


Press Kit

名誉と犠牲

A Japanese American Hero in Merrill's Marauders



HONOR & SACRIFICE
The Roy Matsumoto Story

STOURWATER PICTURES IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY
PRESENTS "HONOR & SACRIFICE" PRODUCER-DIRECTOR LUCY OSTRANDER & DON SELLERS
CINEMATOGRAPHER, EDITOR & WRITER DON SELLERS MUSIC JOEL GOODMAN ASSOCIATE PRODUCER KAREN MATSUMOTO

28 MINUTES

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The Film

Throughout most of the 20th century, Japanese immigrants to the United States (the Issei generation) and their children (the Nisei generation) struggled to achieve stable communities, to make a living, and to establish themselves as part of American culture. They faced discriminatory laws, financial hardship, outright racism, and – in the 1940s

– imprisonment in US government concentration camps because they “looked like the enemy”. The community as a whole was distinguished by enduring cultural values that emphasized hard work, education, never giving up, and the dignified acceptance of deprivation and difficulty as part of life (gaman).



Roy Matsumoto spent his early years on a farm in the Los Angeles area but was sent back to his parents' native country of Japan for education, a common practice of Japanese families in those days. His parents, motivated perhaps both by financial challenges and by the desire once again to be part of the culture of their own birth, moved the family back to Japan in the late 1920s. They

settled in Hiroshima. By chance (good luck, as it turned out) Roy's Japanese education was cut short by a family decision and he was sent back to the United States, probably only a short time before he would have been drafted into the Japanese military. Three of his brothers, all born in the US, ended up serving Japan during the war.

Roy, along with the many other Japanese Americans in southern California, made it through the decade of the Great Depression through unrelenting hard work and the kinds of mutual support that were typical of the Japanese immigrant community. The fruits of their hard work were all but completely lost, however, when every person of Japanese descent – whether immigrant or native-born US citizen – was put behind barbed wire in desolate prison camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

HONOR & SACRIFICE is the story of one man's journey from early hardship to a concentration camp and ultimately to the stature of authentic American hero, based on his nearly unbelievable contribution as a member of Merrill's Marauders. Roy was a man of extraordinary strength, stamina, wit, and courage, as this story demonstrates. But in most respects he was also a typical member of the Japanese American community he grew up in, showing through his life and military service the qualities of determination, loyalty, and acceptance of sacrifice that define the honorable place in US history occupied by the Japanese Americans of the 20th century.





The Filmmakers

Lucy Ostrander - Producer

Lucy Ostrander, an award-winning documentary filmmaker began to receive accolades for her work with her Masters thesis from Stanford University, WITNESS TO REVOLUTION: THE STORY OF ANNA LOUISE STRONG. In producing the film, she became the first American student to work with the China Film Co-Production Corporation. The film received a national PBS broadcast, and won a Student Academy Award, the Nissan Focus Award and a CINE Golden Eagle. In 2005 she was a recipient of an Artist Trust Fellowship. Over the course of 25 years, her documentaries have focused primarily on Northwest history and include EAST OF OCCIDENTAL, HOME FROM THE EASTERN SEA, FINDING THEA, THE RED PINES, ISLAND ROOTS, FUMIKO HAYASHIDA: THE WOMAN BEHIND THE SYMBOL and the recently released award-winning feature documentary THE REVOLUTIONARY.

Don Sellers - Producer, Director of Photography, Editor, Writer

Don Sellers has been a cinematographer/videographer and editor on documentary films for over 25 years. After receiving a Masters Degree in Film and Broadcasting from Stanford University, Don worked as a cinematographer and editor on numerous programs produced for the PBS series Frontline and Discover. For Frontline, Don photographed around the world covering topics as diverse as the changes in China in the years after Mao's death, meetings in West Africa between the ANC and Afrikaners to address apartheid, the Catholic Church in America, Hollywood, Horse Racing and Earthquakes in California. In addition to his work for PBS, Don spent six weeks riding with the graveyard shift of Miami homicide shooting a series for ABC. He has taught film writing and production as a guest lecturer at Stanford University.

