Haluto Moriguchi, son of Torao and Yae Moriguchi, was born on February 24, 1925 in San Francisco, California. He was the only son and eldest of five siblings, followed by sisters June Moriguchi (San Francisco, CA), Lilly Campos (Novato, CA), Katherine Baishiki (Belmont, CA), and Barbara Iwai (Daly City, CA). He attended Morning Star Elementary School and Pacific Heights (San Francisco). He then attended Commerce High (San Francisco). When the War broke out, Haluto’s family was sent to the Assembly Center in Santa Anita, California in April 1942. He attended Santa Anita High, and in the autumn of 1942, his family was sent to a Relocation Camp in Amache, Colorado. While in Camp, Haluto was awarded the Table Tennis Champion Cup in 1943. Although his family left Camp in the spring of 1943, Haluto stayed in Camp to graduate from Amache High. After graduation, Haluto joined his family in Spanish Fork, Utah. Then they moved to American Fork, Utah before relocating to Salt Lake City, Utah.

While Haluto and his family were in American Fork, Utah, Haluto attended 13th grade at American Fork High, awaiting to get into Brigham Young University. However, on May 29, 1944, Haluto enlisted in the U.S. Army (Serial No. 39 929 903) at Ft. Douglas, Utah. He was 19 years old. Haluto started his military training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi in June 1944. During training, he was awarded three expert medals—carbine, rifle and BAR. In early November 1944, Pfc. Haluto Moriguchi was sent overseas to Menton, France as a replacement in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company C where they patrolled the southern border of France for German troops from Northern Italy.

Haluto’s unit shipped out to Italy in late March 1945. He was a runner for the Company Commander, Lt. Walter Johnston and served with Company C Headquarters. In the Po Valley Campaign in Northern Italy, the goal of the 100th/442nd was to crack the impregnable German Gothic Line—Hills Florida, Georgia, Ohio 1, 2, 3, Mt. Cerreta, Mt. Folgorito, Mt. Carchio, and others north. On April 3, the 100th Battalion assembled in Vallecchia. Then on the evening of April 4, they partially relieved the 371st Infantry on Florida Hill and prepared for their attack on Georgia Hill at 0500 hour April 5. It was during this attack on Georgia Hill that Pfc. Haluto Moriguchi was killed in action by mortar shell fragments when a mortar shell fell between Lt. Johnston and him. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Distinguished Unit Badge, the American and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pfc. Haluto Moriguchi was originally interred in the U.S. Military Cemetery in Castelfiorentino, Italy. Later his remains were brought over to the United States and were interred on March 14, 1949 at the Golden Gate National Cemetery (Headstone No. J-1042) in San Bruno, California, twenty miles south of San Francisco, to where his family returned after World War II.
Dear Hachi, Feb 2, 1943

I am very glad you wrote to me.

Anything that happened there (there is my home) interests me very much.

I am also glad that you have good chance to improve to play ping pong, but don't forget to study your books.

Nowadays if you don't learn, you go nowhere.

I see great opportunity for young people after the war, whether he be an American or a Japanese.

This world is changing...
There may be less barriers among the races and countries.

There are plenty things to be done after the war. The younger generation have plenty chances. There are plenty career (good positions) in the New World (after the war) for those who are well-prepared.

I want to see you soon, not only at ping pong, but also at game of life.

your father.
1. Following named enlistees are ordered to AD eff 29 May 1944, and on that date will depart from address indicated reporting to 30 Depot Cen., Fort Douglas, Utah for processing and assignment pursuant to separate instruction issued by this hq. Subject reservists will not be reported to Classification and Assignment Section this hq.

Pvt. Shigehi E. Adachi 3993878, 7-7-A, Topaz, Utah (2 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Seki Y. Achi 3966287, 4-11-A, Phoenix, Arizona (6 meals - 2 days)
Pvt. Kato J. Iwano 38963313 Route #1, Box 1892, Glendale, Arizona (3 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Charles A. Koshi 3986551, Route #1, Box 1699, Glendale, Arizona (3 meals - 3/3 day)
Pvt. Kuroki Z. Asahara 3997230, 2-2-C, Topaz, Utah (2 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Son S. Koyagi 3997365, 140 W 1st South, Salt Lake City, Utah

Pvt. Toshiro Nudo 3997854, Kirin, Utah (3 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Satoshi Doga 39926311, 19-12-A, Minidoka, Idaho (3 meals - 1/3 day)
Pvt. Takemasa Enko 3997975, Route #1, Box 2771, Provo, Utah
Pvt. Yukio Enko 3997978, Route #1, Box 150, Layton, Utah

Pvt. Takao Enko 3996818, 62-5-A, Phoenix, Arizona (3 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Kikusumi Fujinami 3992971, 229 Bucari Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah
Pvt. Hideki Y. Tami 3992979, F.S.A. Camp, "Hider, Idaho (2 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Tomio Funai 3992868, 551 28th St., Ogden, Utah
Pvt. Utaka Hashimoto 3992974, Route #1, Beaver, Utah (2 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Bill H. Higashiyama 3993977, 1070 Washington Blvd., Ogden, Utah
Pvt. Tofu Ida 3986558, 537-8-A, Phoenix, Arizona (6 meals - 2 days)
Pvt. Sakaishi K. Kanazawa 399333, c/o LDS Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah
Pvt. William D. Ishihara 3992873, Box 1074, Idaho Falls, Idaho (3 meals - 1 day)
Pvt. Teruo Iwamura 3992900, 5-3-2-E, Caldwell, Idaho (3 meals - 1 day)
Pvt. Isamu Isida 3992933, 25-1-A, Topaz, Utah (3 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Francis T. Inouye 3992902, 143 West Third East, Provo, Utah

Pvt. Isamu Ito 3997961, 42-11-I, Topaz, Utah (2 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Ito Jo 3992847, Box 456, Cedar City, Utah (2 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. Tokuo Inoue 3992977, 2951 Pineview Ave., Ogden, Utah

