

That the following men of **H COMPANY, 442<sup>nd</sup>**  
gave their full measure shall forever be REMEMBERED.

Walter **CRONE**  
Charles **FARNUM** ✕  
Jitsuro **FUJIKAWA**  
Richard **HANAUMI**  
Seichi **KANESHIRO**  
James S. **KARATSU**  
Isamu **KUNIMATSU**  
Robert **KURODA** CMH  
Masayuki **MIYAGUCHI**

William **MIZUKAMI**  
George S. **SAITO**  
Masao F. **SHIGEMURA**  
Togo **SUGIYAMA** DSC  
Ted **TERAMAE**  
Hiroshi J. **YAMAMOTO**  
John T. **YAMAMOTO** ✕  
Mitsuichi **YOSHIGAI**  
Donald **OKAMOTO** (100th  
Replacement)

*Men of H Company, 442<sup>nd</sup>, their wives, families, relatives and friends*

CMH Congressional Medal of Honor

DSC Distinguished Service Cross

# 1st Lt. Walter Mickey Crone

Killed in Action July 3, 1944



Lt. Walter Crone was the first H Company man of the all Nisei segregated 442nd Regimental Combat Team to be killed in action July 3, 1944 in Italy on the hill before Hill 140.

Lt. Crone and his messenger Takamori was shot by sniper fire. Lt. Crone died enroute to the Battalion Aid Ststion which was situated too far back. Following his death, Capt. California Ushiro the Battalion Medical Officer moved the Aid Station closer.

Chris Keegan writes that Lt. Crone originally came from Maryland, a ROTC graduate from college. Crone had attended OCS at Fort Benning, Georgia prior to being assigned to the 442nd as 1st Lt.

Mary Williams, wife of Lt. Maurice Williams of the 3rd platoon H Company writes that Carola, the beautiful wife of Mickey Crone was three months pregnant at the time of Mickey's death. Whe Carola's baby was born her doctor sent her a bill marked "Paid in Full. To a Brave Patient." Carola and Mick's mother planned to have Lt. Crone's body returned to Baltimore for burial after the war's end where Mickey Crone had grown up. Carola later married a Navy Officer, Alexander DeWitt Stark Mary and Maury Williams met them a couple of times when they were living in St. Paul. They kept in touch for a few years but eventually lost touch.



**Pfc Jitsuro Fujikawa**  
**January 2, 1923 - July 12, 1944**



**Pfc Jitsuro Fujikawa**

Jitsuro Fujikawa was born in Hilo, Hawaii, on January 2, 1923. He was the son of Tokuro and Miyone (Kanaya) Fujikawa. He was educated at Hilo Union School, Hilo High School, Hilo, and the University of Hawaii, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was a student.

On March 18, 1943, he was inducted into the Army at Waipahu, Oahu (Serial number 30104008). He trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Company H, in the continental United States and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pvt. Jitsuro Fujikawa was killed in action near Luciana, Italy on July 12, 1944, during the Rome-Arno campaign and is interred at the Hilo Veterans Cemetery in Hilo, HI.

Jitsuro Fujikawa was attending the University of Hawaii in Honolulu at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. Instead of returning home to Hilo, Jitsuro was determined to do anything to prove his loyalty, to do whatever he can do protect his country. He was one of the many boys from the University of Hawaii that was willing to do menial, backbreaking work to prove that he was willing to bear arm against Japan if only the government would give him a gun, that he would put his life at risk to prove his loyalty. When the call for volunteers came to form the 442nd Regiment was announced, Jitsuro joined 10,000 other boys from Hawaii answered the call and was inducted into army in March 1943. Jitsuro was not allowed to go home to Hilo to say good bye to his family.

Jitsuro Fujikawa was assigned to the 2nd Platoon, a 30 calibre machine gun unit of Company H, 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Jitsuro was not of the "pidgin" English, "da Kine," especially around the mainland guys. He tried to be real cool. But he would lose it if he drank a little bit too much. The one thing I liked about Jits was that he wouldn't bug me about cleaning the machine gun, supposedly a squad project. He was a real nice guy, considerate of others, not afraid to carry his load, and a good buddy.

mits kojimoto

## **S/Sgt Richard Shintaro Hanaumi**

**December 22, 1912 - July 12, 1944**



**S/Sgt Richard Shintaro Hanaumi**

Richard Shintaro Hanaumi was born in Papaikou, Hawaii on December 22, 1912. He was the son of Gishichi and Masao Hanaumi. He was educated at Papaikou School and Hilo High School on Hawaii. Before entering the service he was a painter for the Imperial Paint Shop in Honolulu.