Karen Matsumoto - Associate Producer

Karen Matsumoto, Roy Matsumoto's daughter, has been a classroom teacher, environmental educator, and college instructor for over 25 years. Karen received a B.S. degree in environmental studies from U.C. Berkeley, teaching credential from UCLA, and a MEd in Instructional Technology from Utah State University. She is on the Board of Trustees for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community, and has worked with Stourwater Pictures to produce five short documentary films on the Japanese internment experience and designed corresponding classroom curricula for the films. She also helped to produce over 40 video oral histories of internees from Bainbridge Island, which was the first community on the west coast of the U.S. to be relocated to concentration camp at Manzanar. Karen is also a member of the Nisei Veterans Foundation.

Joel Goodman - Music

Joel Goodman has scored over 100 films and television shows for an impressive array of distinguished directors and producers, including Wong Kar-wei, Barbara Kopple, Albert Maysles, Barak Goodman, Kevin Spacey, Irene Taylor Brodsky, Andrew Jarecki, Mark Zwonitzer, Marshall Curry, Oren Jacoby and Michael Epstein. Of these films 4 have received Oscar nominations and dozens of Emmy Awards. Joel's new Main Theme for the top rated PBS series American Experience premiered in 2011. His most recent score is to the theatrical documentary, WHICH WAY IS THE FRONT LINE FROM HERE? For more information, please visit www.joelgoodman.com.



Producers' Statement

From Producer Lucy Ostrander

Five years ago Karen Matsumoto told me about her father, Roy, and his work with the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service with Merrill's Marauders in Burma during World War II. I had no idea how extraordinary the story would turn out to be. I was neither familiar with Merrill's Marauders nor of the heroic work of the Nisei's who served as translators and interpreters of the Japanese language during that war. The story seemed fascinating and worthy of a film. Karen, who among her many talents is a gifted grant writer, volunteered to help find the necessary funding and the project began.

We received a grant from the Washington State Civil Liberties Public Education Program and made a 17-minute film that focused mainly on the role of Roy and the other Nisei in the Marauders. The finished film was well received but we were not satisfied that we had told the story in full and felt we needed to make a longer version. This was partly due to our research and discussions with Karen and others that revealed the deep complexity of the circumstances of many Japanese Americans during World War II. Roy's story, while unique, could illuminate the many ways Japanese Americans were deeply conflicted and dealt with that period. After losing their livelihoods and possessions, and being sent to remote prison camps, what should they do? How do they react to a government that put these American-born citizens and their relatives through that horror? How do they react to a war against their ancestral homeland, especially when many of them had close relatives still living in Japan? Different Nisei chose different paths and as Karen told me more, the more I thought Roy's story was too fantastic to believe. You couldn't make it up...and yet it was all true. But it wasn't until we were in the midst of editing that we found our treasure trove of recently discovered family photographs that enabled us to make this powerful film about a period in US history that too few people know about, and need to understand.



We want to thank the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community for serving as our non-profit fiscal sponsor and all of the funders who made this longer film possible. They include the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, the National Japanese American Historical Society, Humanities Washington, the Berkeley chapter of the JACL, the Northern California Time of Remembrance Committee, Merrill's Marauders Association, Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants, Nisei Veterans Committee, Nisei Veterans Committee Foundation, Nisei Translators, Friends & Family of Nisei Veterans and Southwest Airlines. In addition, we want to thank all of our Kickstarter supporters for "kicking in" the remaining completion funds.

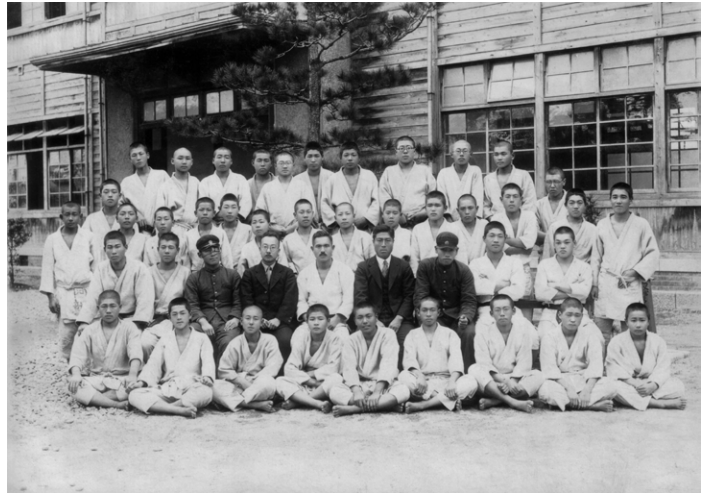


The Making of Honor & Sacrifice

From Associate Producer Karen Matsumoto

There was so much I didn't know about my father. Not only was there only a paragraph about the Japanese American concentration camps in my high school history textbook, but Roy himself never spoke to me about his wartime experiences. I first learned a little about his crucial role in the Burma campaign of Merrill's Marauders when I was in my 30s, but it wasn't until the late 1990s that I really started to understand what happened to his family.

