

## **Pvt Kaname Matsunaga**

April 25, 1924 - October 15, 1944



Kaname Matsunaga was born on April 25, 1924, in Kalaheo, Kauai. He was the son of Saroku and Asano (Yokomi) Matsunaga. He was educated at Kalaheo School and Kalaheo Vocational School in Kauai. Before entering the service, he was employed as a carpenter for the United States Army.

Matsunaga (30103663) was inducted into the Army at Hanapepe, Kauai in March, 1943. When the call came for volunteer in the formation of the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, he responded without hesitation. He was combat trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

He served in Company A, 100th Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team in the continental United States, Italy and France.

He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal , 1 Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, 1 Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Unit Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pvt. Kaname Matsunaga was killed in action during the Battle of Bruyeres, France on October 15, 1944.

He is interred at the Kauai County Veterans Cemetery in Kauai.

Exerpts taken from *In Freedom 's Cause: A Record of the Men of Hawaii Who Died in the Second World War* (1949) with permission from The University of Hawaii Press.  
Russell K. Shoho