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Kenjiro Akune Personal Collection Finding Aid 2016.001

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Go For Broke National Education Center

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Summary Information

Repository:	Go For Broke National Education Center
Creator:	Akune, Kenjiro
Title:	Kenjiro Akune Personal Collection
ID:	2016.001
Date [bulk]:	1940-2011
Physical Description:	4.34 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The collection consists of manuscripts, military publications, correspondence, and audio/visual materials of Kenjiro Akune. This collection focuses on the military service of Akune and other Nisei soldiers during World War II. The collection also touches on Akune's post-World War II activities, Go For Broke National Education Center events taking place between the 1990s-2000s, and Nisei veteran reunions and interviews.

Preferred Citation

[Item], [Collection], Go For Broke National Education Center, Los Angeles, California.

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Biographical / Historical

Kenjiro Akune was born in Turlock, California on July 3, 1923. He grew up on a farm with his eight brothers and sisters. When he was 10 years old his mother died, so his father moved him and his family to Japan for a few years. He continued his schooling in Japan until the age of 15, then he and his older brother, Harry, moved back to the states. He worked as a schoolboy, and was later taken in by a Japanese farming family, the Saisho's, whom he was staying with when the war broke out. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and the enactment of Executive Order 9066, he and the Saisho family were forcibly removed to the Merced Temporary Detention Facility and later, to the Granada (Amache) Concentration Camp. While at Granada Concentration Camp, Ken volunteered to join the service and was recruited into the Military Intelligence Service due to his knowledge of the Japanese language. Ken underwent basic training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi, and was also sent to military language

training in Minneapolis, Minnesota at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling. In January 1944, he was sent to the China-India-Burma Theater and was assigned to the Office of War Information. He interrogated Japanese prisoners of war to retrieve information about the Japanese Imperial Army, which was used in propaganda pamphlets that were given to Japanese soldiers during the war. The war in the Pacific ended in July 1945, and Ken was discharged home. However, he wanted to return to Japan to spend time with his family (his sister, younger brother, and father were living in Japan during the war). He decided to sign up through civilian services to work as a linguist with the occupation forces, where he was assigned as a translator to the war crimes trials -- among these was the Tojo Trial. While in Japan, he met and married his wife. They moved back to the states in 1949, and settled in Gardena, California to raise a family. Ken Akune has been an integral part to the Go For Broke National Education Center organization since its inception in 1989. He is one of the founding members and among the most active Nisei veterans within the organization. He has contributed to the creation and construction of the organization's monument in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles.

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Content Description

The collection consists of manuscripts, military publications, correspondence, and audio/visual materials of Kenjiro Akune. There are personal materials of Kenjiro's as well as other materials that he has collected. Most of the materials are in English but some materials are in Japanese. There are materials from Japanese American service in World War II as well as materials from post World War II activity relating to veteran reunions, events, and the monument creation.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Go For Broke National Education Center

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Processing Information

Processed by Erin Sato, 2016.

Existence and Location of Originals

Box 1-6 and 8 located in Cabinet 12, Shelf 1 Box 7 located by far right cabinets (Banker Box) Box 9 located in Cabinet 14, Shelf 2 Box 10 located in Cabinet 14, Shelf 4

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Controlled Access Headings

- Camp Shelby (Miss.)
- California
- Camp Savage
- Fort Snelling (Minn.)
- Intelligence service
- Japan
- Japanese Americans
- Japanese Americans -- History -- 20th century
- Military intelligence
- Military Intelligence Service Language School (U.S.)
- Minnesota
- Mississippi.
- Pacific Area.
- United States.
- United States. Army. Infantry
- United States. Army. Infantry Battalion, 100th
- United States. Army. Regimental Combat Team, 442nd
- United States. War Department. Military Intelligence Service
- World War, 1939-1945
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Japanese Americans
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Military intelligence -- United States.
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Military intelligence -- Pacific Area
- World War, 1939-1945 Military intelligence
- Granada Concentration Camp

Collection Inventory

Audio Visual, (1961-1995)

Date [bulk]: 1961-1995

Scope and Contents

Box 3, Folder 1: VHS – Go For Broke Educational Foundation 10 min video, circa 2000s VHS – MIS PUC VHS – Dixie Mission III

Box 3, Folder 2: Video8- Geo Akaba June 1991; Still Pic War Criminals/ Pop and Mom VHS – Akune 8 HR (Unknown Japanese Title)

Box 4, Folder 1: VHS – Dedication of Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway, June 10, 1995 VHS – Dedication of Military Intelligence Service Memorial Highway (23), June 10, 1995 VHS – Visual Communications, MIS Memorial Highways Dedication (SIMI Valley) 2:20, 1995

Box 4, Folder 2: VHS – Interview by Masazumi Yuari of J. Mia, N. Yamashita, Sho Nomura, Rusty Kimura and Victor Abe 12/9/93 VHS – Min Hara Story VHS – Sho Nomura Story with Nancy Araki, 1994

Box 4, Folder 3: VHS – MIS Experience – Sho Nomura, Ken Akune, Don Oka, Victor Abe, Harry Akune to MI GP, 1991 VHSC – Interview of Jim Mita, Rusty Kimura and Nob Yamashita at VFW Hall 1961 by Daily News

Box 5, Folder 1: 8 MM Tape – Lunch with Lucky (Marine POW in Japan WWII) DVD – POW – WWII Marine Lucky Tape cover case

Box 5, Folder 2: 8MM Tape – Interview of Harry Akune, James Oda, Rusty Kimura, Rocky Yamada, James Mita, James Ogawa, and Geo Kanegai at West LA Travel in Sept. 1992 by Yugari or Japan; Award of LAPD Honor Guard 9/28/92 DVD – Interviews, Disc 1 of 2, Sept. 1992 8 MM Tape – Interview of James Mita, Nob Yamashita, Sho Nomura, Rusty Kimura, and Victor Abe by Mr. Yugari (Japanese writer) at the New Otani Hotel on Dec. 9, 1993 DVD – Interviews, Disc 2 of 2, 1993

