

Dates: 1942 - 1945

Volumes: 1

Size: 1 lf (1 box)

Abstract:

This scrapbook was created by Bert Tanaka. It is composed primarily of newspaper clippings that relate to his military career.

Biography/History:

Bert M. Tanaka was born in Kauai, Hawaii, on March 5th 1918. After moving to San Diego, Tanaka attended San Diego State College after graduating from San Diego High School. In October of 1940, Tanaka married Mitsue Aizumi.

In June of 1941, Tanaka returned to Hawaii and enlisted into the Army with the 100th Battalion. He received his basic training at Schofield Barracks in Honolulu. Tanaka went on to fight in Italy and France to secure victory for the Allied Forces. During his time in the Army, Tanaka displayed many courageous actions earning him a Silver Star and a battalion promotion to Second Lieutenant.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, Tanaka was unable to finish his education at San Diego State College so he attended vocational school and became a television repair man. He died of kidney failure at age 69 on August 26, 1986.

Scope and Content:

This scrapbook was created by Bert Tanaka. It is composed primarily of newspaper clippings that relate to his military career.

Also included are clippings that pertain to the treatment and sentiments towards Japanese Americans in the United States. Some clippings are duplicated throughout the scrapbook.

Of particular interest is a letter from his commanding officer thanking him for his service as he is discharged from the military.

Arrangement:

There appears to be no specific arrangement.

Condition and Preservation:

The scrapbook is in poor condition, with brittle pages and discolored clippings. It was deconstructed to assist with its preservation.

Citation:

Bert Tanaka Military Scrapbook, SB 10, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego Archives.

Collection Access Restrictions:

The collection is open for research.

Collection Use Restrictions:

Restrictions may apply

Language of Materials:

English

Processing Information:

Jorgelina Martinez , February 2019

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title/Subjects</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	<p>Pages 1-6:</p> <p>Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>Articles recognizing the efforts of the Nisei soldiers who served in WW2.</p> <p>Articles praising Nisei and Japanese Americans.</p> <p>Nisei efforts in Italy.</p> <p>Praise for the 100th Battalion who entered into Benevento to rescue the American parachutists.</p> <p>An interview with Major Casper Clough praises the Japanese Americans for their efforts.</p> <p>More praises for the Niseis from Hawaii and also were awarded a War Department citation for outstanding performance of duty in action.</p>	<p>August 1944</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p>
1	2	<p>Pages 7-11:</p> <p>The 100th Battalion who guarded the Navy Secretary.</p> <p>Photograph of the 100th Battalion entering into Livorno and of Nisei attending a church service in Italy.</p> <p>Praises the 100th battalion who won entrance into Italy and an announcement for Tanaka's engagement to his wife, Mitsui Aizumi. (from "Cedar Rapids Gazette)</p> <p>Articles describing the Japanese Americans in the Army and</p>	<p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p>

		<p>their surprise to see how eager they were to fight in the war.</p> <p>Describes a racist encounter a Japanese American experienced in Poston, Arizona.</p>	n.d.
1	3	<p>Pages 12-16:</p> <p>Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>Praises the Nisei Battalion for getting very far in Italy.</p> <p>Describing the heroism and strength Nisei soldiers had, 900 of which received a Purple Heart.</p> <p>Letter:</p> <p>From his commanding officer, thanking Tanaka for his strength and efforts during the war.</p> <p>Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>Article reporting on Tanaka’s awarded the Silver Star, another article quoting Tanaka of their loyalty to America and eagerness to fight.</p> <p>Articles on British war efforts that were made possible by the Japanese 5th Army troops.</p>	<p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>September 1945</p> <p>July 1944</p> <p>n.d.</p>
1	4	<p>Pages 17-21:</p> <p>Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>Discusses the war efforts from the 442nd Regiment with Tanaka mentioned (from “Honolulu Star-Bulletin”)</p> <p>Article on Tanaka being awarded gold bars for effective leadership (from “The Buffalo”)</p> <p>Discussing how Nisei are just like all the American boys and how they were to hold their own during Nazi attacks.</p> <p>Discusses more of Japanese American efforts and how they have identified themselves as Americans instead of Japanese.</p>	<p>June 1945</p> <p>May 1945</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p>

		<p>Discusses the 100th Battalion’s outstanding performance in the war and the other pertains to the death of Tech Sargent Gary Hisoka.</p> <p>Discusses again the 900 Nisei from Hawaii being awarded Purple Hearts.</p>	<p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p>
1	5	<p>Pages 22-25:</p> <p>Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>Sargent Tanaka is quoted saying Japanese Americans are just as good and loyal as those of German and Italian descent. (from “Jerome Paper & Honolulu Star- Bulletin”)</p> <p>Article claiming it was a fluke that gave the Japanese Americans a chance to fight. The other article gives the Nisei praise for their efforts and accomplishments.</p> <p>Photograph:</p> <p>Plaque recognizing the 442nd Infantry regiment from France.</p> <p>Telegram:</p> <p>To Tanaka’s wife Mitsui letting her know Bert was going to be on TV to discuss the army’s participation in Rome.</p>	<p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p>
1	6	<p>Pages 26-29:</p> <p>Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>German propaganda cartoons (from Anzio BeachHead)</p> <p>Pass: to the 5th Army Rest Center</p> <p>Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>Article discussing the governor of Ohio’s prejudice against Japanese Americans. The others also pertain to the treatment towards Japanese Americans.</p>	<p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p>

		Newspaper cartoon	March 1944
1	7	<p>Page 30:</p> <p>Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>More discussion of government official's racist beliefs towards Japanese Americans (from "Star Bulletin")</p>	May 1944
1	8	<p>Loose materials:</p> <p>Italian money.</p> <p>Members card for the 5th Army Association.</p> <p>Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>Praising the 442nd regiment in the Army;</p> <p>Article calling for other GI's to help Japanese American soldiers against racism back home;</p> <p>Article discussing the activities Japanese Americans were doing in the East Coast after the war.</p>	<p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p> <p>n.d.</p>