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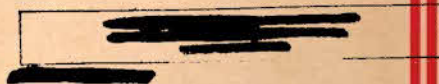
# **SAKAKIDA - THE OFFICIAL STORY**

**OCTOBER 1959  
UNITES STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE CENTER  
FORT HOLABIRD**

**BALTIMORE 19, MARYLAND**

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**The contents of this report are  
based on an interview with  
Richard Sakakida conducted by  
Maj. Ann Bray, 18 March 1955**

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HISTORY OF THE COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS  
VOLUME XXIII

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## MISSION OF THE COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS

"The mission of the Counter Intelligence Corps is to contribute to the operations of the Army Establishment through the detection of treason, sedition, subversive activity, and disaffection, and the detection, prevention, or neutralization of espionage and sabotage within or directed against the Army Establishment and the areas of its jurisdiction."

Auth: AR 381-100

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**HEADQUARTERS**  
**U. S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE CENTER**  
**FORT HOLABIRD, BALTIMORE 19, MARYLAND**

ACSIH-GC 250/58/M

8 April 1959

SUBJECT: CIC History

TO: All Personnel Reading this Document

1. This volume is a portion of the History of the Counter Intelligence Corps which has been compiled in draft form by this headquarters.
2. Distribution of the History is being made as the volumes become available so that addressees may profit by the problems and accomplishments of the Counter Intelligence Corps in previous years.
3. When completed, the History will cover in as complete and accurate detail as possible, significant incidents and events leading to the organization of the Corps of Intelligence Police during World War I and the Counter Intelligence Corps in World War II. Events, accomplishments, changes, and problems encountered up until 1950 will be included in the thirty volumes planned.
4. In spite of the diligence of researchers and writers, there may be inaccuracies and omissions, since no records are available for some of the more than two hundred CIC detachments which were operational during World War II. Even some of the major campaigns were poorly documented.
5. Any comments should be forwarded to the Commanding General, United States Army Intelligence Center, Fort Holabird, Baltimore 19, Maryland, ATTN: G-3.



RICHARD G. PRATHER  
Major General, USA  
Commanding





## Preface

### CIC's LOST DETACHMENT

On 9 April 1942, the first CIC-trained officers arrived in Australia to form the nucleus of the detachment that was to accompany combat troops into nearly every phase of the bitter fighting on the road to Tokyo. At the same time the Philippine CIC Detachment was nearing the end of its last-ditch fight along with the remnants of other United States units who had escaped to Corregidor. With the surrender of Corregidor to the Japanese on 6 May, this became CIC's "Lost Detachment." Only one member of the detachment escaped - Arthur Komori, who was taken to Australia just before the fall of Corregidor to act as an interpreter at GHQ.

Little is known of this detachment. There is no certain list of its members. Only one official document has been found to verify even its existence; but part of the story has been pieced together from interviews with a few who escaped from the enemy or were released from prison camps at the end of the war.

The one official document is a cable, dated 23 January 1945, from the Director of Intelligence to the "Commander in Chief SWPA," listing twenty-four names that the "records indicate" were on duty in the Philippines with the CIC at the time of the Japanese invasion.<sup>1</sup> Nine of these men are known to have died while in the hands of the enemy.<sup>2</sup>

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1 SPINT 322.999 CIC, 24 Jan 45, Subj: "Corps of Intelligence Police Personnel in the Philippines," TO: Commander in Chief SWPA; ATTN: AC of S, G2, signed, Roamer, Director of Intelligence, (Kansas City Records Center). The following names were listed: Lorenzo Alvarado, John A. Anderson, William R. Connor, Bernabe M. Datuin, James E. Delanty, Joseph A. Delia Malva, Grenfell D. Drisko, Stewart L. Garrison, Ahmad Gaspar, Jr., Harry B. Glass, Will Scott Gordon, Charles W. Henderson, Leon H. Jay, Raymond W. Kujawski, John T. Lynch, Paul A. Marinas, Ralph W. Montgomery, James J. Rubarb, Richard M. Sakakida, Paul Sebestyen, Guadencio Sillona, Antonio Tabaniag, Clyde L. Teske and Robert F. Wallbaum.

