

Pfc. John Akimoto

September 24, 1924 - August 2, 1944



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John “Johnny” Akimoto, son of Masanori and Miki Mary Shiratori Akimoto, was born on September 24, 1924 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He was the youngest son of eight children. The eldest was Ruth Kodani, followed by Ned, Martha Hamlett, Margaret Kajikawa, Victor, Ted, John, and Jane Sato. John’s family moved to Los Angeles in 1928, and he attended 36th Street Elementary School and graduated from Foshay Junior High School and Dorsey High School in Los Angeles. After high school he planned on going to college.

Then the War broke out, and John’s family was sent to the Assembly Center in Santa Anita, California, after which they were sent to the Relocation Camp in Amache, Colorado. When laborers were needed to work in the sugar beet fields, they volunteered to work in Lincoln, Idaho for a year, as the father said, “anything is better than

to sit around with nothing to do and stagnate.” After working in the fields for over a year, on April 7, 1943 John volunteered from Colorado for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team to join his brothers Victor and Ted.

John (Serial No. 37 344 336) received his basic training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and served with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company C in the Rome to Arno Campaign in Italy. Pfc. John Akimoto died non-combat in active service in Barapina, Italy of acute hepatitis on August 2, 1944.

Pfc. John Akimoto was awarded the Bronze Star, European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, and Combat Infantryman’s Badge and is buried next to his brother Victor (100th/442nd RCT/Company A) in the Lorraine Military Cemetery in St. Avold, France in a special section where 26 brothers are buried next to each other.