



Veteran Henry Ikemoto of Downey, **Monique Carlesso** of France and **Matsu Oshiro** of Huntington Beach, from left, attend the 442nd team reunion Saturday. Associated Press

Japanese-American vets reunite at training camp

Associated Press

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Veterans of the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, formed from the ranks of Japanese-Americans, returned Saturday to the camp that prepared them for some of the heaviest fighting of World War II.

"Seeing this place left tears in my eyes," said Hiromi Omura of Hawaii.

The "Go for Broke" team was honored in daylong homecoming ceremonies at Camp Shelby, a sprawling state-owned training facility in south Mississippi.

Some 400 veterans and family members from all over the country attended the reunion, which closes today with a private memorial service.

The veterans, now in their 70s, were part of the most highly decorated regiment in World War II. The all-volunteer unit was organized Jan. 28, 1943, and trained at Camp Shelby.

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, a 442nd veteran who lost an arm in combat, arrived for Saturday's ceremony in a war-vintage command vehicle accompanied by troops in World War II uniforms.

"It's good to be back in this place," said Inouye. "The memories are still there. I remembered how hospitable the people were down here, and I'm happy to say they are still very friendly people. That's just the same."

Inouye said many of the veterans "came back to this place to show their gratitude to the people and for the place that trained them."

He said at a monument dedication ceremony that the hospitality shown by residents in the Hattiesburg area had a special meaning to young Japanese-American soldiers: Those young Americans had left behind family members forced from their homes and sent to crowded relocation centers by a country still smarting from Pearl Harbor and suspicious of any Japanese, American-born or not.

Inouye said the young troops left the training "satisfied and convinced America was a good land. That it was worth fighting for and, if necessary, dying for."

"We've had reunions, but this is the first time most of us had been back since training, and we keep looking around to see something familiar," said Duke Tokiwa of San Jose, Calif.

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Henry - Dan

Here is the article & picture
we talked about

That has been a good series on
Channel 9.

We watched Monday night, but all
they had was the truck that was being
closed by the Buckle P.D.

The heritage of the 442 is very
proud & you guys did one hell of a job
in Europe.

Thanks again
Guy