NOTE: Arthur Komori said that Palone (fnu) was also a member of the Detachment. He said that Sillona, Marinas, Tabaniag and Alvarado were Filipinos and Gaspar was a Moro.

2 Information obtained by the CIC Board from returnees indicated that Anderson died of diphtheria and Glass of malaria in Cabantuan Prison, and that Gordon, Jay, Wallbaum and Henderson went down on sinking prison ships. There is no information on the deaths of Datuin, Drisko and Gaspar. Information obtained from returnees also indicated that Henderson had been commissioned a First Lieutenant before his capture.

Although the list of twenty-four did not contain any officers, since officers were not yet "detailed" to CIC, it is known that at least five officers who were working as a part of the CIC Detachment, as well as the former commanding officer, who had become G2 of the Philippine command after General Willoughby left for Australia, were captured. Of these, three died while in captivity and one, wounded critically on Bataan, died soon after his release from the enemy.<sup>3</sup>

There are no records to indicate the work of the Philippine Detachment during those last days on Bataan and Corregidor, but a partial story has been culled from the memories of two Nisei agents, Arthur S. Komori and Richard M. Sakakida, the first Japanese-Americans taken into CIP.<sup>4</sup>

### First Nisei Agents go to Philippines

Nine months prior to the fall of Corregidor, on 13 March 1941, Sakakida and Komori were sworn in as sergeants of the CIP in Hawaii. The first Niseis taken into CIP, they were told to prepare to go on a secret mission, the nature of which would be revealed later. Their destination was Manila, but even that could be revealed only to their immediate families.

Less than a month later they were on their way to Manila on the U.S. Army Transport Republic, signed on as crew members to protect their identity. Their only instructions were that they would be given instructions upon arrival. When the ship was about three miles out from Manila on 21 April, the purser brought word that they were to report to the Captain on the bridge. There they were met by Captain Nelson Raymond (later Major and Commanding Officer of the Detachment) who arranged to meet them later. At the next meeting Captain Raymond, accompanied by Agent Grenfell D. Drisko, drove them on a short tour of the city and gave them their instructions. Captain Raymond, a long-time agent, gave them

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3 Those known to have been captured were: Lt Col Stuart Wood, former CO; Maj Nelson Raymond, who became CO after Colonel Wood became G2; Capt Raymond E. Bibee, 1st Lt Jack Erwin, Capt Ralph Keeler and Capt (fnu) Rosveare. According to CIC Board records, Major Raymond and Captain Keeler were drowned on sinking prison ships; and Lieutenant Erwin died of malaria in a Japanese prison camp. The cause of Captain Bibee's death has not been established; according to some reports he died on a prison ship, but according to others, in Fujuska prison camp in Japan. According to Capt Richard Sakakida, Captain Keeler was recovered from the enemy, but died a short time later.

4 The remainder of this Preface is taken from a document prepared after the war by Arthur Komori, who at the time of this writing was serving as an instructor at the AIC School, Fort Holabird; and from an interview with Capt Richard Sakakida, OSI, Air Force, at OSI Headquarters, Washington, D.C., 18 March 1955.

implicit instructions and encouragement and, as time went on, according to Komori, "gradually instilled in us the techniques of subtle investigations and subterfuges in the best traditions of the CIP." Until after the outbreak of war only Captain Raymond and Agent Drisko knew of the two Nisei agents.

The agents were given a mail box at the Central Post Office in Manila under the name "Sixto Borja"--Sixto, since Sakakida's code was B-16, and Borja, a common Filipino name--which they were to check twice daily for instructions as to rendezvous points. Captain Raymond--sometimes Agent Drisko--would pick them up at the named spot someplace in the city and take them by a roundabout route to the G-2 office in Fort Santiago to submit their reports or receive briefings.

At the meeting with Captain Raymond the day of their arrival, the magnitude of their task dawned on them, for it was then that they were told they were to investigate the Japanese community of Manila. Sakakida was instructed to go to the Nishikawa Hotel and Komori to the Toyo Hotel. Both were to use the cover of having tired of their sea duties and having "jumped ship," a convenient cover since a freighter had unexpectedly put into port that day. Komori added the fact that he was a "draft dodger," which, he said, "was favorably received by the pro-Emperor sons of Japan."

