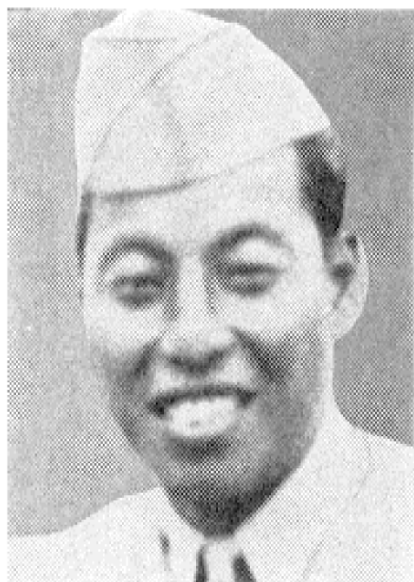


Cpl Thomas Tsutomu Mekata

February 2, 1917 – August 21, 1944



Thomas T. Mekata was born on February 2, 1917, in Waipahu, Oahu. He was the son of Akitaro and Ikue (Maeda) Mekata. He was educated at Likelike School, Kalakaua Intermediate School, and McKinley High School on Oahu. He was married to Delores Dixie Dixon of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Before entering the service, he was employed as a can tester for Hawaiian Pineapple Co., Ltd., in Honolulu.

Mekata (SN 30102090) was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu in November, 1941.

He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, and later at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

He served with the 298th Infantry Regiment and the 100 Infantry Battalion, Company D, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria, and Italy.

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

Cpl. Thomas T. Mekata was killed in action during the Rome-Arno Campaign near San Lorenzo and Riglione di Pisa, Italy on August 21, 1944.

He is interred at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu.

AWARD, POSTHUMOUS , OF THE SILVER STAR (GO No 121, Hq. 7th Army 6 Dec 44) THOMAS T. MEKATA, 30102090, Corporal, Infantry, Company D, 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for gallantry in action on 20-21 August 1944, near Riglione di Pisa, Italy. When an enemy patrol approached his machine gun position, Corporal Mekata after instructing his assistant to man the weapon, left his place of safety at the machine gun emplacement and crawled toward the enemy patrol in order to determine its exact location and direct effective fire against it. While returning to his gun position, he was seriously wounded by a rifle grenade fired by member of the enemy patrol. Despite his wound, and at the risk of drawing additional enemy fire, Corporal Mekata called out the position of the enemy patrol to his assistant gunner. By this means, his assistant was able to effectively direct fire against the enemy patrol, causing it to withdraw. His undaunted determination and utter disregard for personal safety reflect credit upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Mrs. Dolores H. Mekata (Wife), 817 Cloud Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Excerpts 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.

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