

## **Pvt. Mikio Hasemoto**

**July 13, 1916 - December 1, 1943**



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Mikio Hasemoto was born on July 13, 1916 in Honolulu, Oahu. He was the son of Kango and Oshuku (Yoshimura) Hasemoto. He was educated at Hawaiian Mission Academy on Oahu. Before entering the service he was a stevedore at Castle & Cooke, Ltd., Honolulu.

On June 30, 1941 Mikio Hasemoto was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu (Serial No. 30 101 561). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu with the 298th Infantry Regiment and later at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi with the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company B. He saw service in the Hawaiian Islands, the continental United States, Algeria, and Italy. Pvt. Mikio Hasemoto was killed in action near Castelnuovo, Italy on December 1, 1943 in the Salerno to Cassino Campaign. He was awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** posthumously, which

was upgraded to **Medal of Honor**, the nation's highest honor for valor in combat for heroism, which was presented at a White House ceremony on June 21, 2000 by President William J. Clinton. Pvt. Mikio Hasemoto was awarded also the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific, American and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal. He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu.

**CITATION—Private Mikio Hasemoto** distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 29 November 1943 in the vicinity of Cerasuolo, Italy. A force of approximately 40 enemy soldiers, armed with machine guns, machine pistols, rifles, and grenades, attacked the left flank of his platoon. Two enemy soldiers with machine guns advanced forward, firing their weapons. Private Hasemoto, an automatic rifleman, challenged these two machine gunners. After firing four magazines at the approaching enemy, his weapon was shot and damaged. Unhesitatingly, he ran 10 yards to the rear, secured another automatic rifle and continued to fire until his weapon jammed. At this point, Private Hasemoto and his squad leader had killed approximately 20 enemy soldiers. Again, Private Hasemoto ran through a barrage of enemy machine gun fire to pick up an M-1 rifle. Continuing their fire, Private Hasemoto and his squad leader killed 10 more enemy soldiers. With only 3 enemy soldiers left, he and his squad leader charged courageously forward, killing one, wounding one, and capturing another. The following day, Private Hasemoto continued to repel enemy attacks until he was killed by enemy fire. Private Hasemoto'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.

Excerpts taken from *In Freedom's Cause: A Record of the Men of Hawaii Who Died in the Second World War* (1949) with permission from The University of Hawaii Press.