

## 2nd Lt. Harold Council Ethridge

September 13, 1918 - June 27, 1944



Harold Ethridge was born September 13, 1918 in Hickory Grove, Alabama. He was the son of Thomas Wilson Ethridge and Sallie Louella Ethridge

Ethridge (ASN #6731631) was inducted into the army on December 14, 1936 in Chicago, Illinois at the age of 18 years. After being in the army for six years, Harold married Emma "Em" Christine Matsen at St. Mark's Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama on November 19, 1942.

He was assigned to the all Japanese American 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and went into battle as a platoon leader in Italy. The 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for their victory at Belvedere and Sassetta, where the battalion decimated one SS combat battalion, in which they killed 178, wounded 20, and captured 86 prisoners. The battalion also destroyed 8 trucks, 19 jeeps, 13 motorcycles, 3 self-propelled, 2 anti-tank guns, 2 tanks, 2 half-trucks, 2 command cars, and an 80mm mortar. The 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion themselves suffered huge casualties and were called the "Purple Heart Battalion".

Lt. Harold Council Ethridge was killed in action near Belvedere and Sassetta on June 27, 1944.

He is buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

He is survived by his wife, Emma "Em" Christin Matsen Ethridge; father, Thomas Wilson Ethridge; mother, Sallie Louella (Ella) Watkins Ethridge; siblings Florence Velma Ethridge, Lorene Uradia Ethridge, Francis Edward Ethridge, Tommie Louise Ethridge, Lucy Ella Ethridge, Sarah Anne Ethridge, Eva Ruth Ethridge, and Juanita Ethridge.

Profile by Russell K. Shoho