The story you see in HONOR & SACRIFICE came close to not being told. If Roy had not lived to be 100, we wouldn't have found out what we needed to know to tell his full story. If my grandfather's photographs of California and Hiroshima had not been discovered in the closet of my cousin's house in Jigozen, we would not have had the amazing photographs that help illuminate this history. If I had not encountered Joel Goodman's music in the film, "Cats of Mirikitani" we would not have the music that has added so much depth and feeling to the film. If Don and Lucy had not had the patience to stitch together archival war footage, family photos, and live interviews with people in their very last years of life, this film could not have been made. Luck certainly played a role in this project, as it seems to have played a life-sustaining role in my father's own story.



I very much wanted people to know what Roy did, what his family suffered, how the war affected their lives—as it affected the lives of everyone who was touched by it—but I also wanted people to understand the qualities of the Japanese American community, the challenges and hardships my grandparents endured, and the fierce loyalty to the United States shown by the many, many people who fought in the war even though their immediate families were behind barbed wire or in some cases, still in Japan.



I know my father better now. I feel closer to my grandparents. There is so much more I want to understand about my family, my ancestral community, and the way we have been touched by history. But this film is a beginning for me. For the many people who will see it, I hope they will think about

war and those that participate in the war experience, either voluntarily or as unfortunate bystanders, through a more personal lens. I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Don and Lucy, for the many months of work they put into this film. I never imagined this story could be told in such a personal and powerful way. Thank you!



The History

The Journey to America

The first Japanese immigrants came to Hawaii shortly after the end of the American Civil War as contract laborers, work on sugar cane plantations. By the late 1800s, Japanese workers were arriving by the hundreds in western ports in San Francisco and Seattle, many finding low-paid work on railroads and in sawmill operations, fish canneries, and domestic service. The majority of Japanese immigrants, however, found jobs as migrant farmworkers.

Japanese Farming and American Racism

Many farmworkers dreamed of starting their own farms. Those who were able to secure even poor and unproductive land used generations-old practices to reclaim it and make it productive.

Laws regulating land and agriculture made it difficult for Japanese farmers to access the resources necessary to participate on equal terms in the farming industry. The 1913 Alien Land Act, prohibited “aliens ineligible for citizenship” from purchasing land or leasing it for a period of more than 3 years. By 1918, despite these challenges, almost 90 percent of California’s strawberries, asparagus, celery, and tomatoes were grown by Japanese, a success story that aroused jealousy and racist animosity among White farmers. Even the courts supported discrimination against Asian farmers, with a 1923 case making sharecropping illegal because it was a way for Asian Americans to indirectly possess and use land. The Alien Land Act was not declared unconstitutional until 1952.



Despite widespread discrimination, Japanese communities began to spring up in such cities as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and Salt Lake City. Most Nisei children attended public schools, and some were enrolled in American colleges. “Japanese schools” which were after school or Saturday programs were also founded where Nisei learned Japanese customs, sports, and language. However, some Nisei were sent back to Japan for education and returned to America. They were called Kibei, literally “return to America”.

The Great Depression

To counter discrimination, Japanese Americans from California, Oregon, and Washington came together to form the Japanese American Citizens League in 1929 to fight discrimination and provide self-help to their community. In 1930, the first convention of the JACL was held in Seattle, WA. These organizations helped support the community during the decade of the Great Depression, when Japanese and other Asian minorities were often scapegoated as economic competitors and victimized by violence caused by race-based hatred.



World War II

President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan the day after the December 7, 1941, Japanese attack on the U.S. naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. FBI agents immediately began to round up and arrest Issei community leaders in Hawaii and the mainland for detention without cause or due process, based mainly on racist war hysteria. The government commissioned a secret study called the Munson Report that indicated Japanese Americans in the United States, and would likely lead to war with Japan.

Despite this report, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 in February 1942, authorizing the War Relocation Authority to forcibly remove Japanese Americans from "prescribed military areas" in California, Washington, and southern Arizona. The



Hiroshima Studio
昭和17年2月15日
(1942年)
武徳殿
満蒙開拓青少年義勇隊廣島中隊出發

nese Americans out of these areas on the pretext that they were a threat to national security. More than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living on or near the West Coast were soon imprisoned in government-run concentration camps. Most of them were U.S. citizens or legal permanent resident aliens, and half were children.