Pvt. Kobayashi Enko 3992994, Route #1, Sugar City, Idaho (2 meals - 1/3 day)
Pvt. Seiko H. Koizumi 3992916, 770 South 5th West, Salt Lake City, Utah
Pvt. Koichi Kato 3992838, 110 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah
Pvt. Taro Kogose 3992838, Box 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming (5 meals 1-2/3 days)
Pvt. Toba I. Nanki 39929611, 27 West 1st South, Salt Lake City, Utah
Pvt. Yoshio Kuni 3992834, 4-9-D, Topaz, Utah (3 meals - 2/3 day)
Pvt. George Kusono 3992827, Box 100, Troy, Montana (5 meals - 2 days)
Pvt. Yoshiaki Shigeishi 3945759, Poston, Arizona (6 meals - 3 days)
Pvt. Tani Iwao 3992822, 17-3-B, Hutt, Idaho (3 meals - 1 day)
Pvt. Chico Kihara 3992977, Box 515, Ogden, Utah
Pvt. George S. Aikawa 3945752, 57-8-B, Poston, Arizona (6 meals - 2 days)
Pvt. Jimmy H. Miyazaki 3945756, 516 South West Borel, Salt Lake City, Utah

RESTRICTED

OVER
RESTRICTED

(SO 127 PAR 1 HNSC Fort Douglas, Utah, continued)

Pvt Minoru G. Miyoko, 39929913, Star Route Box 5, Sandy, Utah
Pvt Charles S. Mori, 39929743, RFD #1, Brigham City, Utah
Pvt Hulto Moriguchi, 39929905, RFD #1, Box M, American Fork, Utah
Pvt George Murakami, 39925752, Mesa Orchards, Mesa, Idaho (5 mls - 12/3 days)
Pvt Kazuo Murakami, 1903898, 38 C, Hunt, Idaho (3 mls - 1 day)
Pvt Kimitomo Muramoto, 39929171, S-4-B Minidoka, Hunt, Idaho (3 mls 1 day)
Pvt George Nagata, 39929744, Route #1, Corinne, Utah (1 meal - 1/3 day)
Pvt Edward Y. Nakamura, 39929165, 31-6-B, Hunt, Idaho (3 mls - 1 day)
Pvt George S. Nakamoto, 36468216, 1-12-E, Topaz, Utah (2 mls - 2/3 day)
Pvt Tsijiro Namatame, 36467712, 37-2-B, Poston, Arizona (6 mls - 2 days)
Pvt Sumio Nishi, 36467563, Block 219 Apt 8A, Poston, Arizona (6 mls - 2 days)
Pvt Benjamin M. Nishizaki, 39928232, RFD #3, Garland, Utah

TC will furnish necessary T. In accordance with AR 30-2215 QMC will issue
No. of meal tickets indicated for each man named for number of days specified.
(326.22) (24 May 44) (SMPF)

By command of Major-General McCoy:

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL


Chief of Staff..............1
Aide-de-Camp................1
M.P.D.-Enl (ERC)..............425

**INcludes Sufficient COPIES FOR EACH BML RESERVIST**
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**RECORD OF EVENTS**

Not available at present.
**MORNING REPORT**

**ORGANIZATION:** Co C 100th Engr Bn 422d Inf

**STATION OR LOCATION:** TIPS, Italy T 95-96

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**RECORD OF EVENTS**

5 Apr 45: Company attacked at dawn meeting heavy mortar and artillery fire, Casualties heavy. Enemy resistance stubborn.

6 Apr 45: Company encountering heavy mortar and artillery fire. Took objective Ohio No. Captured 21 prisoners.

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THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP SORROW THAT YOUR SON PFC KALUTO MORTICHI WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN ITALY FIVE APR 45. CONFIRMING LETTER FOLLOWS.

UL TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.
Mr. Torao Moriguchi  
R. F. D. 1, Box M  
American Fork, Utah

Dear Mr. Moriguchi:

It is with regret that I am writing to confirm the recent telegram informing you of the death of your son, Private First Class Haluto Moriguchi, 39,929,903, Infantry, who was killed in action in Italy on 5 April 1945.

I fully understand your desire to learn as much as possible regarding the circumstances leading to his death. Recently provisions were made whereby there will be sent directly to the emergency addressee or the next of kin a letter containing further information about each person who dies overseas in the service of our country, and if this letter has not already been received, it may be expected soon.

I know the sorrow this message has brought you and it is my hope that in the knowledge of his heroic service to his country, even unto death, may be of sustaining comfort to you.

I extend to you my deepest sympathy.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. ULLO
Major General
The Adjutant General

1 Inclosure  
WD Pamphlet No. 20-15
La Spezia, Goal Of 442nd's Drive, Captured by Allies

La Spezia, major naval base on the Ligurian coast of Italy and the immediate objective of the 442nd Infantry Regiment and other American units, has fallen to troops of the United States Fifth Army, according to reports this week.

The Japanese American Combat Team, after its capture of Carrara, Massa and Mount Belvedere, was last reported in news dispatches to be approaching La Spezia.

Parents Learn Of Only Son's Death in Italy

Pfc. Moriguchi Died In Recent Drive of Nisei Combat Unit

Pfc. Haltu Moriguchi, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tora Moriguchi, 170 South Fourth West Street, Salt Lake City, was killed in action in Italy on April 4, 1945, during the recent spring offensive of the 442nd (Japanese American) Infantry Regiment of the United States Fifth Army along the Ligurian coast, according to information received by the parents yesterday from the War Department.

Pfc. Moriguchi was born in San Francisco on February 24, 1925. He was evacuated from San Francisco with his parents on April 7, 1942, to the Santa Anita assembly center in Southern California and was later transferred to the Granada relocation center in Amache Colo.

He relocated in Utah with his parents in 1943 and graduated from American Fork high school. He was inducted into the army on May 29, 1944, and received his training at Camp Shelby, Miss.

He went to France as a replacement in November, 1944, and joined the Japanese American Combat team.

Pfc. Moriguchi is survived by his parents, and by two sisters, June and Lily, all residents of Salt Lake City.
Three Utahns Die, Three Wounded; S. L. Private Killed in Italy

Dead

Pfc. Halito Moriguchi, Salt Lake soldier killed in Italy.

Pvt. Edward L. Zupen, Helper man is German captive.

