for future generations.

Ann Yamasaki Collection

Collection ID: 92981

Yamasaki was incarcerated at Marysville Assembly Center (a.k.a. Arboga Assembly Center), California, Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming.

Series I: Formerly Incarcerated People

Container

Contents

- BOX VHS-579 Video Interview with Ann Yamasaki, July 10, 1990
48 minutes
MV01: Topics covered include: early life; father worked in agriculture; parents were born in Japan; learning of the attack on Pearl Harbor; brother had been drafted in 1940; ordered to temporary incarceration camp, age 23; changes in attitudes towards Japanese Americans; travel to Marysville Assembly Center (a.k.a. Arboga Assembly Center), California; poor conditions in temporary incarceration camp; move to Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; loyalty questionnaire; brother's service, was not allowed to visit family in camp; mother injured in a landslide; mail censored; moved to Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming; worked in mess hall; found work in Chicago; differences between Tule Lake and Heart Mountain; redress movement; father's employer stored all of the family's belongings; parents' attitudes towards Japan; family's religion and cultural traditions; interactions with guards in detention centers; conditions in camps; daily life, recreation activities and work in camps; floods in Heart Mountain; visiting Japan in 1986; family in Japan; thoughts on atomic bombing; tradition of arranged marriage; meeting her husband; parents' marriage; family.

Series II: War Relocation Authority Civilian Employees & Military Support

Edna M. Becker Collection

Collection ID: 9653

[Digital content available](#)

Becker worked as a secretary for the federal government in several locations, including Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming.

- BOX AC-206 Audio Interview with Edna M. Becker, February 25, 2003
21 minutes
SR01: Topics covered include: Education; Pearl Harbor; job at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming; Casper with sister; marriage; D-Day celebration; after war; keeping in contact with relatives in the service; her husband's experience in war.
- BOX-FOLDER MSS-00453 Photograph, February 25, 2003
1 folder
PH01: Contemporary photograph of Becker, Powell, Wyoming (2/25/2003).

Lewis J. Furlong Collection

Collection ID: 91002

Furlong was drafted into the Army in 1943, and served with I Company, 3rd Battalion, 275th Infantry Regiment, 70th Infantry Division as a M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) man. His service included guarding the Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, in 1944, before volunteering for the infantry and shipping out to the European Theater.

- BOX CD/DVD-323 Video Interview with Lewis J. Furlong, May 4, 2013
59 minutes
MV01: Topics covered include: Early life and family; moving to Tipp City, Ohio; school; playing baseball; inducted in 1943; being assigned to guard Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; thoughts on reparations paid to Japanese Americans; interactions with Japanese Americans; volunteering for the infantry; transferring to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for more training; M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) man; leaving Boston, Massachusetts aboard a troop ship; nine days of travel; landing at Marseille, France, in mid-December 1944; staying overnight in a warehouse; leaving Marseille by train for eastern France; ambushed by Germans on first day; cold weather; going to a French warehouse but have to leave because of German fire; trapped on a hill for seven days without supplies; finally leaving the hills; treated for

Series II: War Relocation Authority Civilian Employees & Military Support

Container

Contents

frost bite; slowly taking town by town; getting to the Siegfried line; war ending; sent to Frankfort, Germany to guard the train station; return to United States in March 1946 on the USS William and Mary; taking a passenger train from Pennsylvania to Dayton, Ohio; truck driver for a stone quarry; work for Tipp Lumber Company; handling feed for a feed company; marriage and family; working for A. O. Smith Corporation from 1952-1985 in the factory and in the office.

Alice A. Gapp Collection

Collection ID: 5887

[Digital content available](#)

Gapp worked as a librarian for the War Relocation Authority at Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas, from 1943-1944.

BOX AC-145

Audio Interview with Alice A. Gapp, October 14, 2002

24 minutes

SR01: Topics covered include: decided to be a librarian; bachelor's degree from Drexel Institute of Library Science in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; rural library WPA (Works Progress Administration) job in Lincoln, Nebraska; felt sad for Japanese Americans; wanted to make life better at a forced removal center; sent to Rohwer Relocation Center in McGehee, Arkansas; substitute science teacher; Japanese American staff; community librarian; living conditions at the Center; tar paper shacks; work friend; Suroto Hatanaka's wedding at Buddhist church; sang song in Japanese; Nisei spoke English; interviewed people to return to Japan via Gripsholm; typical day of work; books supplied by United States government; story hours; books in Japanese for Issei; twelve staff members; Nisei occupations, animator for Walt Disney; people were upset; family; Japanese language school for children; cultural life in camp; gift of painting; Noh drama; biweekly newspaper in English and Japanese; Earnest Teens of YWCA trip to Little Rock, Arkansas; allowed outside camp with Caucasian escort; went to Jerome, Arkansas, in dump truck with sumo wrestling group; living arrangements; food and gardening at the camp; separate mess hall for staff; no military except for guards; Protestant church; piano concerts; Buddhist services; Gapp could leave the base anytime; many Japanese Americans relocated to Chicago, Illinois; one year at the Center; left to get married to Frank, who she met while in Nebraska; kept in touch with friends; Japanese who went to Italy; reflections on time; party and gifts at the Center for her wedding.

Velma Berryman Kessel Collection

Collection ID: 9640

[Digital content available](#)

Kessel worked as a registered nurse at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, 1942-1945.

