For Continuing Service
LT. MATSUNAGA EXPLAINS WHY AJA SOLDIERS DYING FOR U.S.

An auxiliary driving force which spurred the members of the 100th Infantry Battalion in their fighting in Europe was explained by 1st Lieut. Masayuki Matsunaga of Hanapepe Kauai, Hawaii, when he returned from the Italian theater after being wounded twice. The lieutenant left Hawaii with the unit on June 6, 1942, and remained with them until he was wounded the second time near Cassino.

Briefly sketching the highlights of the 100th Battalion, which is made up of Americans of Japanese ancestry, Lieut. Matsunaga explained that the battalion was fighting as an Infantry unit from its own choice.

"Twice we had an opportunity to keep out of active combat," the lieutenant declared. "When we arrived in the United States we were told we could become service troops here but the officers and men all wanted to see active combat as Infantrymen.

"Then we went across to Africa and there we were told we could remain and do guard duty if we desired. Again we chose a chance to fight."

How the battalion went to Italy, spearheaded attacks of the 34th Infantry Division and received two unit citations, Lieut. Matsunaga passed over briefly, hurrying to explain the mental attitude motivating the men with whom he served rather than their exploits in combat.

"Officers of other units have asked me," he continued, "why this battalion is always ready to do any tough fighting without any regard for themselves.

"There are two reasons. First we are moved by the same patriotism and love for America that any other soldier has. But beyond this there is another force. We know we love America and the opportunities the country has given us but we also know that we, more than other Americans, must prove to our fellow Americans that we have the same love of country, the same ideals and the same loyalty that everyone else living under the American flag should have."

Mention of ideals brought another thought to the lieutenant's mind. He explained:

"People have told me that men under the stress of battle forget all of the ideals for which they are fighting and wage a grim combat with self preservation as the only thought in their minds. I know that is not true. All too often I have seen men die in battle and almost invariably they expressed in their own words the sentiment:

"I hope as a result of my dying, my wife, my children, my family will have a better life—that the people who remain will have a better world in which to live."

One of the five enlisted men of the battalion who returned with the lieutenant was displaying a prayer book. He showed how a piece of