In the camps, families were often separated, and family and cultural dynamics disrupted. The housing was substandard, with inadequate nutrition and health care. Most of those sent to the camps lost their homes and their livelihoods were destroyed. Some Japanese Americans died in the camps due to inadequate medical care and the emotional stresses they encountered. Several were killed by military guards, supposedly for resisting orders.

According to a 1983 report issued by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, the internment actions "were motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." The emotional and physical suffering caused by their camp experience affected many Japanese American families long after their release.

Japanese Americans in the U.S. Military

The Fourth Army Intelligence School was opened in late 1941 at the Presidio of San Francisco, about a month before the Japanese military bombed Pearl Harbor. Sixty students led by four Nisei instructors began training in the Japanese language.

In early 1942, the War Department declared that all Nisei are "enemy aliens not desired for the armed service" and classified them 4-C. Many of the over 5,000 Nisei in the armed forces are discharged. The War Department announced that it will not "accept for service with the armed forces, Japanese or persons of Japanese extraction, regardless of citizenship status or other factors."



Despite the position of the War Department, Elmer Davis, director of the Office of War Information, recommended to President Roosevelt that Japanese Americans be allowed to enlist for military service, providing the initiative for the concept of an all-Japanese American military unit.

By 1943, Nisei volunteers were organized into the Nisei from the mainland, from behind barbed wire, Regimental Combat Team, with the 442nd and fought playing a key role in the Al- best-known missions of the "Lost Battalion," a group of the Germans with no hope resulted in more casual-



number of those they res- most decorated unit for its U.S. military history. Their famous motto, "Go for Broke", succinctly expresses the typical attitude of the Nisei soldier, who was willing to give his all for his country.

and draftees from Hawai'i 100th Infantry Battalion, most of them volunteering began training as the 442nd Later, the 100th merged in Italy, France and Germany, lied war effort. Among the 442nd was the rescue of the 200 Texans surrounded by of escape. This heroic action ties to the 442nd than the cued. The 442nd was the size and length of service in

In 1943, the Army language school was moved to Camp Savage, Minnesota, and becomes known as the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS). The MISLS recruits several hundred Japanese American volunteers from concentration camps and from Hawai'i, including Roy Matsumoto. Over 6,000 students eventually graduate from the MISLS in a total of 21 graduating classes.

Merrill's Marauders

A call for volunteers for "A Dangerous and Hazardous Mission" was answered by approximately 3,000 American soldiers. Organized into each battalion, the volunteers the globe. Fourteen Japa- Military Intelligence were also was officially designated as (Provisional) with the Code were later popularly known for their leader, Brigadier



After preliminary training op- great secrecy in the jungles ers began the long march up outlying ranges of the Hima-

erations were undertaken in of Central India, the Marau- the Ledo Road and over the layan Mountains into Burma.



The Marauders, with no tanks or heavy artillery to support them, walked over 1,000 miles through extremely dense and almost impenetrable jungles. They carried all their equipment and supplies on their backs and on the backs of pack mules. Re-supplied by air drops, the Marauders often had to make a clearing in the thick jungle to receive the supplies.

Wounded Marauders had to be carried on stretchers and evacuated by air; the Marauders would hack out evacuation planes. The air rescue was often in very hazardous conditions, all equipment except a compass, and one stretcher.

In five major battles (Walawbum, Nhpum Ga, and Myitkyina) and the Marauders defeated the vastly outnumbered Japanese at Nhpum Ga saved the 2nd behind-the-lines operations culminated in the capture of Myitkyina Airfield, the only all-Burma at that time.

At the end of their campaign, all remaining Marauders still in action were evacuated to hospitals suffering from tropical diseases, exhaustion, and malnutrition. The medical tags on their battered uniforms read "AOE", for "accumulation of everything".

For their accomplishments in Burma the Marauders were awarded the "Distinguished Unit Citation" in 1944. The Marauders also have the rare distinction of having every member of the unit receive the "Bronze Star." Roy Matsumoto was also awarded the Legion of Merit for his actions at Walawbum, but not for his heroic actions at Nhpum Ga.