In 1941 Richard Hanaumi was inducted into the Army at Honolulu, Oahu (Serial No. 30 101 027). He trained at Ft. Armstrong, Oahu and later at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, Company H in the Hawaiian Islands, the continental United States and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific, American, and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal. S/Sgt Richard Hanaumi

was killed in action in Leghorn, Italy on July 12, 1944 in the Rome-Arno Campaign and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu.

Sergeant Hanaumi was the 1st Section Sergeant of the 2nd platoon, in charge of two 30 calibre machine gun squad. When I first met the Sergeant, I felt that he may be short, a little pudgy, he may be older, but one can tell that he can take care of himself. I found out after I put on the gloves with him in a friendly boxing lesson. Hanaumi was too fast, too cute, too strong as he happily pounded my face. I tried more than once if I could see the punches coming, but he was just too clever, he just laughingly slapped me around.

Sergeant Richard Hanaumi was a good Section leader. When we got into combat, I just didn't like him looking for action. Every time he heard the sound of small arms fire, he would go racing toward the sound. Looking for action. On that fateful day of July 12, 1944, Sergeant Hanaumi, Pfc. Jitsuo Fujikawa, Pfc. Isamu Kunimatsu and Sergeant Togo Sugiyama of the 2nd platoon were killed. For his action on that July 12th date. Sergeant Togo Sugiyama was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously. Three of the four were from the 1st Section, from the same hut in Camp Shelby. We had trained together for almost a year. It was a devastating and shocking day. I will never forget that day. Albert Doi and I were volunteered for litter bearer for the injured Walter Nakashima. It was not our time.



**S/Sgt. James S. Karatsu**  
**March 26, 1925 - January 2, 1945**



**S/Sgt. James Karatsu**

S/Sgt. James Saburo "Sob" Karatsu, son of Unosuke and Fumi Karatsu, was born on March 26, 1925 in Los Angeles, California. He was the third son. He had three brothers—George, Henry and Hideo and one sister Miwako Hayami. James attended 36th Street School, Foshay Jr. High and Manual Arts High School. In May of 1942 James and the Karatsu family were sent to the Santa Anita Assembly Center and then to the Amache Relocation Camp later in September.

James volunteered for the Army from camp and was inducted (Serial # 37 345 369) at Ft. Logan, Colorado on April 18, 1943 and took his basic training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He was sent overseas as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, Company H, 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon. S/Sgt. James Karatsu was killed in action in France on January 2, 1945.

His brother George Karatsu writes that the following information is furnished by "H" Company comrade Mike Tsuji and two buddies who were present when James was killed—Joe Yamaki and Mits Kojimoto:

"The 442nd was assigned to the Maritime Alps area of southeastern France, on the border of Italy, in November 1944. After the bitter fighting in the northeastern part of the country, and in the deadly Vosges Mountains, duty in this area was considered more of "garrison duty" type of assignment . . . ." It was during this "Champagne Campaign" that many soldiers were " . . . allowed to visit the nearby and independent country of Monaco, Monte Carlo, Cannes and the French Riviera shores of the Mediterranean Sea. At this time "H" Co. occupied a number of concrete fortifications that the Germans had abandoned. James' section had as its quarters a pill-box, so called because of its configuration, mostly in housing some lethal weaponry with only small openings for muzzles of the guns. Openings for entrance and egress were protected with heavy steel doors. Being on an active "front", the area was subjected to occasional enemy fire, mostly by artillery or mortars. Shrapnel somehow managed to penetrate the pill-box, most likely through one of the small openings provided for firing the guns. Three men were hit: two killed, one being James Karatsu. Ironically, the other soldier killed was Seichi Kaneshiro, originally from Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii, whose very close friendship with James started from their early days in Camp Shelby, Mississippi where the Hawaii and Mainland men first met when housed together for basic training. This friendship developed where both were almost inseparable—throughout training, then the 21-day voyage across the Atlantic, the "Baptism-of-Fire" campaign in Italy, the cold and bitter fighting in the Vosges Mountains—and even in death.

