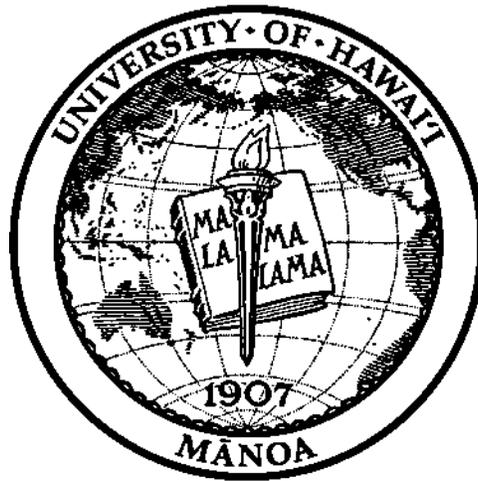


UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

MIS Oral History Project Collection

Finding Aid



AJA 011

Archives & Manuscripts Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa Library

December 2006

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Introductory Information

Collection Name: MIS Oral History Project Collection

Collection Number: AJA 011

Inclusive Dates: 2002-2006

Size of Collection: 1.0 linear foot (as of December 2006)

Creator of Papers: James Tanabe

Abstract:

Over 6,000 Japanese Americans worked for the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during World War II in every combat theater. The MIS is credited with shortening the war by virtue of the intelligence their translations afforded the army. After World War II, MIS veterans met to organize a veterans' club. The Military Intelligence Service Language Associates was formed in 1946, with Masaji Marumoto as its first president. It was later renamed the Military Intelligence Service Veterans. Since its inception the club has pursued a variety of philanthropic pursuits and historical documentation efforts.

The MIS Oral History Project Collection contains oral history interviews of MIS Veterans members. James Tanabe conducted the interviews between 2002 and 2006. There are 19 interviews arranged alphabetically by surname of interviewee.

Administrative Information

- Repository Information:** Archives & Manuscripts Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa Library
2550 McCarthy Mall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Phone: (808) 956-6047
Fax: (808) 956-5968
Email: archives@hawaii.edu
URL: <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/archives/>
- Processing Archivist:** Megan Radomski
- Completion Date:** December 2006
- Restrictions:** None
- Provenance:** Donated by James Tanabe of MIS Veterans Club, in November 2006 (Accession 2006:035).
- Preferred Citation:** [Identification of item], MIS Oral History Project Collection, Archives & Manuscripts Department, University of Hawaii at Manoa Library.
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Organizational History

Over 6,000 Japanese Americans worked for the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during World War II. Japanese Americans were recruited from the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team as well as from America's internment camps. The primary venue for training was at the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at the Presidio in San Francisco, although other branches existed at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling, Minnesota. The MISLS graduates were dispatched to every combat theater during World War II and are credited with shortening the war by virtue of the intelligence their translations afforded the army.

Following World War II seven MIS veterans—Masaji Marumoto, Walter Mihata, Yoshio Hanao, Tadao Ito, Dan Nishimura, Warren Sakuma and Kiyoshi Yoshimura—met at the Nuuanu Y.M.C.A. to organize a veterans' club in Hawaii. Known as the Military Intelligence Service Language Associates, the club was formed in June 1946, with Masaji Marumoto as its first president. Later it was renamed the Military Intelligence Service Veterans.

The stated aims of the organization are: (1) to maintain fellowship among the M.I.S. veterans and their families and provide mutual assistance, and (2) to participate in community service.

The club's objectives also include the following: "... to uphold and defend the United States of America and maintain representative government, to preserve and strengthen the democratic principles for which it stands; to promote goodwill and better understanding among all races and creeds; to sponsor and promote activities and programs by and among our members and general public in order to attain the aforementioned objectives and advance the interests of this organization in every way consistent with public good and to do such other things as properly come within the scope of this or similar organizations."

The organization has been involved in a variety of philanthropic activities ranging from attending the statehood hearings in Washington, D.C., in 1954 and participating in American Red Cross fund drives. The MIS Veterans Oral History Project Collection represents the organization's current efforts to document the diverse military experiences of its veterans.

Sources:

Hawaii Nikkei History Editorial Board, *Japanese Eyes, American Heart: Personal Reflections of Hawaii's World War II Nisei Soldiers*, (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998).

"History of the MIS Veteran of Hawaii," Anniversaries: MIS Veterans Club, Hawaii, Ted Tsukiyama Papers, Archives & Manuscripts Department, University of Hawaii at Manoa Library.

Scope & Content Note

The MIS Oral History Project Collection contains video oral history interviews of MIS members. The interviews were conducted by James Tanabe, historian to the MIS Veterans Club, between 2002-2006. There are 19 oral history interviews arranged alphabetically by surname of interviewee available for watching on DVD.

The DVDs generally are of good quality, however, there may be gaps of 15-30 seconds with a blue screen and no sound where Tanabe changed tapes. Please refer to the listed run times on the DVD if unsure that the disc has completed playback.

For additional information on the Military Intelligence Service, please see the Ted Tsukiyama Papers (AJA 002).

Series Description

Series Name:	Interviews
Dates:	2002-2006
Size of Series:	1.0 linear foot
Physical Format:	DVD
Arrangement:	Alphabetically by surname of interviewee

Description of Contents:

All the interviews in the collection fall into a single series, "Interviews." James Tanabe conducted all interviews. Each interview covers a wide variety of topics including the interviewee's life, family, work and military service. The bulk of the time during interviews is devoted to the interviewee's memory of his life during and prior to World War II. A full list of interviewees can be found in the collection inventory.