Liberated
Robert Phil Dickinson, Panguitch.

Wounded
Pfc. Leonard De Jong, Salt Lake City.

Radio Technician 2/c Ronald B. McLean, Salt Lake City.

Missing

Prisoner

Pfc. Halito Moriguchi, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Taro Moriguchi, 173 S. 4th West, was killed in Italy April 4.

He was born in San Francisco Feb. 24, 1925, and came to Utah in 1943. He was graduated from American Fork high school and entered the army in May, 1944. Pfc. Moriguchi was assigned overseas in November.

Survivors include his parents and two sisters, June and Lilly Moriguchi, Salt Lake City.
Northern Italy
April 25, 1945

Mr. Torao Moriguchi
173 S. 4th St.
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Father:

We who were comrades of Haluto in the 100th Battalion want to express our sympathy for you as you mourn his passing. May the heavenly Father give you His comfort in this time of sorrow.

Pfc. Haluto Moriguchi, 39929903, Company C of the 100th Battalion, was killed in action in Northern Italy on April 5, 1945. While participating in an attack he was hit by mortar shell fragments, and death came quickly. He was taken to an American Cemetery in Northern Italy and given a proper burial. Later on the Quartermaster General (Washington, D. C.) will tell you the exact location of his grave. And his personal belongings will be sent to you through army channels.

We remember the loved ones of our fallen comrades each time we pray at the battalion church services. And we strive to honor Haluto and others like him by carrying on until this task is finished. He is not forgotten.

God bless you and your son's near and dear ones.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Israel A. S. Yost
Chaplain (Captain)
100th Bn 442d Inf Regt
APO 464 c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.
May 4, 1945.

My dear Mr. Moriguchi:

The President has requested me to inform you that the Purple Heart has been awarded posthumously to your son, Private First Class Haluto Moriguchi, Infantry, who sacrificed his life in defense of his country.

The medal, which you will receive shortly, is of slight intrinsic value, but rich with the tradition for which Americans are so gallantly giving their lives. The Father of our country, whose profile and coat of arms adorn the medal, speaks from it across the centuries to the men who fight today for the proud freedom he founded.

Nothing the War Department can do or say will in any sense repair the loss of your loved one. He has gone; however, in honor and the goodly company of patriots. Let me, in communicating to you the country's deep sympathy, also express to you its gratitude for his valor and devotion.

Please believe me,

Sincerely yours,

[Handwritten Signature]

Mr. Torao Moriguchi,
173 South 4th Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah.
Nazareth Pa
31 October 1945

Dear friend,

The sacrifice of your son is not forgotten by his comrades; this certificate witnesses to that.

The design was made by a member of the 100th Battalion; it was printed in Italy.

With God's blessing,

Sincerely yours,

Israel Yost
Chaplain
IN MEMORY OF

Pvt. C. Hisato Moriguchi

Company C 100th Battalion,
442nd Infantry, United States Army
Who gave his life for his country on 5 April 1945
Italy

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"
St. John 15:13

FOR THE OFFICERS AND MEN
OF THE 100TH BATTALION

Purple Heart

Jack E. Conley
St. Col., Inf. Commanding
Mr. Torao Moriguchi  
173 South 4th Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Mr. Moriguchi:

The War Department is most desirous that you be furnished the burial location of your son, the late Private First Class Haluto Moriguchi, A. S. N. 39 929 903.

The records of this office disclose that his remains are interred in the U. S. Military Cemetery, Castelfiorentino, Italy, plot Y, row 66, grave 3375.

This cemetery is located approximately nineteen miles southwest of Florence, Italy, and is under the constant care and supervision of United States military personnel.

Please accept my sincere sympathy in the loss of your son.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

E. B. Gregory  
Lieutenant General  
The Quartermaster General
United States of America

Certification of
Military Service

This certifies that

Haluto Moriguchi
39 929 903
Army of the United States
May 29, 1944
April 5, 1945
Death
Private First Class
Same as above

was a member of the
from

Last Grade, Rank, or Rating
Active Service Dates

Given at St. Louis, Missouri, on April 2, 1999

National Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
National Archives and Records Administration

THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN OF THIS PERSON'S MILITARY RECORD.

(This Certification of Military Service is issued in the absence of a copy of the actual Report of Separation, or its equivalent. This document serves as verification of military service and may be used for any official purpose. Not valid without official seal.)
A Chance Meeting
By Richard Yamamoto
(first printed in the PukaPuka Parade several years ago)

This incident happened during the summer of 1945 at the railroad station in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Haluto Moriguchi, a “kotonk” and 18 years old, joined Charlie Company in the winter of 1944 at Menton, Southern France. He was a very energetic and likable lad and everyone took to him. First Sgt. Warren Iwai nicknamed him “Junior” and kept him in the C.P. group because of his age.

I was a mail clerk and got to know Junior real well. He even showed me a snapshot of June, his cute kid sister and told me that his family had moved to American Fork, Utah, from a relocation center. Junior was killed in action during the big push after we had returned from France.

Fifty of us One Puka Puka men left Italy on rotation for the states in the summer of 1945 and while on the way back, the war in Italy ended.

We rode the train from New Jersey cross country and made one of the many stops in Salt Lake City. When the train stopped and we saw the beautiful Mormon Tabernacle before our eyes, I stuck my head out of the window to have a better look. I then turned and looked the other way and couldn’t believe my eyes. There, standing alone was this young girl, the exact image of the snapshot Junior had shown me. I called out and asked her if her name was June and she answered yes. Quickly, I called her to our coach and introduced her to Warren Iwai and other Charlie Company members.

She said she would call her mother over. Her mother had gone to the other half of the train while June looked on this side. Mrs. Moriguchi was so happy to see many Charlie Company members. I had taken snapshots of Junior in the Menton area and he had sent them home.

Unlike the Ganpeki No Haha of Japan, the mother who to her dying day met every troop ship that returned and docked at the pier near her vicinity, hoping that her son would be on the ship, Mrs. Moriguchi, even though knowing that her son would never return had gone out to meet every troop train going through Salt Lake City in the hope that she could meet someone who knew her son before he was killed in action. Our train was the first with boys from the 100th. It was a happy and yet a sad meeting for Mrs. Moriguchi, June, and our group.