S/Sgt. James Karatsu is buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles, California, and Pfc. Seichi Kaneshiro lies buried at the Veteran's Cemetery in Hilo."



**Pfc Seichi Kaneshiro**  
**October 29, 1920 - January 1, 1945**



**Pfc Seichi Kaneshiro**

Seichi Kaneshiro was born on October 29, 1920, in Kapoho, Puna, Hawaii, the son of Bicha and Uto (Kamiya) Kaneshiro. He attended Hilo Union School, Hilo Intermediate School, and Hilo High School, Hilo, Hawaii and was employed as a bookkeeper for Kwong See Wo, in Hilo, Hawaii when he volunteered.

Seichi Kaneshiro was inducted at Hilo, Hawaii in March of 1943. Serial number, 30104005. At Camp Shelby, Mississippi, he was assigned to Company H of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Seichi and the 442nd RCT was shipped overseas May 1944 and fought in Italy and France.

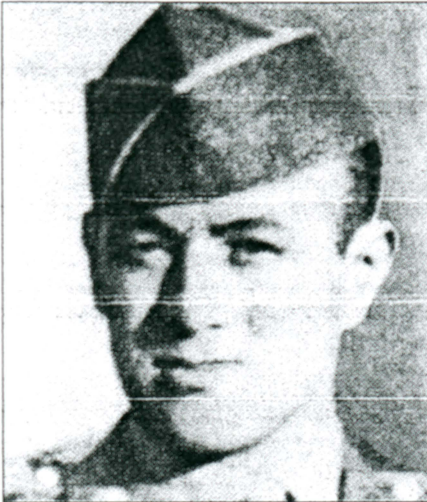
After the bitter fighting in the Vosges Mountains, the 442nd was assigned to the Maritime Alps near the French Riviera where the men of the 442nd were allowed passes to Nice. During the "garrison type" assignment in this town of Sospel, France. H Co. occupied a number of concrete fortifications that the Germans had abandoned. 2nd platoon, 1st section was housed in a two room pill box intended for an anti tank gun with heavy steel covering the door and the 2 front gun openings. In addition there were two small openings for small arms but they were covered with concrete. Being on a active "front" the areas was subjected to occasional enemy artillery fire. With concete and heavy steel, we felt relatively safe. On January 1, 1945 we received a New Year's greeting shelling and one of the shells landed in front of the pill box. Shrapnel and concrete managed to penetrate the pill box through the small opening. Three men were hit, two were killed, Seichi Kaneshiro was killed and ironically the other soldier killed was James Karatsu, originally from Los Angeles and Amache Concentration Camp. Seichi and James became inseparable from their early training days in Camp Shelby. Seichi, the boy from Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii and James from mainland Los Angeles, formed a close friendship when they were in the same squad, same hut, trained together. then the 21 day voyage across the Atlantic, fought together side by side the "Baptism of Fire" campaign in Italy, the cold and bitter fighting in the Vosges Mountains--and even in death.

Pfc. Seichi Kaneshiro was killed in action on January 1, 1945 in Sospel, France. His awards include the Purple Heart Medal with Oak-leaf cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge, American and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals and the World War II Victory Medal. Pfc. Seichi Kaneshiro is interred at the Hilo Cemetery in Hilo, Hawaii.



## S/Sgt Richard Shintaro Hanaumi

December 22, 1912 - July 12, 1944



S/Sgt Richard Shintaro Hanaumi

Richard Shintaro Hanaumi was born in Papaikou, Hawaii on December 22, 1912. He was the son of Gishichi and Masao Hanaumi. He was educated at Papaikou School and Hilo High School on Hawaii. Before entering the service he was a painter for the Imperial Paint Shop in Honolulu.

In 1941 Richard Hanaumi was inducted into the Army at Honolulu, Oahu (Serial No. 30 101 027). He trained at Ft. Armstrong, Oahu and later at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, Company H in the Hawaiian Islands, the continental United States and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific, American, and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal. S/Sgt Richard Hanaumi

was killed in action in Leghorn, Italy on July 12, 1944 in the Rome-Arno Campaign and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu.

