

Pfc Kiichi Koda

January 28, 1915 – J u l y 9, 1944



Kiichi Koda was born on January 28, 1915, in Waipahu, Oahu. He was the son of Matazo and Shizu (Kagitani) Koda. He was educated at the Hawaiian Mission Academy., Oahu, and Shuto High School, Japan. Before entering the service, he was employed as a laborer for Waiahole Water Co., Ltd., Oahu.

Koda (SN 30101862) was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu on Nov. 14, 1941. He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu with the 298th Infantry Regiment. He was later assigned to Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion for advance combat training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Upon completion of combat training he was dispatched overseas to Algeria, Africa and subsequently participated in the landing at Salerno, Italy and the Italian Campaign.

He was awarded the Silver Star Medal, 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.

Pfc. Kiichi Koda was killed in action near Castellina Marittima, Italy during the Rome-Arno Campaign on July 9, 1944.

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

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR KIICHI KODA, (30101862), Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion. For extraordinary heroism in action on 9 July 1944 near Castellina, Italy. Reaching a point 50 yards from its objective, Private First Class KODA'S platoon received a volley of German machine gun and machine pistol fire from a wooded area. Pfc KODA, accompanied by four comrades with fixed bayonets, charged into the woods. Firing their rifles from the hip whenever they spotted any enemy position, he and his comrades completely disrupted and disorganized the Germans in the area. Completing his mission, Pfc KODA rejoined his squad which had been ordered to flank and guard a castle, the objective of an adjacent company. The enemy opened fire on the platoon with machine guns. Sensing the danger of a possible German attack, Pfc KODA requested permission from his platoon leader to capture the castle. Instructing his

comrades to cover his approach, he moved forward to a point five yards from the castle. Spotting an open window, he tossed a grenade into the building; then crept to each successive window, repeating the operation until he completely circled the structure. Rejoining his squad, Pfc Koda led his comrades with fixed bayonets into the castle. In the ensuing fight Pfc Koda was mortally wounded by an enemy hand grenade; but as a result of his intrepid performance, three prisoners were captured, ten Germans killed and five machine guns and four machine pistols were taken. Private First Class KODA's fearless courage and fighting spirit were an inspiration to his fellow soldiers and serve as an example of the heroic tradition of the Army of the United States. Entered military service from Waipahu, Oahu, T.H. Next of kin: Mrs. Shizu Koda (Mother) Waipahu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.

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Russell K. Shoho