#### Komori

During the eight months before Pearl Harbor, Komori managed to insinuate himself into the good graces of the Japanese Consul General, the Chief of the Japan Tourist Bureau, the Chief of the Japan Cultural Hall, the Chief of the Domei News Agency, and other leading Japanese residents of Manila. Komori found many of the Japanese "arrogant and expansionist minded," and becoming increasingly impatient with the "weak-kneed" policies of the Konoye Cabinet. They were so sure of their future role in the Orient that a reporter, who was a student at an English class which Komori taught at the Japan Cultural Hall wrote, for a newspaper in Osaka, Japan, the probable route of Japanese troops if they should invade Singapore.

Komori found his connections with the Japanese too close for comfort when, after the outbreak of war, he was caught by Filipino Constabularymen in the Domei News Agency office drinking a toast to the Emperor. To the Constabularymen he was just as Japanese as the others. They surrounded the captives with fixed bayonets and herded them into buses which took them to "the hell-hole of Manila, stinking old Bilidid Prison." With complete faith that Captain Raymond would somehow manage to learn his whereabouts and rescue him, Komori began trying to find out if any of the other internees had been implicated in plans for the attack. Although it seemed that none of them had known in advance of the Pearl Harbor attack, Komori "learned much of the arrogant and warlike mentality of the supposedly peaceful businessmen from Japan in that first week of war."

After a week Captain Raymond sent Agent Drisko to obtain Komori's release from Bilidid on a pretext, and Komori was able for the first time to get acquainted with the other members of the detachment.

### Sakakida

In the meantime, Sakakida was also busy making contacts in the spots where information could be obtained. Fortunately the Nishikawa Hotel was operated by a childless couple named Fujii, who took an instant liking to Sakakida and soon wanted to adopt him; they even wrote to his mother in Hawaii asking her permission. During his first days there, Sakakida was asked hundreds of questions by the Fujii's, the hotel's permanent residents, and the many frequenters of the hotel. He maintained that he had been born and reared in Hawaii, but growing tired of life there, had gone to sea. His freighter had unexpectedly stopped off in Manila, and he had jumped ship, deciding that the city looked like a nice place to live for a while.

His past accounted for, it was necessary for the new agent to establish some kind of cover for his present activities. He let it be known to his new Japanese friends that he had obtained a job with the Marsman Trading Company, sole agents for Sears Roebuck in the Philippines. Captain Raymond arranged for Sakakida's name to be placed on the Marsman employee list. To keep up pretenses, he wandered into the trading company every morning at 0800, loitered for a while, and then spent the rest of the morning at the Lyric Theater. His Japanese acquaintances, told he worked only in the morning, had the pleasure of his company for the rest of the day. He soon began working as a clerk in Mr. Fujii's hotel in exchange for room and board. The important thing, however, was that this job gave him an opportunity to inspect passports and to assist many persons in making out requests for passport entries as required by the Philippine Commonwealth government.

A little later, when the United States government froze all Japanese assets in the Philippines, Japanese nationals were required to file declarations of all bank accounts and other assets. Since many Japanese required assistance in filling out the numerous forms, Sakakida performed this service at a nominal fee, and thus was able to interview a good portion of the Japanese population of Manila and subtly obtain much information that did not go on the forms. The most pertinent question was one concerning prior military service. Often the Japanese would ask Sakakida if they should admit their military service on the forms; sometimes he would advise them not to, but of course would report the information to G2. In this way he was able to report to G2 the complete military backgrounds of a large portion of the Japanese population in Manila.

Soon after his arrival in Manila, Sakakida was directed by Captain Raymond to establish friendship with Clarence Yamagata, a Hawaiian-born Nisei who was practicing law in Manila and also acting as part-time legal adviser to the Japanese



Consulate. Through Yamagata he became acquainted with persons in the Consulate from whom he obtained general information. Late in November, Mr. Yamagata told Sakakida he had arranged employment for him at the Japanese Vice-Consulate at Davao, on Mindanao. Captain Raymond approved this move, but before it materialized it was cancelled by the outbreak of war.

