

Pfc. Kunio Hattori

August 15, 1918 - October 20, 1944



Pfc. Kunio Hattori was the husband of Mary Hattori of Topaz, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chikaji Hattori, 8G-8B of the Amache War Relocation Center in Colorado. He was born August 15, 1918 in San Jose and attended Sequoia Union High School and junior college. He was a very outgoing person and his hobby was into painting landscapes in which he won many trophies, He also enjoyed photography and loved to sing and sang in the church choir. He also enjoyed dancing and fishing and it can be summarized that he enjoyed and lived life to the fullest.

Hattori (SN 39003566) was inducted into the army at Fort Ord, California on March 6, 1941. He trained at Camp Roberts and Camp San Luis Obispo in California.

After the outbreak of war with Japan on December 7, 1941 some base commanders did not trust the Nisei G.I.'s because of their Japanese ancestry. He and others were sent to Gilroy, California, and stationed in a warehouse owned by Irving Hollister. Other base commanders chose to discharge some of the Nisei G.I.'s after the outbreak of war and had them interned in the Internment Camps.

He was stationed in Gilroy from January 1942 to March 1942, where the Japanese community invited the Nisei G.I.'s into their homes for dinner and arranged socials for them with the local young folks. The Issei enjoyed entertaining the young Nisei G.I.'s, for some of them were Kibeis who could talk with the Isseis about Japan. The Nisei G.I.'s were eventually shipped to Camp Grant in Rockford, Illinois.

This is where he married Mary Mizono of San Francisco in 1943. In March 1944, he was transferred to Camp Blanding, Florida and then to Camp Shelby, Mississippi. After a short training period, he was shipped overseas to Italy in Sept, 1944 to join the 442nd RCT as a replacement. He was assigned to Co. D, 100th/ 442nd RCT and shipped to France in early October 1944. The 442nd RCT returned to action in eastern France with the 36th Division of the Seventh Army. Following a hard-fought battle in the Vosges Forest in France, the 442nd RCT prevailed culminating in the liberation of the French town of Bruyeres.

He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge; Purple Heart; Distinguished Unit Citation; European African Middle East Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal

Pfc. Kunio Hattori was killed in action in Bruyeres, France during a furious counterattack by the German on October 20, 1944.

Kunio's wife, Mary, reminisce of occasion going to Camp Blanding, Florida so she could be with him. He was filled with apprehension, such as her living 50 miles from the huge camp, finding accommodations and employment, and at times, when only a Saturday afternoon was all that they could spend time together. Mary would spend hours riding a bus to get to the camp and another bus to his unit so that they could have a meal together. Then, it would be time for Mary to turn around and ride the buses back to her apartment.

He is interned at the Golden Gate National Cemetery (C369) in San Bruno, 10 miles south of San

Francisco, California.

Pfc. Kunio Hattori was survived by his wife, Mary of Topaz, Utah; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chikaji Hattori of Amache; brother John Den of Chicago (on enlisted reserve corps); and his sister, Mrs. Mitsuko Suzukida of Amache.

Prepared for AJA WWII Memorial Alliance ECHOES OF SILENCE by Kuniko Shimoguchi, Mits Kojimoto and Mrs. Mary Ishida. Extract from Pacific Citizen 11/28/44 Granada Pioneer 11/18/44.
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