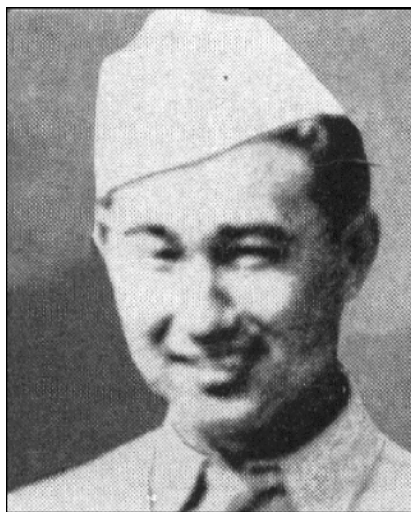


Cpl Bert Kenji Higashi **July 7, 1917 - November 8, 1943**



Bert K. Higashi was born in Honomu, Hawaii, on July 13, 1917. He was the son of Tsuneki and Kikue (Miyamura) Higashi. He married Vivian Toshiko Tanaka (of Honolulu), July 15, 1941; daughter, Sandra Sanae. Before entering the service, he was a carpenter.

In December 9, 1940, he was inducted into the Army at Honolulu, Oahu (serial no. 30100282). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 298th Infantry Regiment and the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company D, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria, and Italy. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign

Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Cpl. Bert K. Higashi was killed in action on November 8, 1943, near Pozzilli, Italy, during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign, and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii.

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HEADQUARTERS 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION UNITED STATES ARMY AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUSLY) 25 January 1944

BERT K. HIGASHI, 301001282, CORPORAL, COMPANY "D", 100th Infantry Battalion (Sep). for gallantry in action in November 1943, in Italy. Cpl Higashi, the assistant forward observer for an 81mm mortar platoon, was in position at an CP located on the crest of a hill forward of the advance infantry elements. The OP was almost untenable because of intense and continuous enemy artillery fire. During the course of the morning the enemy launched two counter-attacks, preceded by an artillery barrage. Cpl Higashi, however, remained at his post and relayed fire orders to his platoon, although his position was being constantly shelled. Both times the enemy, estimated at two companies, were repulsed and their columns broken by mortar fire directed from this OP. Cpl Higashi remained at his post during the entire morning until he and other observers were killed by a tree burst of an enemy shell. His courage and bravery in the face of almost certain death was an inspiration to his fellow soldiers and a credit to the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from: Honolulu, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii. Next of kin: Mrs. Vivian T. Higashi (Wife), 2639 Nakookoo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii.

Cpl. Bert K. Higashi was survived by his wife, Mrs. Vivian T. Higashi and daughter, Sandra Sanae and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii.

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.

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