

Chapter Twenty: Daniel Inouye_Europe, 1943

In Chapter Twenty, titled "Daniel Inouye", the narrative follows the life of Daniel Inouye during World War II, specifically focusing on 1943 in Europe. After graduating high school with aspirations to serve, Daniel confronted the devastating reality of being categorized as an enemy alien following the Pearl Harbor attack. Japanese Americans were excluded from military service, leading him to continue his education in pre-med instead.

Hawaii's Japanese Americans largely avoided forced incarceration due to local officials standing up against military orders. However, Daniel's personal experiences took a dark turn when armed officers came to seize his father's registered shortwave radio, ruthlessly destroying it in front of them. This act deeply affected Daniel, who felt the shame and injustice directed toward Japanese Americans, including his father, who had served honorably.

Despite their exclusion from the military, Daniel and other Japanese Americans petitioned for service, and eventually, in March 1943, President Roosevelt approved the formation of a segregated unit. Daniel enlisted in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, whose motto "Go for Broke" encapsulated their determination. Upon deployment to Italy, Daniel was shocked by the devastation and poverty he witnessed.

He encountered hungry Italian civilians, offering to work in exchange for scraps of garbage. Compassionately, Daniel decided to provide food instead, marking the beginning of a new rule within his unit to prioritize feeding the starving.

As the narrative unfolds, Daniel faces intense combat, displaying extraordinary bravery even as he suffers serious injuries. During a vital mission on April 20, 1945, he leads his men against German machine guns, ultimately losing his right arm while saving his comrades. In a state of courage, he manages to throw a grenade before being severely wounded.

After a grueling wait for medical assistance, Daniel receives surgery without anesthesia, leading to the amputation of his remaining arm. Despite the trauma of war, he forges a friendship with fellow soldier Bob Dole, and both promise to continue their dreams post-war.

Following his recovery, Daniel embarks on a successful political career, expressing a desire to protect citizens over property, ultimately becoming one of Hawaii's first senators. Through his incredible journey from soldier to politician, the chapter highlights the resilience and sacrifice of Inouye and the Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd unit .