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I went overseas with George Kanegai. There were forty of us and we all went to ATIS and George went to be the administrator of our group and I went there as an interpreter/ translator and I went for the longest term was hoping to be sent to the front line units, because the others were rotating through the front line units. It was meant to be a posting to the front line troops abut as it turned out they never sent me out. As it turned out I ended up head of tactical translations and I was in charge of screening all incoming documents. So they never sent me out. I wanted my share of front line experience but it never happened.

Some interesting documents we acme across relating to Japanese war planes and battleplans and any tactical information that we came across or notes, we would translate.

Particularly one of interest to me was the story told by a Japanese fighter pilot who was trained to intercept a B29 over Japan to intercept the plane and he went up to intercept andthe B29 turned broadside and more or less said shoot me if you want to but all of a sudden, this is the pilot's narration, there was a tremendous concentration of fire from all of its machine guns from nose to tail coming at him so he broke off the engagement and he wentback and told the story. He had written it down. They didn't know at the time that the B29s had the tactical ability for one gunner to aim all of its machine guns on one target. That's what he found out. We went through all this translation and found out. So I did a little bit of interrogating of prisoners with some technical knowledge. One of the head men of ATIS, Major Shelton. He was an Australian. He was considered to have the most accurate knowledge of the spoken and written Japanese of everybody there, including all of theNisei. Those were some of the things I was involved with. I can remember this kind of humorous thing. Here I was head of the technical and tactical air translation team and they wanted me to go to meetings. But I couldn't as I was an enlisted man and not an officer. So they they asked if I knew how to run the motion picture projector. So they said

come on you're gonna do the projections so we could get you into the briefings.

A few days later they asked why I wasn't an officer but as a Japanese American initially

we were only permitted to go to sergeant initially and you weren't commissioned. That's

the way things were.

We had to concentrate on what we had to do and not really worry about the little things

that deter us from doing our duty. That is how we completely felt about it and on the other

hand there were a lot of things I put in the back of my mind.

For instance, my father, mother and brother and sisters were all behind barbed wire. We

were in Poston Arizona. After I graduated from military intelligence, my wife and I went ona train to Poston and a soldier just like me carried a gun and was checking me out andescorting me in to see my family. You know it's things like that if you tell it to people today.

It's unbelievable.

The case of my wife. We met each other two days after Pearl Harbour and had gone upNorth and we finished and a couple of days later and I was walking through a town and Iran into a Japanese lady and she said, “why don't you come over to my house and meetthe rest of my family”. And of course later on the family was evacuated and Niseis in thearmy we were also removed. We were removed from the West coast. I wound up inColumbus Ohio. In the summer of 42 when all of this evacuation was happening, my wifewanted to get out and I said I'll see what I can do.

Mind you the army put our families behind barb wire 120,000 of us, ahead of our postings.

Our colonel and he went to work with his staff and other civilians and wrote letters to the

government to release my fiancée so we could go and get married. An unusual and hard to

believe.

In Australia we had internment camps for both German and Italian nationals. Did you know

about that? I knew about that. Not because somebody told me.

Q. Do have any stories about your time in Camp Chelmer either related to the civilian or

military population.

A. Yes. Yes. There were forty of us. After we had been there for several months, I don't

know how it came about but we became acquainted with a family by the name of Thomas

and they invited over there were four of us and we had a nice time and we fried chicken forthe first time for the family. In the Chinese community and they had a Wednesday night forus and invited the four of us and they us to join their socials but most of the time we wereworking late into the night, what ever documents in we had to get them out, and we ofcourse went to the Chinese restaurant. He got us into the corner away from everybody

and there were four of us and he had put down eight and then it dawned me why. I then

realised that this was a rationing time. So that's how we got our big dinners.

They fed us plenty so we went there often.

Another time we were on a train ride into town.

Two of us went to the Chinese restaurant one weekend and and we sitting this side and twoAussies were sitting opposite us and a sandwich fell on the floor when the trained lurchedbut the Aussie just brushed it off and ate it. I thought these guys are tough. I was really

impressed by the nonchalance of the Aussie soldier he didn't care if someone was

watching him.

Q. Any stories in the way in which the Australians and the Nisei worked with translation andinterpretation. Any disparity there?

A. Well basically the nisei provided a most effective way in talking to prisoners because ofthe fluency. Basically that's what most of them did. There were others who were in the

frontline not because they had the ability to talk to someone but because they wereadministrators. As a matter of a fact one of the guys I went through school with was aKibei. Kibei means returned to America. He was born in America and later on went to

Japan for an education and then returned. So their Japanese was very strong and fluent.