The outbreak of war found Sakakida, like Komori, to all outward appearances a Japanese among a hostile people. For his own protection he went to the Japanese Club House on Taft Boulevard which had been designated an evacuation center for Japanese Nationals. As he presented himself he was met by Paul Marinas, who, as he learned later, was an agent of the Philippine CIC Detachment. In searching Sakakida's belongings, Marinas found his passport which, although fictitious, did reveal Sakakida's American citizenship. Marinas at first told Sakakida that since he was a United States citizen, he could not enter the evacuation center, but when Sakakida explained that his Japanese features would place him in physical danger from the Filipinos, Marinas consented to let him stay but said he should feel free to leave at any time. A few days later, Sakakida was sent out with another internee to Manila City to obtain milk for the children and other foods of which the camp was in short supply. After obtaining the food, Sakakida went to the Nishikawa hotel to pick up his belongings. While he was packing his things, three Constabulary secret  
They took  
him to Bilidid where, like Komori, he was rescued by Agent Drisko a few days later, and for the first time met the other members of the CIC Detachment.

#### Detachment Busy During Last Days

A couple of days before Manila was declared an "open city" on 26 December, the detachment, along with the G-2 Section with which they were working, packed up all its documents and left Manila on a tiny steamer, bound for Bataan via Corregidor. They set up headquarters in a spot hidden by tall timber and jungle growth, near Little Baguio. With little precedent to guide them, these agents plunged into a frenzy of activity, performing a variety of tasks simply because there was no one else to do them. They collected enemy information, interrogated prisoners of war, checked the security of communications and documents, went on patrols and scouting expeditions through the lines, interned collaborators, and translated captured enemy documents and the inscriptions on captured enemy materials. So great was the quantity and variety of captured materials that one day among a pile of equipment dumped in the headquarters were found a land mine and a "Molotov Cocktail."

For a while Komori was attached to General Wainwright's Headquarters on the Western Front, specifically for help in identifying Japanese units. In the meantime several members of the detachment had been sent over to Corregidor. Sakakida was among these, with the specific duty of deciphering the Japanese code.

Early in April he was joined by Komori and Yamagata, Sakakida's contact in Manila, whom Captain Raymond had brought out of Manila with the detachment to assist in translating documents.

During those days when capture by the enemy was imminent and few could escape, there was concern both in General MacArthur's headquarters in Australia and General Wainwright's headquarters on Corregidor over the two Nisei agents. They would no doubt fare worse under captivity than would the Caucasians, since the Japanese refused to recognize the right of anyone of Japanese blood to bear loyalty to another country. Then too, there was the danger that their nine months of undercover activity in the Philippines would be revealed.

Early in April Komori and Sakakida were informed by Lt Col Stuart Wood, former Commanding Officer of the detachment, who had become G2 after General Willoughby's departure, that orders had been received from General MacArthur's headquarters that they were to leave via the "bamboo fleet."

#### Sakakida Gives His Place to Another

It was at this moment that Sakakida had to make his most difficult decision. He realized that Yamagata's situation under capture would be worse than his own. Yamagata would not even have the protection due a member of the Armed Forces. He was a civilian, had worked openly for the Japanese in a position of trust, and had willingly come over to the Americans. Besides, his wife and two children were then in Japan. Sakakida persuaded Colonel Wood that Yamagata should take his place. Colonel Wood obtained General Wainwright's permission, who in turn obtained permission from General MacArthur in Australia.

So, in the early morning of 13 April, Komori and Yamagata, along with an emissary from Chiang Kai-shek and a correspondent named Hewlett, left for the tiny airstrip in what was considered a "fifty-fifty attempt" to get out in two Army training planes. Komori rode as co-pilot in one, due to his previous C.A.A. flight training in Hawaii, to Iloilo, Panay. As recorded by Komori, "Captain 'P.I.' Gunn rescued us from Panay with his B-25 in a flight in broad daylight through enemy territory in a hedge-hopping, canyon-shooting, wave-skipping trip, which were Gunn's specialties. He kept our morale up by telling us that enemy planes could not see us since we were flying only a few feet above our shadow." At Mindanao, they were picked up by "General Boyce's raiding squadron" and were flown on to Melbourne, where Komori joined the little handful of CIC agents who had arrived on 6 April. Among his duties was helping to set up the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS) to which so many Niseis were to give their ability and loyalty throughout the war. Komori was one of the first CIC agents to enter Japan after the surrender - but that is another story.