Sergeant Hanaumi was the 1st Section Sergeant of the 2nd platoon, in charge of two 30 calibre machine gun squad. When I first met the Sergeant, I felt that he may be short, a little pudgy, he may be older, but one can tell that he can take care of himself. I found out after I put on the gloves with him in a friendly boxing lesson. Hanaumi was too fast, too cute, too strong as he happily pounded my face. I tried more than once if I could see the punches coming, but he was just too clever, he just laughingly slapped me around.

Sergeant Richard Hanaumi was a good Section leader. When we got into combat, I just didn't like him looking for action. Every time he heard the sound of small arms fire, he would go racing toward the sound. Looking for action. On that fateful day of July 12, 1944, Sergeant Hanaumi, Pfc. Jitsuo Fujikawa, Pfc. Isamu Kunimatsu and Sergeant Togo Sugiyama of the 2nd platoon were killed. For his action on that July 12th date. Sergeant Togo Sugiyama was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously. Three of the four were from the 1st Section, from the same hut in Camp Shelby. We had trained together for almost a year. It was a devastating and shocking day. I will never forget that day. Albert Doi and I were volunteered for litter bearer for the injured Walter Nakashima. It was not our time.

**Pvt. Isamu Kunimatsu**  
**February 13, 1921 - July 12, 1944**



**Pvt. Isamu Kunimatsu**

Isamu "Eke" Kunimatsu was born on February 13, 1921 in Anacortes, Washington to Isekichi and Yukino Kanzaki Kunimatsu. He was the second youngest of eleven siblings—Kenzo, Shizu, Mitsu, Jitsu, Umé, Tsune, Giro, Saburo, Shiro, Isamu, and Takeko. Saburo and Shiro are the only surviving siblings. He attended Washington Elementary School and Roeder Junior High School. Isamu attended Whatcom High School and was president of his freshman class, but as Whatcom High School closed, Isamu transferred and graduated from Bellingham High. He participated in football in high school and was a good student. After high school Isamu spent the summer working in Alaskan salmon canneries and local oyster plants. Isamu had talked about his goals in life with his uncle Mr. Okubo, and they had planned to raise chickens together after the War.

When the War broke out, Isamu's family was sent to the Relocation Camp in Tule Lake, California where Isamu volunteered for the Army in the spring of 1943. He was inducted at Alturas, California (Serial No. 39 916 318) and received his basic training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, Company H, 2nd Platoon, 1st Section. Pvt. Isamu Kunimatsu was on a patrol with another soldier in Livorno, Italy during the Rome to Arno Campaign when a creeping artillery barrage came too close. They jumped into a ditch, but the shrapnel, from the shell that exploded above him, fell across his back. Pvt. Isamu Kunimatsu was killed in action on July 12, 1944.

Pvt. Isamu Kunimatsu was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, Victory Medal, American Theatre Service Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Service Medal and is buried at Rock Island National Cemetery in Rock Island, Illinois.



**Pfc Masayuki John Miyaguchi**  
**November 14, 1923 - October 20, 1944**



**Pfc Masayuki John Miyaguchi**

Masayuki John Miyaguchi was born on November 14, 1923, in Ewa, Oahu. He was the son of Hajime and Shimano (Ibashi) Miyaguchi. He was educated at Waipahu Elementary School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was employed as a truck driver for James W. Glover, Ltd., Honolulu, Oahu.

Masayuki John Miyaguchi was inducted into the Army on March 22, 1943 at Waipahu, Oahu. Serial number, 30104601. He trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, Company H, in the continental United States, Italy, and France. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, American and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pfc. Masayuki John Miyaguchi was killed in action on Southern France, on October 20, 1944, during the Battle of Bruyeres, France. He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Oahu.

## **Pvt William Shinji Mizukami**

**December 12, 1923 - July 11, 1944**



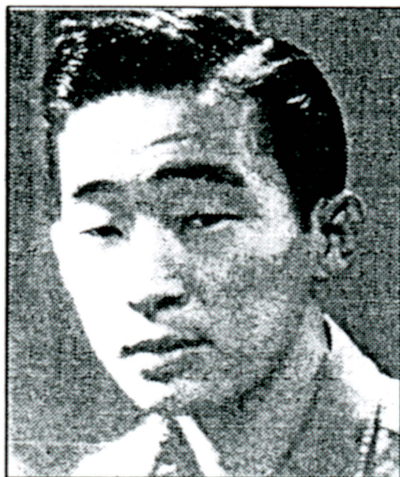
**Pvt William Shinji Mizukami**

Born December 12, 1923 in Auburn, Washington to Naonobu and Isami Mizukami. Brother of Lillian Yamamoto, Esther Yamamoto, and Frank and Robert Mizukami. Attended Elliot Grade School and graduated from Fife High School (Class of 1942) where he was on the Honor Roll and played varsity basketball. Pvt Mizukami was with Co. H, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and was killed in action on July 11, 1944 south of the Arno River in Italy. Recipient of Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Victory Medal, American Theatre Service Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Service Medal. He is buried in the Veterans Plot at Washelli Cemetery in Seattle.



