

## **T/4 Mitsuo M. (Mike) Iseri**

**June 9, 1909 - November 3, 1944**



**T/4 Mitsuo M. Iseri**

T/4 Mitsuo M. (Mike) Iseri was born on June 9, 1909 in Sumner, Washington to Matahichi and Kisa Okuna Iseri. Mike was one of 10 brothers and 2 sisters—Thomas (deceased), Mitsuo (deceased), Manabu (deceased), Masato (deceased), Alice Iseri (deceased), Mae Yamada, George, Daniel (deceased), Gengo (deceased), Oscar, Carl, and Bill (deceased) and was the husband of Alice Fujinaga. Mike attended elementary school in Thomas, Washington and Auburn High School in Auburn, Washington. His occupation was produce warehouse foreman before he entered military service in February, 1942 (Serial #19,075,143). Mike and Alice were married on December 15, 1942 in Little Rock, Arkansas. After assignments in Camp Robinson and Fort McClellan, Mike joined Company D, 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team as a replacement. He was severely

wounded from shell fragments on October 29, 1944 at 1200 hours near Biffontaine, France and soon taken to aid and collecting stations where he received treatment. From there Mike was then taken to a field hospital where they performed surgery later that day. Mike died in the hospital on November 3, 1944. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, Victory Medal, American Theatre Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Medal. Mike was originally buried at Epinal, France. Later his remains were brought over to the United States, and he is now interred at Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery in Seattle, Washington.

12/13/44

AUBURN, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

# Local Japanese Boy Dies In France

Mitsuo (Miko) Iseri, who volunteered for army service shortly after Pearl Harbor, died in France from wounds received in action on November 4th. Such was the word brought to Auburn last week by Mun Iseri, the soldier's brother, who received the message from the war department just two days before he left Ontario, Oregon, to come here on a business trip. He also had a telegram stating that a brother-in-law, John T. Kaskimoto, formerly of Seattle, was missing in action in the same war theatre.

Accompanying Mun to Auburn were Nish Nishimura and Tats Nobuyama, all former residents of this community before the evacuation of Japanese in 1942. They are in company of Al Conforth, manager of a packing shed in Ontario, his firm having purchased from the Mobile Ice Company, a local Japanese corporation, an ice machine which will be dismantled and removed from the packing shed on the N. P. railway Y and shipped to Oregon. It was stated that the work will take two or three weeks.

Mun stated that he had been rejected by the army because of physical disabilities and that his younger brother, Danjoi, 21, leaves for service the 21st of this month. Mun is employed as a garage mechanic in Ontario and his brother Tom is foreman of a packing shed in that city.

The Iseri family is well known in this community, the boys conducting a service station and various other lines of business on the East highway near Thomas for several years.

In reporting on other Japanese from this community, Mun stated that Jack Hori, a graduate of the Auburn high school and star football player is now with the army

# Auburn Graduate Given Prominent Mention In Correspondent's Story

Prominent Pioneer Family  
Planting firm to 14 families

Editor's Note—The following story appeared in December's Mechanix Illustrated Magazine and gives Lt. Leonard L. Brannan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brannan of Auburn and graduate of Auburn High School, a prominent spot in the story, written by the well-known war correspondent, Michael Stern.

Some civilians scoff at lengthy training periods for military personnel like fliers, gunners and signalmen, but invasions like that of Southern France wouldn't be possible unless some groups trained for thirty months or more, declares Michael Stern, war correspondent, in December's Mechanix Illustrated Magazine. He gives a firsthand report on how the fighter-bomber-observer squadron cooperated in completely demoralizing the Germans for the landing of Allied armies near Toulon.

Flight Deck Officer, Lt. Leonard L. Brannan of Auburn, Washington, was on board the escort carrier U. S. S. Tulagi which prepared the way for these troops. The fliers on planes did double duty; they acted as a protective covering over the beaches and blasted enemy shore installations.

Exploting a frontal assault on Toulon and Marseille, the Germans fortified the cities. They also constructed powerful defenses along the flat shores between Spain and Marseille. The Yanks outwitted the Nazis by landing on the rugged terrain instead.

At 5:45 D-Day, Southern France, the men on the Tulagi went into action. Because there was little

wind, the catapult was used. Men in blue shirts handled the planes on deck. Those wearing yellow were officers and plane directors. Through speed and accuracy each Hellcat was launched in less than a minute. Flight Deck Officer Brannan and his sixty-six man crew were responsible for the flight take-offs. Each pilot depended on Brannan for signals, instructions and last minute changes of flight. In the communications office, men checked locations of various planes. A huge spotting device picked up directions of pilots, which were marked on a large blackboard in different colors.

The pilots knocked out tanks, rail lines and road junctions all over Southern France. Vehicles of all types were set afire, coastal guns and artillery were shattered. The Nazis were completely surprised and became more vulnerable by trying to move motor transports in broad daylight.

Upon their return the planes circled overhead until given the signal to land. One by one planes bounced to the deck and their tail hooks caught the arresting cables. The crew taxied the planes off the runway—in approximately 65 seconds and were ready to receive the next plane!

The assault cost less in Allied men and material than for any other invasion. The pilots can take it!

No doubt Lt. Brannan felt as one of his buddies expressed it: "For thirty months I've wondered what it would be like. After this show I can take whatever they throw at me!"