Mrs. Moriguchi now lives in San Francisco and daughter June keeps in touch with us. Warren Iwai, during his business trips to San Francisco in the past has met her a few times.

It was a chance meeting because of a snapshot of a dear sister that was shown to me.
Half a century later, poignant tale of soldier’s life still lingers

By Annie Nakao
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

It was April 1945, and the 100th Battalion’s Charlie Company was hunkered down on Mount Folgaria near Naples, about to charge the Nazi Gothic Line.

Its newest member, young Pfc. Haluto Moriguchi of San Francisco, was well-liked by his older Japanese American buddies in the segregated 100th.

Mostly from Hawaii, they looked out for the young mainlander, whom they dubbed “Junior.” He, in turn, shared the chocolate chip cookies sent by his sister June.

“I was a mail clerk and got to know Junior real well,” the late Richard Yamamoto recalled in a memoir. “He even showed me a snapshot of June, his cute kid sister…”

Moriguchi was in the war four months when he was hit by mortar shell fragments. He died on April 5, 1945. The war in Europe ended a month later.

Sent home that summer, Moriguchi’s buddies were aboard a cross-country troop train when it pulled into Salt Lake City.

Yamamoto stuck his head out of the train to get a better view of the Mormon Tabernacle when he turned and couldn’t believe his eyes.

“There, standing alone was this young girl, the exact image of the snapshot Junior had shown me,” Yamamoto wrote. “I called out and asked if her name was June and she answered yes.”

Unbelievable coincidence
June had moved to Utah with her parents. They were at the station to meet returning soldiers who might have known Haluto.

“It was a happy and yet sad meeting … a chance meeting because of a snapshot of a dear sister that was shown to me,” Yamamoto said.

More than a half-century after 830 Americans of Japanese ancestry fought for their country and died on the battlefields of Europe, the legendary valor of their most well-known units — the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team — are celebrated in books, movies and a national exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Together, the 100/442 comprised the most decorated unit in military history.

Yet the very personal stories of those who fell in battle are still unfolding more than a half-century later.

“You see Haluto’s picture and you say, ‘Oh my goodness, look how young he was,’” said Jimmy Yamashita, a 442nd vet. “But his story was typical of many of those killed in action who made sacrifices. We gotta remember the guys who perished.”

A CD-ROM history
Yamashita is helping to tell those stories as part of the Los Angeles-based Americans of Japanese Ancestry Memorial Alliance’s project to create a CD-ROM preserving the history of those who died in battle.

The alliance is also building a memorial wall at L.A.’s Japanese American Cultural and Community Center that will list the names of Japanese Americans killed in World War II.

It was a misspelling of Haluto’s name that uncovered Moriguchi’s story.

Haluto got his unusual name when his father, Torae Moriguchi, used an “i” instead of the usual “r” in spelling the Japanese name, Haruto.

[See SOLDIER, A-21]

Haluto Moriguchi fought and died for the U.S. during World War II.
Poignant tale of soldier's story

Haluto's sister, Katherine Baishiki, 52, of Belmont, called Yasumasa after she saw Haluto's name misspelled in the list of names for the proposed wall. The two exchanged information and soon, Haluto Moriguchi's story became part of the CD-ROM project.

Baishiki never met her brother — she was born after he died.

"I was never able to do anything for him," he said. "So if I can get his name corrected, that counts for something."

But she grew up with his presence.

"My mom and dad had a picture of him in their bedroom," she said. "They talked about him all the time, how proud we all were of him."

For 68-year-old June Moriguchi of San Francisco, a lifetime has passed since her teenage brother hugged her and said, "If I don't come back, you take care of Mom and Dad."

"I was only 13 at the time," said Moriguchi. "It was a big burden I felt when he said that."

Moriguchi, tears overflowing, said she's never forgotten her brother, who was a large part of her childhood in San Francisco's Fillmore District.

"He was such a wonderful fellow," said Moriguchi. "Everywhere he went, I went with him. He taught me how to skate. We were so close."

Like the 120,000 Japanese on the West Coast in 1942, the Moriguchis were forced from their homes under military order and sent to inland camps after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Most of those interned were U.S. citizens.

The Moriguchis were sent to a camp in Amache, Colo. After a year, they voluntarily moved to Utah under a program which freed them from the camp as long as they did not return to the West Coast, the prescribed military zone.

Haluto Moriguchi stayed in Amache to finish high school in camp, then was drafted into the Army. Thousands of Japanese Americans volunteered from camps where their families were incarcerated.

Despite the mass internment, which was later called a gross injustice by the federal courts and two presidents, young Moriguchi never lost his patriotism.

"He always loved this country — he always hung a picture of the American flag in his room," said June Moriguchi.

The young recruit was sent to France and Italy as a replacement for the 100th/442, which fought in some of Europe's most horrific battles.

"The ranks were really depleted," said Warren Iwai, 1st sergeant for Charlie Company, in a phone interview from his native Hawaii. "We were getting all these raw recruits, a lot of them from the mainland."

Iwai remembered Moriguchi as a cheerful 19-year-old.

"He was smiling, had a real sunny personality," Iwai said. "I asked him if he could splice wire. He said yes. I said, 'OK, junior, you can stay with me.' The name stuck."

A month before he was killed, Haluto's father wrote him in neat script: "I am glad that you have a good chance to improve to play pingpong but don't forget to study your books. I see great opportunity for young people after the war, whether he be an American or a Japanese. This world is shrinking. There may be less barriers among the races and countries. I want to see you win not only at pingpong but also at the game of life."

His son's death devastated the father, who had dreamed of Haluto becoming a pharmacist.

"He was crushed when my brother died," said June Moriguchi. "My father's hair turned completely white. He lay in bed for three weeks. I'll never forget it."

For years after his death, government benefit checks continued to arrive in Haluto's name, a sign to his mother that even in death, he was an "oyakōō," a dutiful child.

Moriguchi's parents have both died.