Of course at that time the question was whether they could be trusted or not. How loyal

are they to America?

One of the guys I got to know quite well and in fact all of my deputies were very fluent inJapanese. Anyway people wondered about our patriotism and There was no doubt it. Hewas one of our fellas got killed in the frontline. He didn’t know it and when they tried to buryhim in this Oregon town they rose up in arms and refused to put his name on the war

memorial. That's then. It was how it was but things have been changed and his name is

now on the memorial but it took a long time.

Q. We're you ever attached to any Australian divisions at all as such?

A. No. I never was because I could never get away from Headquarters because I was headof tactical and technical section.

Q. At Indooroopilly, what was the most significant translation that you did?

A. Well actually the translation where the fighter pilot tried to intercept a B 29. He found outthat all the guns could shoot at him at once. He didn't know that they were able to train all

guns to one gunner. There was a blow by blow account by one of the Japanese aviators ofhow he and a B29 were throwing everything they had at each other until they ran out ofammunition and they had to break it off. It was kind of interesting you know.

Q. Most of the interviews have been on Military and so it is interesting to get the air forceperspective. Is there anything else that you would like to share with the Australian peopleof your time in America? This tape will go back to Australia and will be a part of theAustralian War Memorial archives.

A. Well what really impressed me the most was I was used to prejudice mostly on the westcoast and very little on the mid west or east coast towards us. But in Australia there didn't

seem to be any prejudice. I also got to know some of the aboriginal folks there in Brisbane

too. There wasn't the kinds of oppression that we had seen in America which was very

interesting to me. I thought maybe that was something to with the way Australia was

originally colonized.(apart from White Australia Policy). It was a case of overloadedprisoners to be sent to Australia to eventually become free. Maybe they able to come over

there.

B. A part of Australian culture is that they like to give everyone what they call " a fair go".

Maybe that's a cultural trait brought about by the colonists themselves because the way

they came over to Australia.

I always admired the Australian troops because they didn't wear steel helmets in New

Guinea. They just wore their slouch hats. I did hear an interesting story. An Australian and

an American division were going to change locations because one was going to relieve theother on the lines in New Guinea and with the Australians driving on the left and theAmericans driving on the right one day met in the middle and they had the worst traffic jam.

They both took the same position and there weren't Japanese about which was a good

thing. We laughed and laughed.

I don't know I enjoyed going to the local theatre where they had the movies with a dirt floor

and two pieces of timber was a piece of canvas and we sat on these and watched themovies. I thought that was practical and we they got the job done. You didn't get hot inthere because you were sitting on a piece of canvas. We were getting used totemperatures over 102 degrees and 99.8 percent humidity. We didn't dare walk fast

because we would get all wet you know. A big difference to Seattle I guess.

There was a story about you at a conference.

In Manila, after the cessation of hostilities and the Japanese sent over a General and agroup and a couple of state Department representatives with them to coordinate theoccupation of Japan. They had flown in to Clark field with their own plane and they weregetting out of the staff cars and Colonel Mashbir was with me and he was on one side and Iwas on the other side of the stairs and we looked at his other because the military menwore side arms and sabres.

So we said what are we going to do about it and so we said I said let them get situated firstand then well talk to the General about it. So that's what we did and then Col.Mashbir and I

went up to talk to the General after he was set up in his room and we said the war is over

and we are here to talk about he occupation of Japan so why do you come with pistols andswords?

The General then casually mentioned that is a part of our uniform, and I said General, “thewar is over and Japan is surrendering and that's about all I said”. About thirty seconds later

the General then said, "how about I turn over my gun and all of my all of my soldiers,

officers guns to you for safekeeping while we are here. I looked at Col.Mashbir and hesaid," that's fine." and the General said "that's it "and I said," General,what about the

swords?" and he said," that's uniform." And so we waited for the General who said ,"Can

wear their swords to the conference room and can we leave the swords outside the

conference room?"

We agreed and didn't want to dress them down all the way aggressively. So we said,"that's

fine,” and the conference was about when, how and why we would enter Japan and occupyit.

Anything translated was passed through an editing group and I was at odds with the groupanyway as technical translations had to be translated into everyday language rather than intechnical terms. So one day I came across a diary in which the Japanese described a newmedicine that he had gotten to be taken by mouth, orally. So we translated orally so whenit got to the editing group we translated orally to verbally and released it. So I told the

editing group I am tired of the way you completely re-edit technical language. I don't like it.
A few days later they came back and said everything your team translates will no longer gothrough the editing group. It will be released as you translated it.