

T/5 Toshio Hozaki

March 6, 1919 – April 5, 1945



Toshio Hozaki, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kyuji Hozaki, was born in Los Angeles, California on March 6, 1919. Prior to enlistment, Toshio attended four years of high school and then gained employment as a parachute packer. His family under Executive Order 9066, was placed in the Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas in 1942.

Hozaki (SN 19079045) enlisted in the Army at Los Angeles on March 9, 1942.

Additional information reveals that the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, following their victorious but costly battle in the Vosges Forest in Eastern France, was transferred to Southern France. This is where they liberated the French town of Bruyeres, and were responsible for the rescue of the Lost Battalion of 141st Regiment, 36th Division. The Southern France campaign was known as the Champagne Campaign. Immediately thereafter the unit was given a much needed break along the French Riviera to rest and recuperate as replacements were brought in to fill the depleted ranks.

In March 1945, the Nisei unit was transferred back to Italy to General Mark Clark's Fifth Army. The goal was to crack the impregnable German Gothic Line. On April 4, 1945, the unit climbed the 3,000 ft mountain in an all-night climb, carrying full field fighting gear to attack at dawn on April 5. It was during this attack that T/5 Toshio Hozaki was seriously wounded near Ripa, Italy. He was then evacuated and subsequently, died of his wounds on April 5, 1945.

He was awarded Purple Heart; Distinguished Unit Badge; Combat Infantry Badge; the American Campaign Medal; European African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.

T/5 Toshio Hozaki, as member of 100th Battalion in Company C, died on April 5, 1945 in Italy.

He is listed on the monument at the Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles and it is noted that he is buried elsewhere, but after further searching, records show that Toshio Hozaki is buried at the National Veterans Cemetery in West Los Angeles..

Prepared for AJA WWII Memorial Alliance by Mits Kojimoto and Lisa Terao Blum with data from National Archive and Records Administration and wartime issue of the Pacific Citizen- National JACL-San Francisco
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