

Pfc Masao Higa

October 17, 1912 - February 9, 1944



Masao Higa was born in Kahaluu, Oahu, on October 17, 1912. He was the son of Kanei and Kame (Zakabi) Higa. He was educated at Ewa Elementary and Intermediate School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was a yardman at Ewa Plantation Co., Oahu.

Higa (SN 30100421) was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu on December 10, 1940. He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu with the 298th Infantry Regiment. He was assigned to Company A, 100th Infantry Battalion for advance combat training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Upon completion of combat training in the continental United States, he was dispatched overseas to Algeria, Africa and subsequently participated in the landing at Salerno, Italy and the Italian Campaign.

He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pfc. Masao Higa was killed in action near Cassino, Italy, during the Cassino to Anzio Campaign on February 9, 1944.

He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Exerpts 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.

Russell K. Shoho