After WWII

Members of the MIS provide translation services for war crimes tribunals and trials, and continue to serve during the Occupation of Japan in military government, civil affairs, education, and intelligence through 1952. Roy Matsumoto was stationed in Okinawa, Japan during this time until 1952.

In 1994, Roy Matsumoto was inducted in the "Ranger Hall of Fame" at Fort Benning, GA, and in 1995, inducted into the "Military Intelligence Hall of Fame" at Fort Huachuca, AZ. He received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011 along with the Nisei veterans of WWII in the 442nd, 100th Battalion, and Military Intelligence Service.



carried on makeshift stretchers—a feat in itself. The small planes, stripped of everything but a landing strip for the small unit would then land and take off. The small planes, stripped of everything but a landing strip for the pilot

Shaduzup, Inkangahtawng, thirty minor engagements, Japanese 18th Division, who were defeated by the Marauders. Roy's heroic actions culminated in the capture of a weather airfield in Northern

remaining Marauders still in action were evacuated to hospitals suffering from tropical diseases, exhaustion, and malnutrition. The medical tags on their battered uniforms read "AOE", for "accumulation of everything".



Timeline

1900 Japanese immigrants are engaged in converting California's barren interior lands into rich vineyards and truck farming.

Japanese government discontinues issuing passports to laborers for mainland USA. This was called the "Gentlemen's Agreement."

Wakamatsu Matsumoto, Roy's Grandfather comes to mainland U.S. from Hawaii.

1903 The Oriental Exclusion League, claiming 78,000 members, launches an anti-Japanese campaign in California and other western states. The use of the term "Yellow Peril" becomes commonly used.

1904 Immigration Act of 1907 passed by U.S. Congress, preventing Japanese laborers from entering the United States via Hawaii, Mexico, or Canada.

1906 Wakaji Matsumoto (Roy's father) joins Wakamatsu in Los Angeles, CA from Japan.

1908 The "Gentlemen's Agreement" goes into effect. The Japanese government agrees to cease issuing passports to all emigrating laborers except for former residents, parents, wives, or children of residents.

1909 Arrival of the first Japanese "picture brides" in the United States. It was common for men in the frontier west to obtain wives by proxy.

Tee Kimura comes to America from Japan and marries Wakaji Matsumoto in 1912.

1913 Japanese immigrants form Northwest Japanese Association of America in Seattle.

Roy Matsumoto is born in Laguna, California.

1920 Takao Ozawa v. U.S. declares Japanese immigrants were not eligible for naturalized citizenship. Cable Act declares that any American female citizen who marries "an alien ineligible to citizenship" would lose her citizenship.

1921 Washington Alien Land Law. "Aliens ineligible for citizenship" are prohibited from owning land. The leasing of land is limited to 3 years.

Roy Matsumoto and his brother Takeshi board the steamship "Burajiru Maru" bound for Japan.

1923 Webb v. O'Brien rules that sharecropping is illegal because it is a ruse that allows Japanese to possess and use land. Frick v. Webb forbids aliens "ineligible to citizenship" from owning stocks in corporations formed for farming.

1924 Immigration Act denies entry to virtually all Asians.

1927 Wakaji Matsumoto and his family return to Hiroshima from southern California.

1930 Roy Matsumoto returns to California from Hiroshima.

1931 Gero Iwai, often referred to as the "father of the Military Intelligence Service" is recruited as an undercover agent in Honolulu.

1933 Roy graduates from Long Beach Polytechnic High School.

1940 The Navy Intelligence Language School is started by the U.S. Navy at Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley. The instructors are mostly first generation Japanese (Issei) or Japanese Americans born in the United States and educated in Japan (Kibei).



1941 Two Nisei from Hawai'i, Richard Sakakida and Arthur Komori, are recruited by the U.S. Army in Hawai'i and sent to the Philippines for undercover work.

The Fourth Army Intelligence School is started at the Presidio of San Francisco. Sixty students led by four Nisei instructors begin training in the Japanese language. The school is later named the Military Intelligence Service Language School, or MISLS.

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor on December 7th, and the United States declares war on Japan, entering World War II. Japanese troops land in the Philippines, French Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia), and British Singapore. By April 1942, the Philippines, Indochina, and Singapore are under Japanese occupation.

After U.S. declared war on Japan, 2000 Japanese American community leaders along Pacific Coast states and Hawaii are rounded up and imprisoned in Department of Justice camps.

The U.S. Army takes command of the Hawai'i Territorial Guard, made up of ROTC cadets and volunteers from Honolulu high schools, the majority of them Nisei.