"I just love my brother," said Baishiki. "It was like I knew him. He was our family's hero."
By Momoko Murakami

The story of PFC Haluto Moriguchi typifies many of the untold stories of Americans of Japanese Ancestry who made the supreme sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Born on February 24, 1925 in San Francisco, he was struck by mortar shell fragments and killed in the Po Valley Campaign on April 5, 1945, just five weeks after he had turned twenty. He was old enough to fight for his country. He was not old enough to vote. Posthumously he was awarded the Purple Heart which the War Department presented to his parents.

A replacement for Company C of the 100th Battalion he joined the unit in the winter of 1944 at Menton, France. Writes Richard Yamamoto, "He was very energetic and likable and everyone took to him.

"I was a mail clerk and got to know Junior [as he was nicknamed] real well. He even showed me a snapshot of June, his cute kid sister and told me that his family had moved to American Fork, Utah from a relocation center.

"Fifty of us One Puka Puka men left Italy on rotation for the states in the summer of 1945 and while on the way back, the war in Italy ended.

"We rode the train from New Jersey cross country and made one of many stops in Salt Lake City. When the train stopped, we saw the beautiful Mormon Tabernacle before our eyes. I stuck my head out of the window to have a better look. I then turned and looked the other way and couldn't believe my eyes. There, standing alone was this young girl, the exact image of the snapshot Junior had shown me. I called out and asked her if her name was June and she answered yes. I called her to our coach and introduced her to Warren Iwai and other Charlie Co. members.

"She said she would call her mother over. Her mother had gone to the other half of the train while June looked on this side. Mrs. Moriguchi was so happy to see many Charlie Co. members.

"Mrs. Moriguchi, even though knowing that her son would never return, had gone out to meet every troop train going through Salt Lake City in the hope that she would meet someone who knew her son before he was killed in action. Ours was the first with boys from the 100th. It was a happy and yet sad meeting for Mrs. Moriguchi, June and our group."

As the war was winding down in Europe, Reverend George Aki was ordered to "Locate the isolated graves of our men who were hastily buried during the heat of combat!"

"As my assistant and I searched for those solitary graves, these were some of my innermost thoughts: "Why did they have to die so young?" "What moved them to decide to fight for the country that stripped them of their birthing and literally cast them into American-made concentration camps?" And, finally, "What am I planning to do to honor those men whose lives were cut short so abruptly?"

"These young men were forced into early maturity. They vowed that nothing, not even death, would deter them from being anonymous stepping stones toward a world of justice and peace.

"These initial volunteers were verbally incarcerated by their peers, elders and some were disowned by their fathers. But, somehow, they doggedly held firm to their prime goal. Some even departed from camp at midnight to avoid a riot. Despite acrimonious objections, they held steadfastly to their goals in life.

"But their dreams were shattered by death! No, not the normal kind of death, but death in such devastating circumstances: dying in a strange land, dying with no loved ones nearby, and their buddies too busy fighting for their own lives and not knowing who was dying.

"From my early youth I searched for one I could look up to, a model I could follow with pride, a standard bearer who would point me to the way I should go to add something meaningful to share in my journey.

"Suddenly, these young war dead became my guide and standard bearers. Each time I hear a 3-gun salute, taps, or the mournful sound of bagpipes, mentally I go on bended knees and thank God for them who gave their lives that I might continue with my life. One thing I can do is to dream their dreams and carry the "torch of life" for them. All honor and glory due to me, if any, I offer to them who died on my behalf, so that I might continue, somehow, to fulfill their dream, to build a nobler America."
Memorial, CD-ROM to Tell Young Soldier’s Story

The Los Angeles-based Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance is in the process of building a memorial to over 800 Japanese American soldiers who gave their lives during World War II and producing a CD-ROM that will tell their stories in detail.

One of those stories is that of a San Franciscan, Pvt. Haluto Moriguchi, who died at the young age of 20, from San Francisco Examiner reports.

In April 1945 the 100th Battalion’s Charlie Company was hunkered down on Mt. Folgarita near Naples, about to charge the Nazis’ Gothic Line.

Its newest member, Moriguchi, was well-liked by his older buddies in the segregated 100th. Mostly from Hawaii, they looked out for the young mainland-er, whom they dubbed “Junior.” He, in turn, shared the chocolate chip cookies sent by his sister, June.

“I was a mail clerk and got to know Junior real well,” the late Richard Yamamoto recalled in a memoir. “He even showed me a snapshot of June, his cute kid sister, ….”

Moriguchi was in the war four months when he was hit by mortar shell fragments. He died on April 5, 1945 and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

This was the unit’s last battle; the war in Europe ended a month later.

Sent home that summer, Moriguchi’s buddies were aboard a cross-country troop train when it pulled into Salt Lake City.

Yamamoto stuck his head out of the train to get a better view of the Mormon Tabernacle when he turned and couldn’t believe his eyes.

HALUTO MORIGUCHI

“There, standing alone, was this young girl, the exact image of the snapshot Junior had shown me,” Yamamoto wrote. “I called out and asked if her name was June and she answered yes.”

June had moved to Utah with her parents. They were at the station to meet returning soldiers who might have known Haluto.

“It was a happy and yet sad meeting because of a snapshot of a dear sister that was shown to me,” Yamamoto said.

More than a half-century after 830 Americans of Japanese ancestry fought for their country and died on the battlefields of Europe, the legendary valor of their most well-known units — the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team — are celebrated in books, movies and a national exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Together, the 100th and 442nd comprised the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. military history.

Yet, the personal stories of those who fell in battle are still unfolding more than a half-century later.

“You see Haluto’s picture and you say, ‘Oh my goodness, look how young he was,’” said Jimmy Yamashita, a 442nd vet. “But his story was typical of many of those killed in action who made sacrifices. We gotta remember the guys who perished.”

Yamashita is helping to tell those stories as part of the alliance’s CD-ROM project.

The alliance’s memorial wall, to be located in front of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo, will list only the names of Japanese Americans killed in action. It will stand alongside similar memorials for the Korean War and Vietnam War.

It differs from the just dedicated monument of the 100th/442nd/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation, which commemorates some 16,000 Japanese Americans who served in the military during World War II, including the KIAs.

