

## **Sgt Robert Kiyoshi Nakasaki** **Born 1920 – April 5,1945**



Robert K. Nakasaki was born in 1920 in Fresno, California. He was the son of Fujito and Waka Nakasaki. He attended Los Angeles schools and belonged to a Boy Scout troop in Los Angeles. His family was evacuated from Los Angeles by Executive Order 9066 in February 19, 1942, and interned in the Manzanar Relocation Center, California, then later relocated to Seabrook Farms, New Jersey.

Nakasaki (SN 39017321) enlisted in the Army at Manzanar Relocation Center in March, 1943. He was a member of the original 442nd Regimental Combat Team who volunteered from internment camp. He received combat training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He was assigned to Company A, 100th Infantry Battalion when the 100th was reorganized and integrated to be the 1st Battalion of the 442nd RCT.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously), Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Distinguish Unit Badge, American Defense Service Medal, African-European-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Sgt Robert K. Nakasaki was killed in action near Seravezza, Italy in the Po Valley Campaign on April 5, 1945.

He is interred at the Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles, California.

The Army's Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in combat was awarded posthumously to Sgt. Robert K. Nakasaki and presented to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fujito Nakasaki.

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General Order #110, HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY, 2 September 1945

AWARD POSTHUMOUS OF DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS

ROBERT K. NAKASAKI, (3017321), Sergeant, Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action on 5 April 1945 near Seravezza, Italy. Under cover of a brief artillery barrage, Sergeant NAKASAKI'S platoon advanced up the northern slope of Georgia hill. As he and his men neared the summit, concentrated and intense fire from six machine guns, machine pistols, and rifle fire forced the platoon to take cover. With complete disregard for personal safety, Sergeant NAKASAKI grabbed his rifle equipped with a grenade launcher, crawled through a minefield to within fifteen yards of a well dug-in machine gun emplacement. Exposing himself to hostile fire, he launched a grenade at the nest and destroyed it completely. Quickly reloading his rifle, he fired and destroyed another machine gun on his right flank, killing two of the enemy. Before he could take cover, the fire of an enemy sniper killed Sergeant NAKASAKI. Taking advantage of the gap thus created in the enemy defenses, the platoon quickly advanced and seized its objective. Sergeant NAKASAKI'S heroic action and fearlessness in the face of great danger were an inspiration to all and an everlasting tribute to the American infantryman. He entered military service from Los Angeles, California. Next of kin: Ms. Waka Nakasaki (mother), 18-6-2, Manzanar, California.

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