Many male Japanese community leaders in Hawai'i and the mainland are arrested by the FBI and sent to "justice camps" around the country.

1942 The 317 Nisei members of the Hawaiian Territorial Guard are discharged without explanation and classified as 4-C, "enemy aliens."

Japanese Americans in the military on the mainland are segregated out of their units.

In February, Executive Order 9066 is signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, authorizing the War Department to evacuate and incarcerate over 120,000 Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans. Two-thirds of those interned are U.S. citizens; three-fourths are elderly, women, and children.

Roy Matsumoto is incarcerated in Santa Anita Racetrack temporary concentration camp. He is later sent to the concentration camp in Jerome, Arkansas. Roy enlists in the U.S. Army from the Jerome Camp.

The War Department declares that all Nisei are "enemy aliens not desired for the armed service" and classifies them 4-C. Many of the over 5,000 Nisei in the armed forces are discharged. The War Department announces that it will not "accept for service with the armed forces, Japanese or persons of Japanese extraction, regardless of citizenship status or other factors."

Elmer Davis, Office of War Information Director, recommends to President Roosevelt that Japanese Americans be allowed to enlist for military service. This provided the initiative for the concept of an all-Japanese American military unit.

The first graduating class of the Fourth Army Intelligence School graduates forty-five students.

The Fourth Army Language School is moved to Camp Savage, Minnesota, and becomes known as the MISLS. The first class has over 200 students. Over 6,000 students eventually graduate from the MISLS, a total of 21 graduating classes.

MISLS recruits several hundred Japanese American volunteers from concentration camps and from Hawai'i, including Roy Matsumoto.

An all-Nisei battalion is formed in Hawai'i, later called the 100th Infantry Battalion.

1944 MISLS moves to Fort Snelling, Minnesota. Roy Matsumoto undergoes language training at Fort Snelling.

Roy volunteers for a hazardous mission with Merrill's Marauders as a Nisei linguist with MIS.

Merrill's Marauders captures Myitkyina, the vital junction for opening the Burma Road into China.



100th/442nd RCT rescues the “Lost Battalion,” 200 Texans who were cut off and surrounded by the enemy.

1945 More than 50 MIS Nisei soldiers land with the U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima, one of the last battles in the Pacific. Nisei are also present in the Tinian Island operation.

The battle of Okinawa is shortened by the work of Nisei MIS linguists who translate Japanese documents revealing defense plans, troop positions, and maps of artillery positions.

The 442nd Field Artillery Battalion help liberate Jewish prisoners of the Landsberg-Kaufering Dachau Death March and Dachau sub-camps.

May 7th, Germany surrenders.

August 6th, the United States drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima

August 9th, the United States drops an atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

August 14th, Japan agrees in principle to unconditional surrender.

Japan formally surrenders on September 2, 1945, ending World War II.

1946 Tule Lake concentration camp closes, the final stage of “an incredible mass evacuation in reverse.” In the month prior to the closing some 5,000 internees had to be moved, many of whom were elderly, impoverished, or mentally ill and most of whom had no place to go.

Members of the MIS provide translation services for war crimes tribunals and trials, including Roy Matsumoto, who is stationed in Shanghai.

During a reception held in Washington, D.C. President Truman pins the Presidential Unit Citation on the 100/442nd RCT colors. “You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice-and you have won.” - President Truman

MIS Nisei serve during the Occupation of Japan in military government, civil affairs, education, and intelligence through 1952. Roy Matsumoto is stationed in Okinawa, Japan from 1947 to 1952.

1952 The McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act is passed by Congress. This Act allowed Japanese immigrants to become naturalized citizens of the United States for the first time.

Roy Matsumoto returns to California with his wife Kimiko, and daughter Fumi.

1956 California alien land laws are repealed by the voters of California.

1988 President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which

recognized that the incarceration of Japanese Americans was “motivated largely by prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.”

1993 Roy Matsumoto is inducted into the US Army “Ranger Hall of Fame” in Fort Benning, GA.

1997 Roy Matsumoto is inducted into the “Military Intelligence Hall of Fame” in Fort Huachuca, AZ.

2011 All WWII veterans in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Battalion, and Military Intelligence Service receive the Congressional Gold Medal, including Roy Matsumoto.