*The Brannans reacted to many of us as well Tom Mike's Mun went to school with them. When Mrs Brannan passed away she requested Mike + Lenora Iwai as pall bearers.*

from Stan Flewelling

KENT NEWS  
JOURNAL

WASHINGTON

Protests Anti-Nisei  
Reaction At Midway

Some of the people in the vicinity of Midway have shown concern because I have had as my guests a couple of loyal Japanese-Americans. They were so concerned that they went to the trouble of placing a "No-Jap" sign on my property. It is too bad that these people do not really appreciate the facts for I am sure if they knew at whom they were pointing their finger, a veil of shame would descend upon them.

It happens that those I had as my guests were of the old Iseri family, formerly of White River Valley, who just had the recent sad experience of losing one of the boys, Mike Iseri, in action in Italy. It was Mike's brother, Mun, and the latter's wife, who were guests at my home. Records will show that Mun himself attempted to get into the service and fight for his country, but failed to pass his physical on account of a previous injury.

It seems that as an American citizen I am well entitled to have any other loyal American as my guest, and I am sure that my neighbors, in their misguided moments, knowing the facts will feel very sorry for the attitude they have taken in this case.

Any loyal Japanese-Americans are welcome at Mr. Eckert's home.

Dick Eckert,  
Midway.

SECRET

1.

UNIT III  
11TH FIELD HOSPITAL  
APO #758, U.S. ARMY

TSW/CFC/doc

4 November 1944.

SUBJECT: Letter Report of Death (Battle Casualty).

TO : Office of the Surgeon, Headquarters Seventh Army, APO #758,  
U.S. Army.

1. The following report of death is hereby submitted.

a. Iseri, Hitsuo NMI, 19075143, Pfc, Company D, 442nd Infantry,

b. Wounded 29 October 1944 at 1200 hours near Piffontaine, France.

c. Tagged at 100th Bn Aid Station, 442nd Infantry 29 October 1944 at 1330 hours. Diagnosis: IJA shell fragment fractured compound right thigh, right ankle and right hand severe; multiple penetrating wounds right thigh and right leg; penetrating wounds right chest and right elbow severe. Treatment: sulfanilamide dressing and splint applied; morphine gr. 1.

d. Received at 880th Collecting Station 29 October 1944 at 1415 hours. Diagnosis: Penetrating wound right abdomen severe. Treatment: 1 unit plasma.

e. Received at Clearing Station 111th Med Bn., 29 October 1944 at 1515 hours. Diagnosis: Same. Treatment: None.

f. Received at Unit III, 11th Field Hospital 29 October 1944 at 1600 hours. Diagnosis: Shell fragment wounds multiple buttocks right, penetrating and perforating multiple thigh, right, fracture compound femur m/3, right, penetrating wounds leg, right, fracture compound fibula left 1/3 with compound laceration of ankle joint, perforating wound foot, right, penetrating and perforating wounds multiple, thigh left, fracture compound second, third, fourth and fifth metacarpals, right, fracture compound humerus, left, 1/3, fracture compound ulna, right upper third, multiple wounds, forearm right, penetrating wound chest, right, axillary line over fifth rib. Hemothorax, right, penetrating wound abdomen. Treatment: 1/2 unit plasma and 500 c.c. blood.

g. operation 29 October 1944 at 2030 hours. Endotracheal G.O.F. anesthesia. Wound chest wall, right debrided and wound sucking. Fifth rib debrided and large wound seen in middle and lower lobes. Diaphragm intact. Hemothorax aspirated, lung expanded. 25,000 units penicillin put into pleural cavity and pleura and wall closed with gut around intercostal tube. Exploratory laparotomy thru right rectus incision. Six inches of jejunum resected and end to end anastomosis (multiple perforation). Six perforations of jejunum sutured. Loop, sigmoid colostomy (no spur) done in right of buttock and thigh wounds. 50,000 units penicillin and 5 grams sulfa powder put in peritoneum. Cavity drained. Peritoneum closed with gut. Fascia, muscles and skin with T and T heavy silk. Extensive wounds of right thigh and fracture compound of right femur excised. Multiple wounds of right buttocks excised, fracture compound of right fibula excised, ankle joint compounded. Wounds of right leg and right heel excised. Fracture compound lower third of humerus and upper third of ulna excised. Elbow joint right compounded. Ulnar nerve not exposed. Large gutter wound dorsum of right hand over metacarpal heads excised. Last 4 metacarpals compounded. Extensive wounds of skin and exterior tendons. Multiple severe penetrating and perforating wounds of left thigh excised. Fine mesh drains. pt. in poor condition at end of operation. Thomas splint, right leg; Cramer splint right arm. Given 6000 c.c. blood during surgery.

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3

h. expired 3 November 1944 at 1645 hours.

i. Post mortem findings: Chest opened. No fluid in either pleural cavity. Large hematoma of middle and lower lobes of lung, right. Consolidation of lower lobe of lung, left. Heart normal and no pulmonary embolus found. There was minimal peritonitis present. Anastomosis of small bowel intact and lumen patent. Other perforations of small bowel were sutured and no leakage. No other abdominal lesions found. Both thighs revealed the multiple wounds as described, no evidence of pyogenic or anaerobic infection. Cause of death: (1) Hematoma of right middle and lower lobes of lung. (2) Pneumonia of left lower lobe of lung. (3) Minimal peritonitis. (4) Extensive soft tissue damage of extremities.

Lewis S. Walker

LEWIS S. WALKER,  
Major, M.C.,  
Commanding.