## **Pfc Mitsumi Donald Okamoto**

**August 27, 1921 - April 21, 1945**



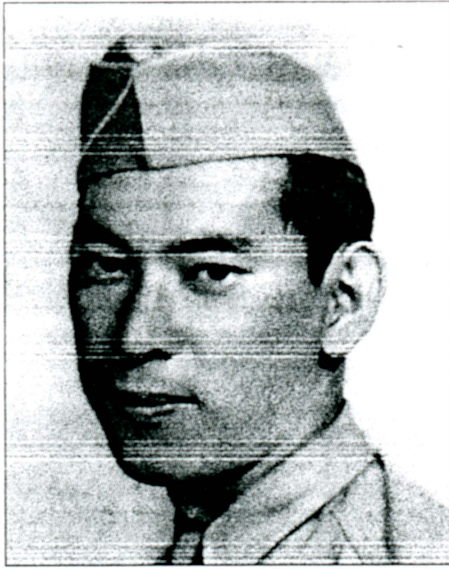
**Pfc Mitsumi Donald Okamoto**

Mitsumi D. Okamoto was born in Honolulu, Oahu, on August 27, 1921. He was the son of Juichi and Satsuyo Okamoto. He was educated at Kauluwela School, Central Intermediate School, McKinley High School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was a truck driver for Pepsi-Cola, Honolulu, Oahu.

In March 1943, he was inducted into the Army at Honolulu, Oahu (Serial number 30105239). He trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, B Company, in the Continental United States, Italy, and France. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pfc. Mitsumi D. Okamoto was killed in action on April 21, 1945 near Marciaso, Italy, during the Po Valley Campaign. He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii.

**S/Sgt. Robert T. Kuroda**  
**November 8, 1922 - October 20, 1944**



**S/Sgt. Robert T. Kuroda**

Robert Toshio "Donkey" Kuroda, son of Toyoichi and Sekino Mishima Kuroda, was born on November 8, 1922 in Aiea, Oahu. He attended Aiea Elementary and Intermediate School and graduated from Farrington High School in 1940. Robert belonged to the YMCA and Aiea Judo Club. Before entering the service he was employed as an electrician apprentice at the Oahu Sugar Plantation at Aiea. With his goal of being hired as an electrician for the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor after the War, Robert asked his mother to convince his father to sign the parental consent to volunteer for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

In March, 1943 Robert was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu and trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. S/Sgt Robert Kuroda was Mortar Section Leader in the 3rd Platoon of Company H, Second Battalion, 442nd RCT and saw service in the continental

United States, Italy, and France. S/Sgt. Robert Kuroda was killed in action in the Battle of Bruyeres, France on October 20, 1944 for which he was posthumously awarded the **Medal of Honor**, the nation's highest honor for valor in combat for heroism and presented at a White House ceremony on June 21, 2000 by President William J. Clinton. S/Sgt. Kuroda also was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star for Valor, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu.

Recipient of the **Medal of Honor**—**Staff Sergeant Robert T. Kuroda** distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 20 October 1944, near Bruyeres, France. Leading his men in an advance to destroy snipers and machine gun nests, Staff Sergeant Kuroda encountered heavy fire from enemy soldiers occupying a heavily wooded slope. Unable to pinpoint the hostile machine gun, he boldly made his way through heavy fire to the crest of the ridge. Once he located the machine gun, Staff Sergeant Kuroda advanced to a point within ten yards of the nest and killed three enemy gunners with grenades. He then fired clip after clip of rifle ammunition, killing or wounding at least three of the enemy. As he expended the last of his ammunition, he observed that an American officer had been struck by a burst of fire from a hostile machine gun located on an adjacent hill. Rushing to the officer's assistance, he found that the officer had been killed. Picking up the officer's submachine gun, Staff Sergeant Kuroda advanced through continuous fire toward a second machine gun emplacement and destroyed the position. As he turned to fire upon additional enemy soldiers, he was killed by a sniper. Staff Sergeant Kuroda's courageous actions and indomitable fighting spirit ensured the destruction of enemy resistance in the sector. Staff Sergeant Kuroda's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.



