

Pfc Haruo Kawamoto

June 17, 1916 – February 5, 1944



Haruo Kawamoto was born on June 17, 1916, in Kailua, Oahu. He was the son of Junichi and Kome Kawamoto. He was educated at Kailua Elementary and Intermediate School, Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School, and McKinley High School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was employed as a clerk at the Hawaiian Pineapple Co., Ltd., Honolulu, Oahu.

Kawamoto (SN 30101945) was inducted into the Army on November 15, 1941, at Schofield Barracks, Oahu. He took basic training at Schofield Barracks, Oahu and advance combat training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

He served with the 298th Infantry Regiment initially in the Hawaiian Island. He was then re-assigned to Company A, 100th Infantry Battalion to undergo combat training in the continental United States prior to being dispatched overseas to Algeria, Africa and subsequently participated in the landing at Salerno, Italy.

He was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal with 1 Oak-Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pfc. Haruo Kawamoto was killed in action on February 5, 1944, near Monte Cairo and Cassino, Italy, during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign.

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

CITATION GO. No 42 Hq 34th Infantry Division - Award of Silver Star HARUO (NMI) KAWAMOTO (30101945) Private First Class, Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 29 November 1943, in the vicinity of Cerosulo, Italy. when Pfc Kawamoto, assistant BAR gunner, saw that his ammunition carrier was seriously wounded he immediately ran to him and gave him first -aid, exposing himself to heavy enemy machine gun, rifle and mortar fire. When he had assured himself that his comrade was being taken care of, he returned to his position and materially aided the BAR gunner in knocking out an enemy machine gun nest, an anti-aircraft position and in the capturing of several prisoners. Pfc Kawamoto's courageous and selfless action reflects highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Kailua, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. Next of kin: Mr.Kaname Kawamoto (brother), Kailua, Oahu, territory of Hawaii.

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