Yutaka Nezu was born in Waimanalo, Oahu, on January 25, 1919. He was the son of Toyosaku and Fuku Nezu. He was educated at Kaliliwaena School, Kalakaua Intermediate School in Oahu. Before entering the service, he was a carpenter at Waimanalo Plantation Co., Ltd., Oahu.

Nezu (SN 30100514) was inducted into the Army at Waimanalo, Oahu on December 10, 1940. He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu with the 298th Infantry Regiment. He was later assigned to Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion for advance combat training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

He served in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria, Africa and Italy.

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

Pvt. Yutaka Nezu died of wounds near San Vittore, Italy, during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign on January 10, 1944.

He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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.
Russell K. Shoho