## **Pfc. George S. Saito**

**July 6, 1918 - October 16, 1944**



**Pfc. George S. Saito**

George Seigo Saito, son of Kiichi and Setsu Umetsu Saito, was born on July 6, 1918 in Los Angeles, California. He was the second oldest child in a family of five children—Kazuo, George, Shozo, Mary, and Calvin. He attended 37th Street Elementary School, and graduated from Foshay Jr. High School and Manual Arts High School. George belonged to Boy Scouts Troop 64. He was an owner of a produce market and had plans of going to college and becoming a pharmacist. Then the War broke out, and Calvin's family was sent first to the Assembly Center in Santa Anita, California and then in September 1942 to a Relocation Camp in Amache, Colorado.

On June 11, 1943 George was inducted into the Army at Ft. Logan, Colorado (Serial Number 37 701 011) and received his basic training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team,

2nd Battalion, Company H. He was killed in action in the Battle of Bruyeres Campaign in Bruyeres, France on October 16, 1944. Pfc. George S. Saito received the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, the American and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the Good Conduct Medal and is interred at the Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles, California.

"America is a damn good country and don't let anyone tell you otherwise," Pfc. George Saito wrote to his father, Kiichi Saito, after his brother Calvin had been killed in action in Italy on July 7, 1944. George had written how Calvin died a hero "personally directing and guiding the fire on position which routed the enemy." Calvin and George Saito were two of the first five Japanese Americans to volunteer for military service at Granada. With their death the Saitos are the first Japanese American family in the United States to lose two sons in action. Still another son, Shozo, is in the army. The Saitos lived in Los Angeles before evacuation.

In his letter to his father George said: "Dad, this is no time to be preaching to you, but I have something on my chest which I want you to hear. In spite of Cal's supreme sacrifice, don't let anyone tell you he was foolish or made a mistake to volunteer. Of I am sure what I've seen in my travels on our mission I am more than convinced that we've done the right thing in spite of what has happened in the past. America is a damn good country and don't let anyone tell you otherwise."

**Pfc Frank Masao Shigemura**  
**December 1, 1922 - October 20, 1944**



**Pfc Frank Masao Shigemura**

Born December 1, 1922 in Seattle, Washington to Takejuro and Kaye Shigemura. Attended Bailey Gatzert School, Broadway High School and the University of Washington for 1 year. Also attended Carlton College in Minnesota where he was active in the ROTC. Entered military service in 1943 and fought in Italy and France with Company H, 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Killed in action October 20, 1944 in Vosges Mountains, France. Recipient of Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Victory Medal, American Theatre Service Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Service Medal. Shigemura is buried at Lakeview Cemetery, Seattle.



## **Sgt. Togo S. Sugiyama**

**July 18, 1919 - July 12, 1944**



**Sgt. Togo S. Sugiyama**

Togo S. Sugiyama, son of Mr. and Mrs. Yasukichi Sugiyama, was born on July 18, 1919 in Kent, Washington and was the brother of Franklyn Sugiyama and Mrs. Catherine Haraguchi. He graduated from Lafayette Junior High School and attended Polytechnic High School in Los Angeles.

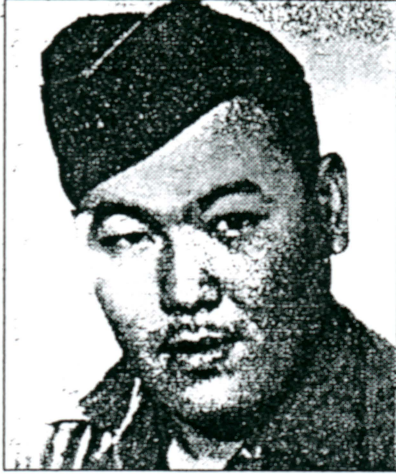
Togo was employed as a truck driver when he was drafted in August 1941 (Serial No. 39 153 051). Togo was transferred to 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, H Company from the 2nd Division in Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. In July 1943 Togo's parents and siblings were evacuated from the West Coast and interned in Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas.

