

First row, I. to r.: Duke Wataya, M. Higuchi, Roku Imaoka, Henry Kirihara, Larry Shigeyasu, Mamo Morita, Kenneth Tsuneshiro. Second row: M. Yogi, T. Nakahara, Lt. Gilbert, Mr. Earl Finch, Col. Pence, Lt. Watt, Clarence Oka, S. Tanaka. Third row: Fred Kameda, Richard Yoshimura, Richard Uto, T. Beppu, J. Miyamoto, G. Kashiwaba, I. Kamikawa, G. Kashi.

Mr. Earl Finch, Hattiesburg businessman, is shown receiving an autographed baseball from the members of the baseball team.



BASEBALL

The 442nd Infantry baseball team had a very successful season by completing its schedule with two championships. The first championship was attained when the 442nd defeated the 631st Tank Destroyers in the Non-Divisional League by 2-1. This victory gave the winning team the right to play the champions of the Divisional League for the post championship. The 273rd Infantry of the 69th Division won the title in the latter league.

In the Non-Divisional League, the 442nd won 12 games and lost one. The final game against the 631st was exciting. The score stood 1-1 and both teams were playing superb ball. Then 'Savage' Tanaka came to bat but he had yet to make good. One came to his liking and so smashed at the horsehide savagely. The ball soared far out into the outfield. It was a homer and the game ended 2-1 in our favor.

The post championship game thrilled the onlookers. 273rd Infantry started off with two runs in the first canto.

This looked insurmountable to the boys. But with the 'Go for Broke' attitude, they rallied in the third and fourth innings to tie the score, 2-2.

After the first inning, Lefty Higuchi settled down and for the rest of the game held the opponents to only five hits and struck out eight batters. The game moved into the 7th. It was our team's turn at bat. The first man was put out. Wataya, the next batter, picked a good ball and singled. It was now or never. Kashiwaeda knew this. He let two fast balls pass and on the next pitch, he swung with a definite purpose. The ball went out of reach of the outfielder and he pounded around the diamond, following Wataya, to score a home run. The two runs cinched the game and also the championship.

Maj. Gen. Charles L. Bolte of the 69th Division presented our team with the championship trophy. Mr. Earl Finch also presented another trophy.