Sakakida set about preparing for the inevitable surrender. Other than the destruction of records, there was little to do but wait. On 6 May, the day of the final surrender, Sakakida accompanied General Wainwright's party to Bataan to act as interpreter at the surrender conference, but at Cabacabana Port, he was informed by the Japanese that they would use their own interpreters.

For the next several months he was under constant interrogation by either the Japanese Military Police or officers of the Judge Advocate General's section of 14th Japanese Army Headquarters, interrogation that eventually degenerated into severe torture. They told him he was on trial for treason--although he was never brought into court--since anyone of Japanese ancestry was of necessity a Japanese citizen. Finally, 14th Army Headquarters received word from the Japanese Ministry in Tokyo that, although Sakakida had been registered with the Japanese Consul in Hawaii at birth, as was the custom of Japanese residents there, his citizenship had been officially voided in August 1941. His mother had had the forethought to take this action after Sakakida had left for the Philippines as a CIP agent, an action which even the Japanese recognized made the charge of treason illegal. They then changed the charge to one of disturbing the peace and order of the Japanese Imperial Forces in the Philippines, and the interrogation continued.

Through it all Sakakida stuck to his original story. He was a victim of circumstances. The Americans had taken him to Bataan and Corregidor as an interpreter. He was an American citizen (which was true)--and a civilian (which was not true). Finally, in February 1943, he was taken from Bilidid Prison to the office of a Colonel Nishiharu, Chief Judge Advocate of 14th Army Headquarters. He was told that he was to work in the office, run the mimeograph machine, make tea, and help out generally where he was needed, and that on his off-duty time he would serve as a houseboy at the Colonel's home.

The Japanese continued in devious ways to attempt to gain an admission that he was in the U.S. Army. He was thrown a .45 and curtly ordered to clean it. Realizing that if he properly disassembled the weapon, it would be an indication of military service, Sakakida merely wiped the .45 with an oily rag. He explained that if someone would take the weapon apart he would be only too glad to clean the rest of it. Once the officer in charge of counterespionage with the 14th Army suddenly accused him of being a sergeant in the United States Army. Although alarmed, Sakakida was able to deny the statement convincingly enough that the officer turned to other matters. Another officer, who happened to be a graduate of Harvard, seemingly in a sympathetic mood one day asked Sakakida how much the U.S. Army paid him for his work as an interpreter. Recognizing this as a ruse he had used himself to learn the rank of prisoners, he claimed that he had received no money, inasmuch as under the circumstances he had had no need for any.



### Sakakida Contacts Guerillas

The dual job of office work and houseboy continued for a time until one day the Colonel discovered that Sakakida was dipping into his stock of American cigarettes and banished him from the houseboy job; as it turned out this was a fortunate change. He was sent to live in a civilian barracks, the former English Club in Manila City. The barracks was under the strict discipline of a warrant officer who took roll call at 0600 and 2230 and a bed check at midnight, but overlooked the hours between midnight and the morning roll call. This gave Sakakida about five hours in which to contact persons to whom he could give information gained at headquarters during the day.

He had already made one fortunate contact at headquarters. One day the wife of Ernest Tupas, who had formerly worked with CIP and since the war began had been working with guerillas, came to the JAG office and asked Sakakida to interpret for her a request to visit her husband who had been captured and was confined on a fifteen year sentence in Muntinlupa Prison. Sakakida made himself known to her, and filled out passes for her and many of the other guerillas' wives with forms he had stolen from the office. He assured her she need have no fear in using the passes at the prison since the Filipino guards couldn't read English anyway.

### Prison Break Engineered

Sakakida began making plans to free Tupas and about 500 other guerillas who were confined in the prison. Through guerillas he was able to contact during his 'free hours' and through others that Mrs. Tupas was able to contact, the plans were made. It was arranged for Tupas to get a job with the prison electrical department so at a designated time he could short-circuit electrical facilities. Guerillas sent to case the prison came up with the information that officers from the Japanese garrison made a tour, something of a security check, nightly between 2400 and 0200.

On the big night, Sakakida left his barracks as soon as bed-check was over and, with four of the local guerillas, all dressed as Japanese officers, approached the prison's main gate. Certain these officers were making the nightly security inspection, the guards bowed low in respect for their superiors. To their amazement, they found .45's stuck in their ribs. Out went the prison lights. Approximately 25 guerilla members overpowered the rest of the guards, and nearly 500 Filipino prisoners were released.

