

Pvt Stephen Mitsugi Kaya

June 27, 1916 - November 29, 1943



Stephan Mitsugi Kaya was born on June 27, 1916, in Honolulu, Oahu. He was the son of Kaichi and Koharu (Muramoto) Kaya. He was educated at Royal School, Kalakaua Intermediate School, and McKinley High School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was employed as a clerk at the Kaya Fishing Supplies, Honolulu, Oahu.

Kaya (SN 30101960) was inducted into the Army at Honolulu, Oahu on November 15, 1941. 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 C, 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 Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American and European-African- Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pvt. Stephan Mitsugi Kaya was killed in action near Scapoli, Italy, on November 29, 1943, during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign.

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

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Russell K. Shoho