

# 1<sup>st</sup> Lt James Boodry

*Killed in action October 27, 1944*



James Boodry was born to Christo and Clara Boodry of Clinton, Massachusetts in 1918. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt James Boodry, (ASN #01317876) fighting with the famous Japanese American 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, was killed in the on October 27, 1944 in eastern France. YANK Weekly writer, Sgt James P O'Neill, describes Lt James Boodry as a Regular Army dogface from Boston. Following is copy of the article as reprinted by Pacific Citizen:

## **“The Battle of Belvedere” by Sgt James P O’Neill August 25, 1944, YANK, THE ARMY WEEKLY**

*The 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team on their first day of combat on June 26, 1944 attempting to capture the town of Belvedere after an initial break-through was stopped and as the Germans counterattacked throwing in artillery and mortar fire. The experienced 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Salerno, Cassino and Anzio Battles stepped into the middle and turned the opening day disaster into a glorious victory. As A and B companies of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion assigned to assault positions at 1200 hours, commanding B Company was Captain Sakae Takahashi with Lt James Boodry, a former Regular Army dogface from Boston leading 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon. Lt Boodry directed his communication man to contact the heavy weapons with a mixture of Japanese, Hawaiian and American slang to open fire on the German 155s that was disrupting their assault. Lt Boodry and his platoon moved in on the German battery with carbines and M1s, as the weapons platoon cut loose with its mortar. In five minutes, 18 Germans had been killed and all four of the 155s were out of action. Right after that, four German trucks filled with men tried to break out, the first two made it but the other two were stopped as Lt Boodry picked out one driver with his carbine and the trucks piled up in the middle of the road, blocking it effectively and preventing the escape of other Germans. As the Germans attempted to mount a counterattack with the aid of a tank and a half track, but the 100<sup>th</sup> boys did everything right. The German snipers tried to get them but were silenced by Lt Boodry and his men. Lt Boodry shot one sniper out of a tree from 150 yards with his carbine. “He fell out of a tree and just looked at me as he was surprised.” Boodry says. I did not think a carbine was accurate at that distance. I moved in a little closer and hit him four more times. Lt James Boodry and the men of the 100<sup>th</sup> had a big day. In the valley of Belvedere lay 84 dead Germans; headed for rear were 32 prisoners and 26 wounded Jerries. By 1800 hours A Company had accounted for 26 more German dead, 18 prisoners and 9 wounded. The box score on Jerry equipment were 13 motorcycles, 19 jeeps, 7 trucks, 2 half tracks, 1 PzKW IV tank, 1 Sp gun, 2 anti-tank guns, 4 1 55 mms, 1 radio CP and 1 battalion CP with 22 telephones. One Presidential Citation.*

When Lt James Boodry joined the Company B of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, he had a bad feeling about the operation of this Hawaiian seemingly undisciplined unit with a lack of a chain of command. There was Lt Young Oak Kim that would not wear a helmet but a knit cap, who appeared to have nine lives, as he would disappear into enemy territory like a wisp of smoke. The attitude of the men was different with the leadership of Lt Sakae Takahashi and Young Oak Kim.

They would follow these platoon leaders by a nod or eye contact. However, it was clear that some 100<sup>th</sup> officers were not willing to risk their lives for the Japanese Americans. They never put themselves in an exposed position out front even though in training they spoke with more bravado than anyone else did. The Hawaiian soldiers were direct, often to the point of crudeness. To these officers they would say in pidgin, “you go, me go” then refuse to budge. On the other hand, when they did trust an officer, they trusted him completely.

As the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team joined the 36<sup>th</sup> Division in the Vosges forest in eastern France in October 1944, Captain Kim and First Lt James Boodry, now the new battalion intelligence officer faced the enemy with a division commander that placed impossible goals with an uncooperative and determined German. The Germans were lying in wait with mines, booby traps, mortar, artillery and their machine pistol and machine guns making any advance by the Nisei troops virtually impossible. The 36<sup>th</sup> Division General Dalquist was determined to move his forces regardless of the casualties, to win a star to add to his lapel at all cost with the lives of the Nisei soldiers. General Dalquist was determined that the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> rescue his Lost Battalion at all cost, rather than use his own troops. First Lt James Boodry succeeded Kim as S-3 and as he huddled to plan his next move with 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Bill Pye commander of Company C, an air burst exploded over their head and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt James Boodry fell to the ground, the top of his head had been split open. On October 27, 1944, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt James Boodry was killed fighting with his beloved 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

On June 18, 1944 at a 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division presentation ceremony, 1<sup>st</sup> James Boodry, (01317876) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action at Isola Bella, Italy, 9 and 10 May 1944.

**Ambassador in Arms** notes the following awards were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Lt James Boodry: Silver Star, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Distinguished Unit Citation.

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**HEADQUARTERS 34<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION UNITED STATES ARMY 17 June  
44 GENERAL ORDRS NUMBER 48 AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR**

**JAMES (NMI) BOODRY (03317876), First Lieutenant, Infantry, United States Army.**

*For gallantry in action on 9 and 10 May 1944, in the vicinity of Isola Bella, Italy. Lt Boodry, accompanied by another man, volunteered to go on a continued reconnaissance behind enemy lines to get vital information needed for subsequent raids. While moving up, they were subjected to enemy machine gun and mortar harassing fires, as well as our own friendly artillery fire, but fearlessly continued on to a vantage point approximately 50 yards to the left rear of an enemy outpost and here they remained all day, observing and noting enemy installations. Lt Boodry withdrew the following night with his comrade, and reported to his organization with vital information, which materially aided in the plans for a subsequent raid. Lt Boodry's outstanding performance without regard for his own personal safety was in keeping with the highest tradition of the military services. Entered military service from Clinton, Massachusetts.*

Compiled for AJA WWII Memorial Alliance by Mits Kojimoto and Lisa Terao Blum with extracts from the following: *The Battle of Belvedere* by Sgt. James P, O'Neill —August 25, 1944 *Yank, the Army Weekly* reprinted by Pacific Citizen

*Unlikely Liberators*-by Masayo Umezawa Duus  
*and Lost Battalions* by Franz Steidl