In a single day on July 12, 1944 during the Rome to Arno Campaign in Italy, Sgt. Togo Sugiyama killed three German snipers and five machine gunners, took one prisoner and was credited with knocking out or routing four machinegun

nests near Pastina. It started out in the early morning attack upon Hill 119. Sgt. Sugiyama assisted his squad in setting up their heavy machinegun on a saddle-back between the two hills in order to protect two rifleman companies advancing along the forward slopes of both hills. After his men and the guns were emplaced, Sgt. Sugiyama crawled along a ridge to establish an observation post about 75 feet away on high ground. From his observation post, he noticed enemy machinegun and snipers firing on his gun positions about 150 yards away. He crawled 150 yards across from the snipers and used his Garand rifle to kill two snipers and to drive away the machine gunners. When he returned to his observation post, he noticed two snipers about 15 yards from his gun position, and with the help of three rifleman and a bag of grenades, he ordered the two snipers to surrender. When one refused, he fired a rifle grenade into the dugout, killing the remaining German. Early that afternoon Sgt. Sugiyama spotted a hostile machinegun firing from a slope directly at his advancing rifleman. After Sgt. Sugiyama fired tracer bullets to indicate the enemy's location, his rifleman were able to wipe them out. Later, he noticed enemy troops in a concrete building. He crawled back and went around the right reverse slope to warn his advancing rifleman. He then led a squad back and drove out the Germans. When he returned to his OP, he observed two light machineguns manned by eight Germans who were prepared to ambush the advancing American infantrymen. As the Germans were below the line of fire of Sgt. Sugiyama's machinegun, he crawled 25 yards, took cover in a shallow ditch, and fired rifle grenades, which killed five Germans while the other three fled without their machineguns. However, this action drew fire from another machinegun 600 yards away which killed Sgt. Togo Sugiyama.

Sgt. Togo Sugiyama was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, one of the country's highest military awards, for exceptional valor in action. He was also awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Bronze Star. He is interred at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, California.

**Sgt Ted Akira Teramae**  
**April 23, 1920 - April 8, 1945**



Sgt Ted Akira Teramae

Ted Akira Teramae was born in Onomea, Hawaii on April 23, 1920. He was the son of Kodo and Haruno (Maeda) Teramae. He was educated at Holualoa School in Hawaii, Washington Intermediate School and McKinley High School in Oahu. Before entering the service he was employed by Honolulu Rapid Transit Co., as a bus driver.

In March of 1943, Ted Teramae was inducted into the Army (Serial number, 30105053). He trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, H Company, in the United States and Italy. He was awarded a Purple Heart Medal, 2 Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and a WWII Victory Medal.

Sgt. Ted Akira Teramae was killed in action in Po Valley Campaign, Italy, on April 8, 1945. He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu, Hawaii.



**Pfc. Hiroshi John Yamamoto**  
**July 13, 1909 - Approximately July 17, 1944**



**Pfc. Hiroshi John Yamamoto**

There are conflicting statements as to where Hiroshi John Yamamoto was born. According to the War Relocation Authority (WRA) records, the individual record of Hiroshi Yamamoto indicates the age in time spent in Japan is from 0-9 years and from 10-19 years. However in the WRA records, he states that he was born in California. It is believed that Sanger was his home town, although another source placed him in Kauai, Hawaii.

Hiroshi was employed by Sunrise Produce, which was operated by the Hayakawa family in Oakland. The Hayakawa family members recall that Hiroshi loved to fish and therefore associate sashimi with Hiroshi.

According to the Topaz Register and the WRA records, Hiroshi was evacuated from Berkeley, California to the Tanforan Assembly Center located approximately 20 miles south of San Francisco and then was transferred to Topaz, the Central Utah Relocation Center on October 15,

1942. He then went to the Gila River Relocation Center in Pima, Sacaton, Arizona on January 15, 1943. Hiroshi left Gila with a number of people for Chicago, Illinois in May 1943. It is believed that he had volunteered shortly thereafter for the U. S. Army.