Misspelling of Name

It was a misspelling of Haluto’s name that uncovered his story.

Haluto got his unusual name when his father, Torao Moriguchi,
used an "i" instead of the usual "r" in spelling the name Haruto.

Haluto’s sister, Katherine Baishiki, 52, of Belmont, called Yamashita after she saw his name misspelled in the list of names for the proposed wall. The two exchanged information and soon, Haluto Moriguchí’s story became part of the CD-ROM project.

Baishiki never met her brother — she was born after he died.

"I was never able to do anything for him," she said. "So if I can get his name corrected, that counts for something."

But she grew up with his presence. "My mom and dad had a picture of him in their bedroom," she recalled. "They talked about him all the time, how proud we all were of him."

For 68-year-old June Moriguchí of San Francisco, a lifetime has passed since her teenage brother hugged her and said, "If I don’t come back, you take care of Mom and Dad."

"I was only 13 at the time," said June. "It was a big burden I felt when he said that."

Tears overflowing, June said she’s never forgotten her brother, who was a large part of her childhood in San Francisco’s Fillmore District. "He was such a wonderful fellow. Everywhere he went, I went with him. He taught me how to skate. We were so close."

The Moriguchis were among the 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast who were forced from their homes and sent to inland camps in 1942.

They were sent to a camp in Amache, Colo. After a year, they voluntarily moved to Utah under a program which freed them from the camp as long as they did not return to the West Coast military zone.

Haluto stayed in Amache to finish high school in camp, then was drafted into the Army. Thousands of Nikkei volunteered or were drafted from the camps to fight for the U.S. while their families were still incarcerated.

Despite the internment, which was later called a gross injustice by the same government that had implemented it, Haluto never lost his patriotism.

"He always loved this country — he always hung a picture of the American flag in his room," said June.

The young recruit was sent to France and Italy as a replacement for the 100th/442nd, which had fought in some of Europe’s most horrific battles.

"The ranks were really depleted," said Warren Iwai, lst sergeant for Charlie Company, in a phone interview from his native Hawaii. "We were getting all these raw recruits, a lot of them from the mainland."

Iwai remembered Moriguchí as a cheerful 19-year-old. "He was smiling, had a real sunny personality. I asked him if he could splice wire. He said yes. I said, "Okay, junior, you can stay with me." Thé name stuck."

A month before he was killed, Haluto’s father wrote him in neat script: “I am glad that you have a good chance to improve to play pingpong but don’t forget to study your books. I see great opportunity for you, young people after the war, whether he be an American or a Japanese.

"This world is shrinking. There may be less barriers among the races and countries. I want to see you win not only at pingpong but also at the game of life."

His son’s death devastated the elder Moriguchí, who had dreamed of Haluto becoming a pharmacist.

"He was crushed when my brother died," said June. "My father’s hair turned completely white. He lay in bed for three weeks. I’ll never forget it."

For years after his death, government benefit checks continued to arrive in Haluto’s name, a sign to his mother that even in death, he demonstrated oya-koko, devotion to one’s parents.

Moriguchí’s parents have both died. His family is grateful he is being remembered.

"I just love my brother," said Baishiki. "It was like I knew him. He was our family’s hero."

For more information, contact the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance at 244 S. San Pedro St., Room 506, Los Angeles 90012; (213) 628-2725 (voice) or 617-8576 (fax). Tax-deductible contributions can be made payable to "AJA WWII Memorial."
The reply to the inquiry will be found in the checked item(s). If you write to us again on this subject, please return your original request, this form, and any other form you complete.

☐ Copies of requested military ☐ personnel ☐ medical records are attached. We suggest you make an extra copy and guard against loss or damage. We regret if any photocopics may be of poor quality, but they are the best copies obtainable.

☐ The attached separation document may include the following information: authority for separation, reason for separation, Reenlistment Eligibility Code, and Separation (SPN/SPD) Code. If you require a copy of the separation document that does not contain the above information, you may request a deleted copy from this Center. A seal has been affixed to the enclosed copy to attest to its authenticity.

☐ The Privacy Act of 1974 does not permit the release of a social security number or other personal information to the public without the authorization of the veteran concerned; therefore, we have deleted personal identifying data relating to other persons.

☐ The record of service in the __________________________ indicates being in a POW status from __________________________ to __________________________.

☐ When the person named above was separated, it was not the practice to issue a document which served as a report of separation.

☐ A discharge certificate is issued only as an original document; thus, there is no file copy from which to make a copy for you. We will obtain an appropriate substitute certificate for a veteran or surviving spouse if you will tell us whether the original was: (1) never received, or (2) lost or destroyed.

☐ No report of separation was issued, since the person named above had no active service, or less than 90 days of active duty for training.

☐ The service record of the person named above does not contain a copy of a report of separation, or its equivalent. Therefore, we are instead providing the attached NA Form 13038, Certification of Military Service. This will serve as verification of military service and may be used for any official purpose.

☐ The record needed to answer your inquiry was filed in the area that suffered the most damage in a fire here on July 12, 1973, and was damaged/partially destroyed. The specific document or information requested was not contained in the records that were recovered from the burned area.

☐ The record needed to answer your inquiry is not in our files. If the record were here on July 12, 1973, it would have been in the area that suffered the most damage in the fire on that date and may have been destroyed. Alternate records sources exist which often contain information that can be used to reconstruct service record data lost in the fire.

☐ The information used to prepare the attached NA Form 13038, Certification of Military Service, was obtained from an alternate records source. This will serve as verification of military service and may be used for any official purpose.

☐ The enclosed copies of documents were obtained from an alternate records source.

☐ However, complete personnel/medical records cannot be reconstructed.

☐ And, however, we regret that these sources do not contain the particular type of information or document requested.

☐ We will attempt to obtain the required information from alternate records sources if you will assist us by completing the attached NA Form 13075, Questionnaire About Military Service, to the best of your ability.

☐ In attempting to provide information from alternate records sources concerning illness or injury while in military service, we need additional information as to the approximate dates of illness or injury and the specific organizational assignments (company, battalion, regiment, division, group, etc.) at that time. Please complete the attached NA Form 13055, to the best of your ability.

