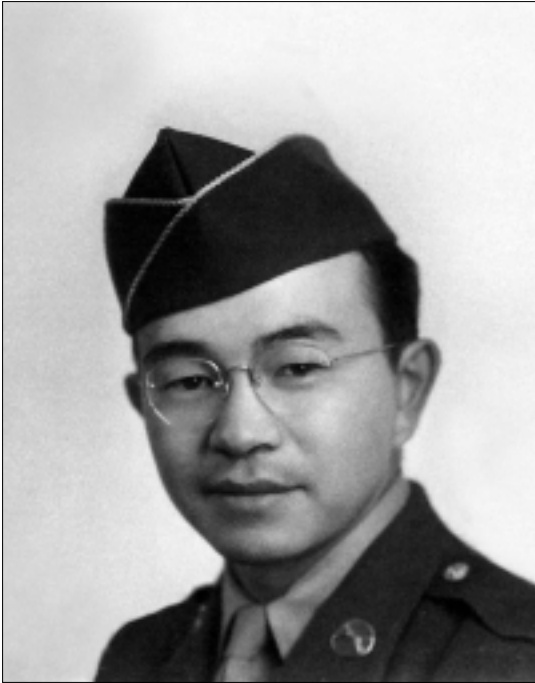


Pvt. Joseph H. Morishige
October 18, 1915 - April 14, 1945



Pvt. Joseph H. Morishige

Joseph Hisao Morishige, son of Takejiro and Chiyo (Yamane) Morishige, was born on October 18, 1915 in Utah. His hometown was Denver, Colorado. Joseph was the second born of thirteen siblings—Preston Yoshio (deceased), Joseph Hisao (KIA), Grant Shig (deceased), Jerrie Chiyeko Tsuruta (Huntington Beach, CA), Chizuto Shiramizu (Denver, CO), Shigero (442nd, 2nd Battalion, Company H—deceased), Michiko Nimira (Albuquerque, NM), Chizuko Yamaguchi (Denver, CO), and Sumi Yamane (Denver, CO). There were four still born siblings—Jiro, Utah, Nanashi, and Shoiki.

Joseph attended Cole Junior High School. He was for years a member of the Tri-State Buddhist Church of Denver's Nippon baseball and football team and participated in all local athletic activities. A popular young Nisei, he was affectionately called "Joe" by all who knew him in pre-war days. After graduating from

Manuel Training, he took a course in airplane mechanics at Curtis Wright and was employed by an aviation company in Sacramento, California for some time prior to Pearl Harbor. When the War broke out, Joseph went to Ohio to work.

While employed in Ohio, Joseph was inducted into the Army in July 1944 and received his basic training in Camp Blanding, Florida. He went overseas in January 1945 and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Battalion, Company B during the Champagne Campaign in Southern France. The 100th and the 442nd then left Marseille, France for Italy and arrived at the Peninsula Base Section Staging Area at Pisa on March 25, 1945 in preparation for the assault on the impregnable Gothic Line that was held by the Germans for six months. It was during this Po Valley Campaign in Italy that Pvt. Joseph Morishige was ambushed and killed in action on April 14, 1945 at Castelpoggio just weeks before the War ended in Europe.

Pvt. Joseph Morishige was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Bronze Star and is interred at the family plot at the Fairmount Cemetery across the street from the Veterans Cemetery in Denver, Colorado.