

-TITLE-HIRAYAMA FRED
-I DATE-DECEMBER 21, 1987
-SOURCE-HAWAII HOLOCAUST PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-IMAGE QUALITY-
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC NAME-
-PERSONAL NAME-
-CORPORATE NAME-
-KEY WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

Live at Honolulu -

Before war didn't notice discrimination - plantation life. During war - brother was discriminated against - prior to was - was welder on plantation - Rev. - wanted Jap American to serve country - Put petition in - and was accepted. Volunteered for service - wanted to come to Honolulu -. Passed and was inducted - went over-seas. Brother, father and he made a about: and would fish every Sunday - Pearl Harbor happened on Sunday - Shocked to hear there was a war - Felt he should go into service. heard some friends were transferred to camps - Jap. school. Teachers and priests were suspects - Family was proud to see him serve in army - Brother also volunteered - Went to Japan - Fred went to Europe - No one in family was sent to relocation center -

Went to camp Shelby - Didn't experience any discrimination never got into any fights - and - jeep driver - Fool hearty side - didn't want to be with infantry because it was more daring -

522nd served in France and Germany - First contact with concern camp
noticed people with striped uniform, - eating out of garbage camp
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went to see Dachau camp - saw mounds of people - gas chambers - stench was awful - bodies brought to ovens - couldn't eat after he saw it - Saw people roaming around - advancing so fast went back to unit - Saw Gu. soldiers - backed up saw Gen. retreating - Lined people up and took all weapons and took them to headquarters - Saw people coming to their mess area - they were hungry and wanted food - people didn't speak but pantomimed - went into Dachau - saw where people were exterminated - Didn't think it was such a big problem
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It was cold people didn't have shoes - Saw people walking away from Dachau - Each German family had a servant - prisoners were elderly - didn't see any children or women - Didn't see any German personnel at Dachau - spoke to a civilian but they said they didn't know true story - In 1984 went back to Germany - tried to meet people but they had left - Last impression of Dachau - was awful - inhumane - unbeliever that there were 30 or more camps - Hope it never happens again - try to prevent it - Prisoners were happy to

exist - had nothing to smile about - 522nd liberated prisoners at Dachau - didn't realize they liberated prisoners - Reunion in 1984 - made friends with families - during occupation - made a trip to

Dachau - a museum - people should know what has happened in past - Should repeat story constantly - Jap. school - teacher and priest -

were interned - visited re-location camps to socialize when at Camp Shelby pre-military - December 7, 1941 - went fishing and then had to go home and listen to radio - found out war was going on - stunned him - Thought Japs were foolish to attach U.S.-

Showed some pictures of state of Texas honoring 442nd and Jewish war vets. Combat team - Biffontaine, France honoring 442 int. Regiment painting or color slide - of fighting.

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