

-TITLE-MICHAEL AKAMINE
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE-HAWAII HOLOCAUST PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-IMAGE_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

Born: Kihoh Aug. 15, 1922 Japanese

Parents: father, plantation worker, lived on plantation camp for a while and then moved to another camp outside plantation. Two brothers, two sisters all older.

6 years old moved to Oahu, went to elementary, intermediate and high school. graduated high school in 1942 and worked for U.S> engineers as carpenter and construction worker.

At home working on farm at time of Pearl Harbor. Farm had eggs, poultry. Remembers not being able to get to work on Dec. 8, because of bombing.

He worked with Japanese Americans. Parents from Okinawa, Japanese nationals, no discussion with parents about bombing. He volunteered to join army in 1943. He went to Shofield, stayed a few days and then went to San Francisco. Parents objected to him going. His brothers stayed in Hawaii. He went to camp Shelby, remembers the heat and buying dark glasses. He did not go to relocation camp and didn't no anyone who did.

522nd went in Dec. for maneuvers outside Shelby. Month of suffering, Germany- the 522nd split from the 442nd. Assigned to invade Germany. He was a battery agent, something like a messenger. He stayed at headquarters most of time.

Dachau, heard of concentration camp, nobody talked about it, couldn't believe it but knew it was there. His father had told him about it. He had no prejudice against himself.

They went to Dachau, snow on ground, next day when it melted saw people dead all over. Capt. Taylor (very well liked) Had soldiers shoot lock off gate. A stripped clothed prisoner came out, looked dazed, starved, he dove into garbage can and ate whatever was in there.

Stayed in Germany after war from May to Dec. and signed up for agricultural school. Prisoners in Dachau: 200 living 50-75 dead.

How can people say it didn't happen? He saw it, his battalion saw it, how can man treat another man this way.

Tried to forget what they went through. Formed a club with old buddies and met every year. After came home worked on farm and at various other jobs.

Has not talked about experience.. Reason for doing interview: About 2 years before, a local Japanese Major (reserves) asked why he volunteered? He said he was stopped in 1942 by local police who told him they were in a lot of trouble because they were Japanese.

How would you feel about your son joining the military? it would be good for him.
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