Box 5, Folder 3: 8 MM Tape – DC Reunion 10/21/93 No. 1; Tour of Washington; Arlington Nat'l Cemet.; Luncheon with Rep. Mink 8 MM Tape – 10/30/91 MIS Panel Discussion (2) DVD – DC Discussion – 1991 Disc 1 of 2 DVD – DC Discussion – 1991 Disc 2 of 2

Box 5, Folder 4: 8MM Tape – 10/30/91 MIS Panel Discussion (3) 8MM Tape – 10/30/91 MIS Panel Discussion (4) DVD – DC Discussion 91-2-4 Disc 1 of 2, 1991 DVD – DC Discussion 91-2-4 Disc 2 of 2, 1991

Box 6, Folder 1: Video8 - DC Reunion #2; 10/21/93 Video8 – DC Reunion JAVA Oct. '93 #3

Box 6, Folder 2: Video8 – Panel Discussion, 1993 Video8 – 10/23 Banquet Nite, Java Reunion #5; Senator Inouye Speech; Tour of DC by the Shiosakas; Ogawas, Min and Keiko Hara, and Akunes Video8 – Ace and VI Fukai 50th 11/6/93

Box 6, Folder 3: Video8- Monument meeting 5/5/92; MPLS Reunion, 5/27/92 Video8 – Speech – Norman Mineta; MPLS Reunion; 5/30/92 Video8 – MPLS/St. Paul 50th Reunion; 5/30/92

Box 6, Folder 4: Video8 – Hawaii MIS Reunion 7/14/93; Hawaii 7/14-7/15/1993 Video8 – MIS Meeting of April 1991; MIS Exper to National Guard, 5/15/91 Video8 – Saga of MIS Part 4, Geo Kanegai, 1989 VHS – Military Intelligence Hall of Fame Ceremony for Harry on June 21, 1996 Fort Hualhuka, AZ Video8 – MIS Shinnenemkai Feb. 3, 1991; Main Speaker Joe Sykes

Box 6, Folder 5: VHS – Visual Communications, 100th/442/MIS WWII Memorial Groundbreaking, Little Tokyo (Dub from S-VHS), 1995 VHS – Nov. 8, 9, 10 Events, "Salute to JA WWII Vets" Hospitality at Tokyo Tower Ground Dedication Ceremony VHS – MIS Hawaii 50th Anniversary, July 1993

Box 7: Kihyo Beta Video Cassette System Rewinder Baia 8MM Reviewer Editor, 1961 Sony Video HandyCam Vision Camera CCD-TRV118 with charger

Box 9, Folder 1: Negative and Print of Japanese American soldiers at a table

Bound Volumes, (1972-2006)

Date [bulk]: 1972-2006

Scope and Contents

Box 2, Folder 1: Executive Order 9066, 1972

Box 2, Folder 2: Charlie Battery: A Legend, 522 FABN 1943-1945, Volume I, 1991

Box 2, Folder 3: "Military Heritage Presents: World War II History" (copy) (magazine), May 2004

Box 2, Folder 4: Impounded, 2006

Box 9: Yokosuka – Under Occupation (in Japanese) Go For Broke: A Pictorial History of the Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team by Charles Tanaka (1982)

Box 9, Folder 5: Publications about Japanese American World War II veterans

Military Records , (1940-1994)

Date [bulk]: 1940-1994

Scope and Contents

Box 1, Folder 1: Toshio Honda Military Records

Box 1, Folder 2: Military Service – Military Publications; Military history

Box 1, Folder 3: Military Service – MIS Veteran lists

Box 1, Folder 4: Military Service – ATIS Report, Awards

Box 1, Folder 5: Military Service – WRA correspondence

Box 1, Folder 6: Military Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 12: Photographs from military service

Box 1, Folder 13: Ken Akune Separation Files

Box 9, Folder 7: Various notes and records about multiple Japanese American World War II veterans

Post-WWII Activities, (1982-1989)

Date [bulk]: 1982-1989

Scope and Contents

Box 1, Folder 7: Post-Military Service – Published works

Box 1, Folder 8: MIS Club – Southern California

Box 9, Folder 3: Pamphlets from Japanese American and veteran events

Box 9, Folder 4: News and speeches about Japanese American World War II veterans

Go For Broke National Education Center, (1992-2011)

Date [bulk]: 1992-2011

Scope and Contents

Box 1, Folder 9: GFBNEC – Monument news clippings

Box 1, Folder 10: GFBNEC – Monument correspondence, 1992

Box 1, Folder 11: GFBNEC materials

Box 8, Folder 2: GFBNEC - Monument forms and photographs

Box 8, Folder 3: GFBNEC - Veteran events program book and photographs

Box 9, Folder 2: Letters and paperwork from the Monument creation

Publications, (1944-2007)

Date [bulk]: 1944-2007

Scope and Contents

Box 8, Folder 1: Photocopies of newspaper articles from various sources (Some in Japanese)

Box 9, Folder 6: Newspaper articles and a full newspaper (all in Japanese)

Box 9, Folder 8: Printed publications and articles relating to Japanese American World War II veterans

Jack Nagano Materials, (1987-2008)

Date [bulk]: 1987-2008

Scope and Contents

Box 10, Folder 1: MIS and JA Veteran pamphlets

Box 10, Folder 2: Periodicals (1987-2008)

Box 10, Folder 3: Veteran organization papers

Box 10, Folder 4: writings about Japanese American veterans

Box 10, Folder 5: Photographs