2013 Roy Matsumoto celebrates his 100th birthday.



Wakaji's Photographs



Wakaji Matsumoto

Wakaji Matsumoto, a native of Hiroshima, emigrated to the United States in 1906 to join his father, Wakamatsu, who worked on a farm in Laguna, California, near Los Angeles. He was joined by his wife Tee in 1912, and together with family, ran a successful produce farm.

Wakaji was fascinated by photography and acquired his first camera by mail order. He took a correspondence course to learn photography, and as a hobby, took many photographs of life on rural Japanese American farms and in the Japanese community in Little Tokyo. Wakaji later attended photography school in San Diego to learn the latest photographic techniques, and acquired more cameras and equipment. He was part of a group of Japanese photographers who formed a camera club that went on

photographic field trips throughout the countryside. The members of the club shared photographs and discussed what was happening in the art world, incorporating different styles into their work. Some of Wakaji's work illustrates the concepts of soft focus and storytelling that popularized the pictorialist movement of the early 20th century.

Wakaji's love of photography and developing talent inspired him to pursue photography as a career. He purchased a state-of-the-art camera with his earnings from the farm, a model that was impossible to buy in Japan at that time. Leaving their farm in Los Angeles, Wakaji moved his family back to Japan, and opened a photography studio in Hiroshima's downtown Naka Ward, a few blocks from what would be the epicenter of the Hiroshima atomic bombing. Wakaji took photographs for various newspapers and his studio, Hiroshima Shashinkan, was very successful. With the permission of the Hiroshima military authorities, he was able to continue taking photographs of the city during its rapid militarization.

Despite this success, Wakaji eventually closed his studio. Photographic supplies were not easily available due to the war, and photography was forbidden in Hiroshima by the government in order to maintain military security. He loaded his photographs on a horse cart, and took them to his parents' home in the town of Hatsukaichi, located on the outskirts of Hiroshima, which saved them from being destroyed in the atomic bombing of August, 1945.





Over 10,000 of Wakaji's photographs were discovered in 2010 by his grandson, Hitoshi Ouchi, still in the closet where Wakaji had put them for safekeeping so long before. He informed the City of Hiroshima of their existence and donated the photographs to the City of Hiroshima. They have been preserved and archived by the Hiroshima Archives.

Until the discovery of Wakaji's photographs, there were only 200 known photos of Hiroshima as it appeared before the atomic bombing. His collection contained over 2,000 pre-war photos of Hiroshima. Most of the photos of California and Japan had never been seen since before WWII. Many of the photos seen in "Honor & Sacrifice" are being seen for the first time.

Here are some examples of Wakaji's work:

Hiroshima





Panoramas





Credits

HONOR & SACRIFICE: The Roy Matsumoto Story

Produced by Lucy Ostrander and Don Sellers

Photographed, Edited & Written by Don Sellers

Associate Producer - Karen Matsumoto

Music by Joel Goodman

Additional Music by Bruce Aronson

Teacher's Letter Read by Joyce Mycka-Stettler

Archival Footage & Photographs

Roy Matsumoto family

Wakaji Matsumoto

Hitoshi Ohuchi

Dawn Matsumoto Ehrlich and family

Grant Hirabayashi family

Arthur and Patricia Omoto

David Quaid

The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

University of California Archives

Densho

Photos donated by Corbis Bettmann Archive

Japanese American Archival Collection. Department of Special Collections and University Archives. The Library. California State University, Sacramento.

Hawaii State Archives

Hiroshima Municipal Archives

Shigeo Hayashi, Courtesy of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

H.J. Peterson, Courtesy of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

The Merrill's Marauders Association

The National Archives

Seattle Nisei Veterans

University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections

U.S. Army



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Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants
Nisei Veterans Committee
Nisei Veterans Committee Foundation
Nisei Translators
Friends & Family of Nisei Veterans
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BIJAC

Honor & Sacrifice was produced in association with the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC). BIJAC honors the heritage of the Issei (first-generation Japanese) who came to the United States, to make a new life for themselves and their children. BIJAC hopes to promote a better understanding of the diversity of our nation by sharing Japanese American history, customs, and values. BIJAC is dedicated to preserving and sharing an accurate historical record through oral histories and an outreach educational program.

BIJAC's principal focus is the Nidoto Nai Yoni ("Let It Not Happen Again") Japanese American Exclusion Memorial to honor those forced to leave their homes during World War II. Joining BIJAC in this project are local, county, state, and federal governments, as well as many, many individuals who have donated their time, money, and energy toward its completion.

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