Sus Satow, a fellow H Company mortar man, recalls having seen Hiroshi working in the Poston warehouse prior to enlistment. The Poston Camp is very close to the Gila Camp. Mits Kojimoto also recalls talking to Hiroshi about his having worked in a labor camp in Bakersfield, and probably Hiroshi had talked about working in the Central Valley area.

Pfc. Hiroshi John Yamamoto served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, H Company, 3rd Platoon (mortar section) in the Rome-Arno Campaign in Italy and was killed in action on approximately July 17, 1944 near the vicinity of Luciana, Italy.

He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Bronze Star.

## Pfc. John Tsuyoshi Yamamoto

November 1924 - July 15, 1944



Pfc. John T. Yamamoto

John Tsuyoshi Yamamoto, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kanzo Yamamoto, was born in November 1924 and grew up in Oceanside, California where his family worked on a strawberry farm. His siblings are Hisaye, James, Frank and Kaname (deceased). John attended the Alameda Grammar School until his family moved to a larger farm, thereby transferring to George Washington Grammar School. However that school was only a temporary school for students while their regular school was being repaired from earthquake damages. As a result he attended Las Flores Grammar School until somebody found out he was attending school in the wrong district and therefore had to transfer to Artesia Grammar School. John liked football, basketball, baseball, and track. He also attended Downey Japanese school.

After John's mother passed away, the family moved, and he attended Carlsbad High School where he majored in commercial subjects and did well in typing and bookkeeping. He went out for football, and also became something of a basketball star. His sister Hisaye Yamamoto wrote in her article "After Johnny Died" in the Los Angeles Tribune on November 26, 1945, "... The letterman's sweater, green with two white stripes on the left sleeve—which he was able to buy then was precious to him ..." He worked summers picking strawberries and tomatoes.

Although John attended school 13 years, he never had a chance to participate in graduation ceremonies because the family moved to a new location. Just when he was about to graduate from high school, his family was forced to move to the Poston Relocation Center in Arizona. While in camp, he would assist incoming evacuees by escorting them to their barracks and helping them with their luggage. Later he did bookkeeping for the warehouses. He left camp to do sugar beet work in Ft. Morgan, Colorado, as well as other jobs off season.

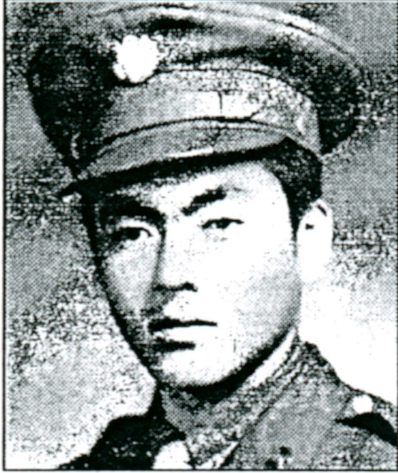
When John heard that the Army would take Japanese volunteers, he went back to the Camp to say goodbye to his family, and volunteered for service from Ft. Logan, Colorado (Serial No. 37 701 204). He received his basic training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, Company H, 3rd Platoon (mortar section). He was killed in action on July 15, 1944 by a direct hit from a shell during the Rome to Arno Campaign in Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Bronze Star.

His sister Hisaye writes, "... 'I guess I might as well tell you that we're in action now,' his last letter home said. A few days later, his mortar company marched day and night without food or water to catch up with the war on the outskirts of Livorno. After it had dug in below a hill held by the Germans, for some reason Johnny stood up in his foxhole and an 88-millimeter shell exploded full on his chest ..."

Pfc. John Tsuyoshi Yamamoto is buried at the Florence American Cemetery, Plot C, Row 2, Grave 4, in Florence, Italy.



**Pfc Mitsuichi Yoshigai**  
**February 25, 1922 - November 2, 1944**



**Pfc Mitsuichi Yoshigai**

Mitsuichi Yoshigai was born in Wailuku, Maui on February 25, 1922. He was the son of Nitaro and Tsuma (Yoshigai). He was educated at Kamehama III School and Lahainaluna High School in Maui. Before entering the service, he was employed by the Pioneer Mill Co. Ltd. as a carpenter.

In March of 1943, he was inducted into the Army at Lahaina, Maui (Serial number 30105958). He trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, H Company, in the United States, Italy, and France. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

Pfc. Mitsuichi Yoshigai was killed in action near Epinal, France, on November 2, 1944. He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl, Honolulu, Hawaii.