

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER ARTHUR S. KOMORI US Army (Deceased)



Arthur Komori enlisted in the Corps of Intelligence Police (CIP) as a civilian agent at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, in March 1941, nine months before the US entered World War II. Soon he was made a DEML [Detached Enlisted Men's List¹] Sergeant and sent to the Philippines with Richard Sakakida (HOF 1988) to be an undercover agent. Their mission was to locate Japanese subversive activities, and their knowledge of Japanese language and culture made them excellent agents.

After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and invaded the Philippines, Komori provided valuable interpretation services. However, his Japanese ancestry and his elaborate cover story made him a suspect and both he and Sakakida were arrested and put into Bilibid Prison on suspicion of

espionage. Both men maintained their cover stories until they were released by the US government. Komori also worked with MSG Lorenzo Alvarado (HOF 1988), interrogating prisoners and gathering information. Just prior to the fall of Bataan, he was one of the few men flown to Australia with other valuable personnel to avoid captivity.

Once in Australia, Komori was assigned duties with the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service. He managed to get back into the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC, formerly the CIP) but was sent back to the United States in 1943. His duty was to orient the Nisei (2nd generation Japanese-Americans) at Camp Savage, Minnesota, on the situation in the Pacific and boost morale.

In December 1944, Komori went back to the Pacific Theater and worked with the Australian Broadcasting Company under the Department of Information. After World War II, he worked as one of the first undercover agents in Occupied Japan. He was transferred back to Honolulu as a civilian agent investigating Communist agitators and

¹ Detached Enlisted Men's List was comprised of persons in duties which did not fit well into the description of any branch. It included enlisted assistant instructors at West Point, enlisted orderlies for general officers, counter intelligence and intelligence specialists, Office of Strategic Services (OSS), etc. The "detached" meant that they were assigned to one command but assigned duties with another.

Japanese leaders still disseminating pro-Japanese propaganda. Eventually, he was assigned instructor duty at the Intelligence School at Fort Holabird but resigned from the Army when General MacArthur was released from active duty.

Komori transferred to the Air Force Reserve as a Captain in 1952. He was a civilian teacher from 1952 to 1956, went to law school at night at the University of Maryland, and earned his law degree. He returned to Hawaii in 1956 to practice law.

CWO Komori was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1988. He passed away in 2000.