Pvt. Raito R. Nakashima
May 16, 1925 - April 14, 1945

Raito R. Nakashima, son of Shiokichi and Masao Kakehashi Nakashima, was born on May 16, 1925 in Shelley, Idaho. His hometown was Pocatello, Idaho. He was the third born of six siblings—Midori Kato (deceased), S/Sgt. Wataru Nakashima (442nd RCT, Company M, died non-combat), Pvt. Raito Nakashima (442nd RCT, Company B—KIA), Junko Yamashita, Miwako Miki Kido, and Dr. Mits Nakashima DMD.

Raito participated in the P-Club, JACL, band, and Boys Council. He had just graduated high school when he was drafted (Serial No. 39 932 423) on August 25, 1944 out of Fort Douglas, Utah. He received his basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida and served with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company B in France and Italy.

Pvt. Raito Nakashima was killed in action when he was shot on April 14, 1945 near Castelpoggio, Italy during the last push in the Po Valley Campaign. Pvt. Raito Nakashima was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, and Bronze Star and is interred at the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia next to his brother S/Sgt. Wataru Nakashima.

Two Nakashima brothers in 442nd RCT—
PVT. RAITO NAKASHIMA is on the right, and
S/SGT. WATARU NAKASHIMA is on the left.