☐ That portion of your request seeking medals/awards has been referred to the office checked below, which has jurisdiction over the issuance of medals/awards. Any further correspondence on this subject should be addressed to that office. Both offices are at 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132. ☐ ARPERCEN, Attn: DARP-VSE-A ☐ Navy Liaison Office, Room 5409

☐ That portion of your request regarding Air Force or Army Air Corps medals will be answered under separate cover.

☐ The medical records requested ☐ The documents requested pertaining to discharge have been lent to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Please phone the VA at 1-800-827-1000 for help in obtaining these records, and provide your VA Claim Number, __________________________.

☐ The Department of Defense Privacy Program, 32 CFR 310.30(f), allows for the disclosure of medical records to the individual to whom they pertain. A portion of the requested medical records, however, contains information which can be interpreted and explained properly only by a physician. If you wish us to send copies to a designated physician, please provide us with the name and address of that physician. The request MUST INCLUDE the written consent (signature) of the person whose records are involved, authorizing the release of the records to the designated physician.

☐

[Signature]

Katherine Bashiki
2649 Hollmark Dr
Belmont, Ca 94002

[Signature]

Date: 4-2-99

For the Chief,
☐ Air Force Reference Branch
☐ Army Reference Branch
☐ Navy Reference Branch
☐ Records Reconstruction Branch

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

NA FORM 13045 (REV. 12-95)
NRPM  A-M

AUTHORIZATION FOR ISSUANCE OF AWARDS
For use of this form, see AR 672-5-1; the proponent agency is ODOSPER

2. TO: Commander
   U.S. Army Support Activity
   Philadelphia, PA 19101-3460

4. CODE NUMBERS FOR AWARDS

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The Secretary of the Army directs that the following awards be engraved according to current regulations and issued to address shown below.
(Engraving to be as indicated in classification or below.)

The awards and decorations indicated above will be forwarded from the U. S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, IMMC, Soldier Systems Directorate, 700 Robbins Avenue, P. O. Box 57997, Philadelphia, PA 19111-7997. If you do not receive these items within 90 days, please submit a copy of this form to that address.

U.S. ARMY SUPPORT ACTIVITY
Philadelphia, PA 19101-3460

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

KATHERINE BAISHIKI
2649 HALLMARK DRIVE
BELMONT, CA. 94002

DA FORM 1577, AUG 90
EDITION OF 1 NOV 75 IS OBSOLETE
27 October 1999

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</tbody>
</table>

12. REMARKS

The awards and decorations indicated above will be forwarded from the U. S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, IMMCS, Soldier Systems Directorate, 700 Robbins Avenue, P. O. Box 57997, Philadelphia, PA 19111-7997. If you do not receive these items within 90 days, please submit a copy of this form to that address.

U.S. ARMY SUPPORT ACTIVITY
Philadelphia, PA 19101-3460

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
KATHERINE BAISHIKI
2649 HALLMARK DRIVE
BELMONT, CA. 94002

VIRGINIA A. BARRETT
Chief, Army Reference Branch

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
☐ This individual is entitled to the following unit award(s), however, the Department of the Army does not issue them. They may be purchased from civilian dealers in military insignia.

☐ Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge
☐ Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Badge
☐ Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, First Class Unit Citation Badge

☐ This individual is entitled to the Bronze Star Medal or the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal based on the award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge.

☐ The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960) was awarded by the Republic of Vietnam. The Department of the Army does not issue this foreign award, but does provide the pertinent ribbon. The medal may be purchased from civilian dealers in military insignia.

☐ There will be a charge for these replacement medals assessed by the U. S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (USASBC), Philadelphia. Payment should not be mailed until instructions are received from USASBC.

☐ A silver service star or silver oak leaf cluster is awarded in lieu of five bronze service stars or five bronze oak leaf clusters.

☐ The Philippine Liberation Medal, Philippine Defense Medal, Philippine Independence Medal, and the Republic of the Philippines Presidential Unit Citation are foreign awards issued by the Republic of the Philippines. The Department of the Army provides only the ribbons for the Liberation, Defense, and Independence Medals. To receive the medals, please write to the Defense and Armed Forces Affairs Office, Embassy of the Philippines, 1600 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20036. Enclose a copy of DA Form 1577 for authorization and the required shipping and handling fees as follows: $7 for both the Liberation Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation; $7 each for the Defense or Independence medals.

☐ The individual's unit was awarded the French Croix de Guerre but individual members are not entitled to a decoration or any other device.

☐ Uniform insignia, such as service stripes, patches, and overseas bars, are not items of issue to separated personnel by the Department of the Army. You may purchase them from civilian dealers in military insignia.

☐ DD Form 215, Correction to DD Form 214/WD AGO 53-55, is enclosed. The individual named above should attach it to his/her separation document.

☐ Certificates for decorations cannot be replaced unless we have a copy on file of the general orders that issued the award. The official military record on file for this individual does not contain a copy of the general order issuing the requested award.

☐ Attached is a list of authorized commercial vendors of military insignia (this Center does not endorse any dealer on the list).
NRPM A-M

AUTHORIZATION FOR ISSUANCE OF AWARDS
For use of this form, see AR 672-5-1; the proponent agency is ODOSPER

4. DATE
30 March 2001

4. CODE NUMBERS FOR AWARDS

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<td>European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal</td>
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<td>NCO Professional Development Ribbon</td>
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<td>Letter &quot;V&quot; Device</td>
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<td>Belgian Fourragere</td>
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<td>Netherlands Orange Lanyard</td>
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<td>Philippine Defense Ribbon</td>
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<td>Philippine Liberation Ribbon</td>
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<td>Philippine Independence Ribbon</td>
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<td>United Nations Service Medal</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon w/Device</td>
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The Secretary of the Army directs that the awards be engraved according to current regulations and issued to addressee shown below. (Engraving to be as indicated in classification or below.)

The awards and decorations indicated above will be forwarded from the U. S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, IMMC, Soldier Systems Directorate, 700 Robbins Avenue, P. O. Box 57997, Philadelphia, PA 19111-7997 within 120 days.

