

2nd Lt. Daniel J. Anderson

Killed in Action February 5, 1944



2nd Lt. Daniel J. Anderson (#O – 493658) entered service from New York. The 100th Infantry Battalion had two sources of replacements for their casualties. The enlisted men replacements had to come from the Japanese Americans from the 442nd or other units, but officers came from replacement depots or such. Anderson was assigned to the 100th Infantry Battalion from the 133rd Infantry Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division. It was not long after that the Nisei men were promoted by battlefield commission.

This incident came from the words of SAKAE TAKAHASHI in the book JAPANESE EYES AMERICAN HEART, pages 186-188.

“In my own personal experience, I’ve known discrimination, but I ignored it. There was an instance when I was on duty on the island of Kauai before I joined the 100th. The 27th Division, a New York National Guard unit, had been shipped to Hawaii. One of its regiments was deployed on Kauai. There was a General Michael Anderson who issued a general order saying that the Nisei in the service there could not visit their parents unless their parents were American citizens.

We completely ignored his order, because we felt that his guy was a stupid general. If we got caught, we got caught. But we weren’t going to ignore our parents just because this guy from New York had this bias.

A side note: The strangest thing happened in connection with this General Anderson. When the first group of replacements officers came to me before Cassino, there was a young second lieutenant named Anderson. When he came to the unit, I asked him, “Are you by chance from New York?” “Yes,” he answered. “Do you know a General Anderson?” “That’s my father,” he replied.

In Cassino, Lieutenant Daniel Anderson went out on a patrol with five men. One of the guys got wounded and couldn’t get over a wall, so Lieutenant Anderson went back, picked him up, and pushed him over the wall. While he himself tried to climb over the wall again. Lieutenant Anderson was shot in the head and killed. He was a great soldier.

The casualties in the attempted crossing of the mud flats, climbing the wall of the Rapido River and the battle for Cassino, caused the 100th Infantry Battalion become known as “The Purple Heart Battalion” as they continued to assault the abbey in daylight attacks. They would start the attack with about 150 men and 15 would make it to wall. Every day a different company would try to cross the open mud flats to reach the river wall with same result. Even the men of the 133rd Infantry Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division realized the task was suicidal. The 100th Infantry Battalion and the 34th Infantry Division attacked the Cassino, eventually reaching halfway to the stone abbey, but ran out of men and material. In time, five divisions accomplished the task given to the 34th Division and the 100th Infantry Battalion.

Lt. Daniel J. Anderson was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Burial site of Lt. Daniel J Anderson is not known. Missing in Action Tablets of the Missing at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy

Prepared for AJA WWII Memorial Alliance by Mits Kojimoto and Lisa Terao Blum. Resource:
Japanese Eyes/ Personal Reflections of Hawaii's World War II Nisei Soldier/ American Heart