

**Epic
of the
442nd**

'go for broke!'

By LARRY TAJIRI

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S epic of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, "Go for Broke!" has been previewed in Los Angeles and will be shown soon in theaters across the country.

It is the story of the volunteer regiment of men from the relocation camps of the West and the plantations, villages and towns of Hawaii who wrote an unusual and unforgettable chapter, from June, 1944, until V-E day, in the military annals of the United States.

"Go for Broke!", from an original story by Robert Pirosh who also directed the picture tells of six men in a single squad of the 442nd and of a young Texas lieutenant (Van Johnson), fresh from OCS, who comes to the unit hating his assignment. The story takes the men from Camp Shelby in Mississippi to the Italian countryside where they were first committed to battle. It follows them to France and the film's action climax is built around the rescue of the 36th Division's "lost battalion."

Reaction from preview audiences in Los Angeles indicates that the film is one of the best made about World War II. Writer-director Pirosh has eschewed frantic flag-waving while quietly underscoring the gallantry of the men.

"Go for Broke!" is the story of Sam, a mainland Nisei who has left a girl in a relocation camp, and of little Tommy, orphaned by the attack on Pearl Harbor. It is the story of cynical Chick, a chick-sexer, and of Frank, who was trained as an architect but was barred from the drafting board by prejudice. And there is Kaz, an islander with a ready ukulele, and Ohhara, the top sergeant who looked after his men.

Of the six Niseis who have featured roles in the picture, only one, Lane Nakano, has previously acted in a motion picture. Nakano, the only mainlander among the Nisei actors, was seen briefly in "Tokyo Joe" and recently finished a role in MGM's "No Questions Asked" which he won on the strength of his performance as Sam.

Producer Dore Schary and Pirosh sought new faces for the picture. Pirosh and Mike Masaoka, special consultant on the film, went to Hawaii and returned with six players. George Miki,



MGM BROUGHT George Miki, a customs bureau employe, from Honolulu to play the role of Chick, the cynical chick sexor, in "Go for Broke!", the film story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Miki is a 442nd veteran.



VAN JOHNSON plays the unwilling lieutenant who is assigned to the 442nd and discovers that it is one of the toughest combat

outfits in the U.S. Army. Flanking Johnson are Akira Fukunaga (left), of Honolulu, and Lane Nakano, a mainland Nisei.

a customs employe in Honolulu, plays Chick while Akira (Sunshine) Fukunaga, former executive secretary of the 442nd Veterans Club of Honolulu, is Frank. Henry Oyesato recreates an almost biographical role as Ohhara while Henry Nakamura, the only non-veteran, is young Tommy. Ken Okamoto, who organized the Shelby Serenaders, is the ukulele-strumming Kaz. Okamoto sings six songs in the film, including two he composed himself, "Meaning of Love" and "Pirosh Hula." The sixth Hawaiian prospect, John Ushijima of Hilo, didn't accept the role offered him, instead went east to attend law school.

The use of "amateurs" in important roles has given the film documentary realism. Every effort was made by the studio to heighten this realism through the use of backgrounds and equipment which duplicated those used by the 442nd. In addition to Masaoka, who served with the 442nd through all of its campaigns, Col. Thomas Akins, former battalion commander, acted as technical adviser on the picture.

In addition to the six Nisei principals nearly 300 others mostly 442nd veterans, appear in the film. Van Johnson is the only star but "Go for Broke!" introduces Giana Canale, an Italian ac-

tress in her first American role, Warner Anderson plays Col. Pence, commander of the 442nd, while Don Hagerity is Sgt. Culley and Dan Riss is Captain Solari, an Italian American officer with the 442nd.

When the titles flash on the screen audiences in America and across the

world will read that the picture stars Van Johnson "and the heroes of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team."

The picture is a heartwarming tribute to a group of young Americans who went to war to fight two foes, the enemy in the field and racial bigotry at home—and won both battles.



MAIL CALL from a scene in the picture, recalled to (l. to r.) George Miki, Henry Nakamura, Lane Nakano and Akira Fukunaga, trying days on the Italian front in the last war.