U.S. ARMY SUPPORT ACTIVITY
Philadelphia, PA 19101-3460

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
KATHERINE BAISHIKI
2649 HALLMARK DRIVE
BELMONT, CA. 94002

VIRGINIA A. BARNETT
Chief, Army Reference Branch

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
### AUTHORIZATION FOR ISSUANCE OF AWARDS

**For use of this form, see AR 600-8-22; the proponent agency is ODOSPER**

1. **TO:** COMMANDER
   - U.S. ARMY SOLDIER AND BIOLOGICAL CHEMICAL COMMAND
   - NMC, SOLDIER SYSTEM TEAM
   - P.O. BOX 57997
   - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111-3567

2. **RECIPIENT'S NAME**
   - HAILUO MORIGUCHI

3. **RECIPIENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR SERVICE NUMBER**
   - 39929903

4. **DATE (YYYY-MM-DD)**
   - 2002-08-20

5. **CODE NUMBERS FOR AWARDS**

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<td>34</td>
<td>National Defense Service Medal</td>
<td>Joint Service Achievement Medal</td>
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The Secretary of the Army directs that award codes number 1 through 20 be engraved according to current regulations and issued to address show below. (Engraving to be as indicated in item 2 above.)

6. **GOLD STAR LAPEL BUTTON**

7. **SHIP MEDALS TO:**
   - Ms. Katherine Baishiki
   - 2649 Hallmark Drive
   - Belmont, CA 94002

---

**14. APPROVED BY (Type name and signature):**

Gary Maxwell, NRPM2/A, (314) 538-2515

DA FORM 1577, MAY 2001

PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE.

USAPA V1.00

15. **DATE APPROVED (YYYY-MM-DD):**
   - 2002
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HALUTO MORIGUCHI ENLISTED IN THE U.S. ARMY, SERIAL NO. 39 929 903, AT FORT DOUGLAS, UTAH ON MAY 29, 1944. HE BEGAN BASIC TRAINING AT CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI IN JUNE 1944 DURING WHICH TIME HE WAS AWARDED THREE EXPERT MEDALS—CARBINE, RIFLE, AND BROWNING AUTOMATIC RIFLE (BAR). IN EARLY NOVEMBER 1944 HE WAS SENT OVERSEAS TO MENTON, FRANCE AS A REPLACEMENT IN THE 100TH BATTALION, 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, COMPANY C WHERE THEY PATROLLED THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF FRANCE FOR GERMAN TROOPS FROM NORTHERN ITALY. HIS UNIT SHIPPED OUT TO ITALY IN LATE MARCH 1945. HE WAS A RUNNER FOR THE COMPANY COMMANDER LIEUTENANT WALTER JOHNSTON AND SERVED WITH COMPANY C HEADQUARTERS. IN THE PO VALLEY CAMPAIGN IN NORTHERN ITALY, THE GOAL OF THE 100TH/442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM WAS TO CRACK THE IMPREGNABLE GERMAN GOTHIC LINE—HILLS FLORIDA, GEORGIA, OHIO 1, 2, 3, MOUNT CERRETA, MOUNT FOLGORITO, MOUNT CARCHIO, AND OTHERS NORTH. ON APRIL 3, THE 100TH BATTALION ASSEMBLED IN VALLECCHIA. THEN ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 4, THEY PARTIALLY RELIEVED THE 371ST INFANTRY ON FLORIDA HILL AND PREPARED FOR THEIR ATTACK ON GEORGIA HILL AT 0500 HOUR APRIL 5. IT WAS DURING THIS ATTACK ON GEORGIA HILL THAT HE WAS KILLED IN ACTION BY MORTAR FRAGMENTS ON APRIL 5, 1945 WHEN A MORTAR SHELL FELL BETWEEN LIEUTENANT JOHNSTON AND HIM. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HALUTO MORIGUCHI WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART, BRONZE STAR MEDAL, COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE, DISTINGUISHED UNIT BADGE, THE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDALS, GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL, AND THE WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL.
A CHANCE MEETING

By Richard Yamamoto

This incident happened during the summer of 1945 at the railroad station in Salt Lake City, Utah. Haluto Moriguchi, a “kotok” and eighteen years old, joined Charlie Company in the winter of 1944 at Menton, Southern France. He was a very energetic and likeable lad and everyone took to him. First Sergeant Warren Iwai nicknamed him “Junior” and kept him in the C.P. group because of his age.

I was a mail clerk and got to know Junior real well. He even showed me a snapshot of June, his cute kid sister and told me that his family had moved to American Fork, Utah from a relocation center. Junior was killed in action during the big push after we had returned from France.

Fifty of us One Puke Puka men left Italy on rotation for the states in the summer of 1945 and while on the way back, the war in Italy ended.

We rode the train from New Jersey cross country and made one of many stops in Salt Lake City. When the train stopped and we saw the beautiful Mormon Tabernacle before our eyes, I stuck my head out of the window to have a better look. I then turned and looked the other way and couldn’t believe my eyes. There, standing alone was this young girl, the exact image of the snapshot Junior had shown me. I called out and asked her if her name was June and she answered, yes. Quickly, I called her to our coach and introduced her to Warren Iwai and other Charlie Company members.

She said she would call her mother over. Her mother had gone to the other half of the train while June looked on this side. Mrs. Moriguchi was so happy to see many Charlie Company members. I had taken snapshots of Junior in the Menton area and he had sent them home.

Unlike the Ganpeki no Haha of Japan, the mother who to her dying day met every troop ship that returned and docked at the pier near her vicinity hoping that her son would be on the ship, Mrs. Moriguchi, even though knowing that her son would never return, had gone out to meet every troop train going through Salt Lake City in the hope that she could meet someone who knew her son before he was killed in action. Ours was the first with boys from the 100th. It was a happy and yet a sad meeting for Mrs. Moriguchi, June and our group.

Mrs. Moriguchi now lives in San Francisco and daughter, June keeps in touch with us. Warren Iwai, during his business trips to San Francisco in the past has met her a few times.

It was a chance meeting because of a snapshot of a dear sister that was shown to me.
Pfc. Haluto Moriguchi
Golden Gate National Cemetery
San Bruno, California
(Headstone No. J-1042)