Pvt Yutaka Hirayama
December 31, 1913 - October 23, 1943

Yutaka Hirayama was born in Mana, Kauai, on December 31, 1913. He was the son of Matajiro and Sada (Narimatsu) Hirayama. He was educated at the Kuhio School on Kauai then at Washington Intermediate School and St. Louis College, both on the island of Oahu. Prior to induction into the Army, Yutaka was employed as a movie operator with the Consolidated Amusement Co., Ltd., Honolulu, Hawaii.

Hirayama (SN 30102265) was inducted into the Army in Honolulu on November 15, 1941. He trained at Schofield Barracks on Oahu, Hawaii, then at Camp McCoy Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

He served with the 299th Infantry Regiment and the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company C in the Hawaiian Islands, the United States, and subsequently in Algeria and Italy.

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

Pvt. Yutaka Hirayama was killed in action in the assault on San’Angelod’Alife, Italy during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign on October 23, 1943.

He 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); permission from The University of Hawaii Press.
Russell K. Shoho