Sakakida hustled back to his quarters to make 0630 roll call. The next morning he was at work in the Colonel's office when the superintendent of Muntinlupa Prison came dashing in to report the break. The Colonel hit the ceiling. When the furore died away, the superintendent was dismissed for his unfortunate mistakes.

Shortly after the break, Sakakida was able to contact Tupas, who had fled to the mountains of Rizal with the guerillas. Tupas had established wireless contact with General MacArthur's headquarters. At last, Sakakida had a means of relaying to the Americans the vast amount of information he picked up around the Colonel's office, particularly data on Japanese troop movements and shipping activities. Probably his single most important contribution was a portion of the plans for a Japanese Expeditionary Force to Australia. Some months later Sakakida learned what happened to this task force. An officer assigned to the JAG office had been aboard one of the fifteen vessels that had left the Philippines with ideas of landing at Port Darwin. He was also aboard the only ship that got back to the Philippines. U.S. submarines had taken care of the rest.

At one time in 1943 Sakakida's hopes were raised when he was approached by a stranger who told him that another person had requested he inquire whether Sakakida would like to escape to Australia. Cautiously Sakakida said he would like to talk to the original inquirer. He heard nothing of it again until after the war, when he learned that the Anderson guerillas were trying to get him out at the direction of General MacArthur's headquarters, but that the message had been garbled by passing through several emissaries and the word had got back that he preferred to remain in the Philippines.

In December 1944, the Japanese 14th Army Headquarters had to move to Northern Luzon because of heavy air attacks on the city, and in April 1945 it moved further inland. In the early part of June, Sakakida made his escape into the hills. About a week later, he met a small band of guerillas in the vicinity of Farmschol and joined forces with them. Ten days later the guerillas took a severe shelling. Sakakida was wounded and left behind. He existed alone in the hills until September 1945.

### "Lost" Agent Returns

In September he found himself in close proximity to the Asing River. Sakakida, still unaware the war was over, decided to follow the river, figuring he would reach some semblance of civilization sooner or later. Racked by malaria, dysentery and beri-beri, his progress was extremely slow. Finally he spotted seven or eight soldiers. At first he thought they were Germans, because they wore uniforms and equipment which were strange to him. Getting closer and hearing the soldiers' conversation, Sakakida realized they were Americans. He turned himself in and was taken to the soldiers' battalion headquarters. The outfit turned out to be a medical evacuation unit posted in the forward areas to collect stragglers. Sakakida was taken to the major commanding the unit and identified himself as an intelligence agent captured by the Japanese at the outbreak of the war. He gave the major his serial number and other pertinent data. The major was suspicious but put through

a telephone call to the CIC Field Office. Two hours later two CIC lieutenants arrived in a jeep, identified the weary agent and transported him to the Bagabec Field Office of the First CIC Region, 441st CIC Detachment.

The happiness with which Sakakida was received by CIC was summed up simply by his friend Komori: "His successful duping of the Japs is the finest story of Counter Intelligence within enemy lines. His recovery was considered more important than the capture of General Yamashita...."

The agents gave him a warm welcome and a festive banquet. Sakakida had lived for six months on wild foods and grass, and the rich food consumed at the banquet reacted immediately. It took him a week to recover from the effects of the meal but that was the only recuperation he had the opportunity to enjoy. There were War Crimes suspects to round up, identify, interrogate and try, and Sakakida was a key figure in this activity. Until the War Crimes trials were completed, there was no time for hospitalization or sick leave for Sakakida; by this time he had recovered from the ills which had plagued him during captivity.

There were Bronze Stars for both Arthur Komori and Richard Sakakida for their work in the Philippines during 1941 which "they performed. . .with complete disregard of the personal danger in which they found themselves." But more important to these men, the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to be taken into CIC, was this sentence in their commendation:

"These two Nisei noncommissioned officers are a credit to their people and to the United States Army."

While Richard Sakakida had been fighting his private war against the Japanese, other CIC agents, after getting off to a slow start, had been moving forward, island by island, along with the South West Pacific Area combat troops, from their starting point in Australia.