BOX AC-205

Audio Interview with Velma Berryman Kessel, June 19, 2002

33 minutes

SR01: Topics covered include: nurse at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming; family history; duties and living arrangements; off duty hours and exercise; car wreck; found young girl at gate; favorite patient; 16 year old girl with tuberculosis; "soakers" maker; President Franklin Roosevelt's death; D-Day remembered; gas rations; family in service; marriage and war separation; reaction to work at camp; war time marriages; correspondence; medical changes; memorable moments and people; organizations; activities; impressions; Florida days; nursing 40 years.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-453

Photograph, June 19, 2002

1 folder

PH01: Contemporary photograph of Kessel, Powell, Wyoming (6/19/2002).

Series II: War Relocation Authority Civilian Employees & Military Support

Container

Contents

Edwin Isacce Morris Jr. Collection

Collection ID: 108611

Morris was drafted in 1942 and served with the 442nd Signal Heavy Construction Battalion (Aviation), 15th Signal Brigade, United States Army Air Forces. His service included working at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California.

BOX CD/DVD-514

Video Interview with Edwin Isacce Morris Jr., June 13, 2016

48 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: Early life and family; parents were farmers; early years; recreation, cards, musicians in family; one room schoolhouse; drafted; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; boot camp in Atlantic City, New Jersey; barracks in hotel; KP duty; café in Philadelphia "had plates upside down from train soot;" advanced training at Camp Crowder, Missouri; installed communication lines at Hammer Field, California and Camp Pinedale, California; worked at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; installed communication lines for Coast Guard in Wheeler, Oregon; troop ship to New Guinea; morale; friendships; off duty leisure time; recreation; movies; reading books; diary of time in the military; invasion of Leyte, Philippines; bomber flew so low over base he could see the pilot; unexploded bomb one morning in a wood pile on Leyte; all outgoing mail was censored; transported from Lingayen Gulf to Japan on LST; installing communication lines in New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan; return home; farming; recalled for Korean War; sister died from tuberculosis (TB); brother died at age 25; three daughters and one son (who died at 17 in a car accident); mechanic at implement company (1958); used GI Bill for vocational agricultural school; benefits of military; woodworking hobby; travel around US; worked with Forest Rangers in Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park installing communication lines.

Doris Holloway Sleath Collection

Collection ID: 20426

[Digital content available](#)

Sleath worked as a nurse at the Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona, where she ran the maternity department. She later lived at Manzanar Relocation Center, California, and Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, where her husband, Dr. Jack Sleath, worked as a doctor.

BOX CD/DVD-15

Video Interview with Doris Holloway Sleath, April 9, 2004

47 minutes

MV01: Topics covered include: San Francisco before the attack on Pearl Harbor; radio report of attack; fear in California of invasion; Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona, early medical situation; Japanese American reaction to detention center; Japanese American doctors; setting up the hospital, facilities and staff; maternity ward with help from Japanese Americans; Valley Fever; training of Japanese Americans in hospital and office skills; employment of Japanese Americans; medical department philosophy; Manzanar Relocation Center, California; medical story at Manzanar Relocation Center; medical story at Gila River; kindness shown by Japanese Americans; Caucasian support of Japanese American situation; Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; Japanese American protest at Tule Lake; Tule Lake revisited in the middle 1970s.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-722/1

Transcript, April 9, 2004

1 folder

MS01: Transcript of MV01.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-722/2

Photographs, 2003

1 folder

Series II: War Relocation Authority Civilian Employees & Military Support

Container

Contents

- PH01: Two clothing items made by Japanese Americans at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona [2003].
- PH02: Jacket made by Japanese Americans at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona [2003].
- PH03: Jacket made by Japanese Americans at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona [2003].
- PH04: A wood tray made by the father of Sadako Sameshima for Dr. Jack C. Sleath in appreciation for saving his daughter's life in Manzanar Relocation Center, California [2003].
- PH05: The back of a wood tray made by the father of Sadako Sameshima for Dr. Jack C. Sleath in appreciation for saving his daughter's life in Manzanar Relocation Center, California [2003].
- PH06: A red knitted gored skirt made by a young Japanese girl for Janet, daughter of Doris Sleath, Tule Lake Relocation Center, California [2003].
- PH07: A white stuffed lamb given to Janet Sleath by a Japanese American druggist in hospital, Tule Lake Relocation Center, California [2003].
- PH08: A Western Union telegram sent to Doris Sleath informing her of her appointment to Graduate Nurse at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona, and a black and white portrait of Doris Sleath, [2003].
- PH09: Dr. Jack Sleath's application to the Office of Emergency Management.
- PH10: Dr. Jack Sleath's application to the Office of Emergency Management.

Jack Crisp Sleath Collection

Collection ID: 20438

Sleath worked as a Chief Medical Officer and was stationed at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona; Tule Lake Relocation Center, California, and Manzanar Relocation Center, California, as well as in Washington DC.

BOX-FOLDER MSS-722

Memoirs, undated

1 folder

MS01: Overview of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) and Sleath's personal experience as a WRA doctor. Topics covered include: Rejected by Navy, seeking work in another government agency; reporting to work at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona; construction of Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona; Valley Fever; setting up a first aid station; arrival of formerly incarcerated people; supplies; wondering if patients and their families would trust him, if he would be resented, hated; conditions at local hospital; treating a patient with a ruptured appendix; public health hazards; overcrowded facilities; opening of 250 bed hospital; treating Caucasian personnel; well-trained medical personnel relocated to other parts of the country; taking position as project medical director at Tule Lake; gaining the trust of medical personnel at Tule Lake Relocation Center, California; anti-American sentiment of formerly incarcerated people; psychiatric treatments; formerly incarcerated people raised funds to buy medical equipment; treating a patient shot by military police; formerly incarcerated people on hunger strike.