

## Pfc. Edward Ogawa

May 30, 1917 – October 18, 1944



Edward Ogawa of Lava Hot Springs, Idaho was killed in action on October 18, 1944 as reported to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ogawa of Salt Lake City, Utah. Pfc. Edward Ogawa was a member of the famed Company C 100th Infantry Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and was killed in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France as the unit was liberating this French town in the Vosges Forest.

When Japanese Americans were accepted in the U.S. Army upon volunteering for the Japanese American Combat Team, Eddie Ogawa recruited many Nisei from his home area in Idaho. It should be noted that Eddie Ogawa and those Nisei boys that volunteered for the US Army from Idaho were not in any camp, as compared to those of Japanese ancestry in the Minidoka Relocation Camp in Idaho, in Heart Mountain in Wyoming, in Topaz of Central Utah and Tule Lake and Manzanar in California, but they were in a 'free zone.' They could have waited for the draft to be reopened for the Nisei.

"Proving the loyalty of 70,000 Japanese Americans and the American interest of 40,000 American Japanese is in the hands of a very few" said Edward Ogawa in the spring of 1943 when he volunteered for the U.S. Army. "In all the history of man in general and America in particular, progress in the welfare of man-kind has been achieved only through life and death struggle. It is the only way. It has been so in the past; it will be so in the future, it is so today. This is not an invitation to tea. This is not a picnic. We ain't agoin' fishing'. This Japanese American Combat Team's plan is about life and death"

When the announcement was made of the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Edward Ogawa volunteered and was inducted into the army May 6, 1943 at Fort Douglas, Utah from Lava Hot Springs, Idaho where his parents operated a restaurant. Edward Ogawa received his training with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Pfc. Edward Ogawa was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ogawa, sisters, Mary and Ellen S. Ogawa of Arlington, VA., and a brother, Fremont T, Ogawa, Milwaukee, Wis.

Pfc. Edward Ogawa was twice wounded in battle and was awarded the Purple Heart with olc, the Silver Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Distinguished Unit Citation with olc.

AWARD. POSTHUMOUS, OF THE SILVER STAR (GO No 117, HQ 7th Army, 30 Nov 44  
EDWARD OGAWA, 39913809, *Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action on 18 October 1944, in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France. The platoon of whom Private First Class Ogawa was a member was assigned the task of occupying an isolated farmhouse in order to secure the battalion's right flank while it advanced against enemy held hill. This farmhouse was situated on open flat terrain covered by enemy fire. As his platoon dashed across the open field to the farmhouse, a hundred yards away, Private First Class Ogawa ran along the right flank of the group and screened their movement by firing his BAR at four enemy held machine gun position which he had previously spotted. By thus pinning down the enemy machine gunners, he enabled his platoon to reach their objective with only one casualty and resumed fire on the enemy position. It was while he was so engaged that he was mortally wounded by a sniper. By his heroic conduct Private First Class Ogawa contributed materially to the success of his battalion's mission. Next of kin: Thomas Ogawa (Father), Temple Noodle House, Salt Lake City, Utah.*

Pfc. Edward Ogawa (39913809) is buried at US National Cemetery at Epinal, France.  
(Plot F Row 16 Grave 764)

# **TRIBUTE TO EDDIE OGAWA**

**Given by June Benson, classmate of Eddie Ogawa's sister, Ellen at the dedication of a Memorial honoring the Japanese Americans from Idaho who died in WWII.**

*I WANT TO BEGIN SAYING, BEING ABLE TO GIVE THIS EULOGY FOR EDWARD (EDDIE) OGAWA IS VERY MEANINGFUL AND AN HONOR FOR ME. I KNEW THE OGAWA FAMILY AS A GREAT ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY OF LAVA HOT SPRINGS. THEY HAD AS A BUSINESS, WHICH THEY OWNED AND OPERATED, THE SILVER GRILL RESTAURANT: WHICH SERVED LAVA AND THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR MANY YEARS. THIS RESTAURANT AND MOST OF THE BLOCK WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE. IT WAS LATER REBUILT. WHILE IN LAVA THEY RAISED THEIR FAMILY, FREMONT, MARY, EDWARD AND ELLEN. ELLEN WAS IN MY CLASS; THEY WERE ALL STUDIOUS AND WERE HONOR STUDENTS. THEY ALL ATTENDED LAVA HIGH SCHOOL AND PARTICIPATED IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. EDDIE WAS A 1935 GRADUATE. EDDIE WAS CO-EDITORS OF THE "LAVONIAN" AND AN ABOVE AVERAGE STUDENT. HE WAS AN EAGLE SCOUT. LATER HE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, SOUTHERN BRANCH, WHERE HE WAS THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT. THE SCHOOL IS NOW IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY.*

*AFTER WORLD WAR II STARTED, EDDIE ENLISTED AND WHILE SERVING WITH THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT UNIT IN SOUTHWESTERN FRANCE; HE WAS KILLED IN ACTION, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 1944. HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED SEVERAL TIMES AND HAD RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART WITH CLUSTERS, AS WELL AS THE SILVER STAR. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT MORE DECORATIONS WENT TO EDDIES UNIT THAN ANY OTHER BRANCH OF THE SERVICE.*

*HE IS INTERRED AT THE AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY AT EPINAL, FRANCE; WHICH IS A MOST BEAUTIFUL AND IMPRESSIVE RESTING PLACE. HIS SISTER, ELLEN LIVES IN GERMANY AND HAS VISITED IT MANY TIMES ON MEMORIAL DAY. THIS IS ALSO EDDIES BIRTHDAY.*

*MR. THOMAS OGAWA ON BEHALF OF HIS SON GAVE \$125 JOINTLY TO THE SCHOOL AND TO THE SCOUT ORGANIZATION. MR. OGAWA SAID HE KNEW EDDIE WOULD LIKE IT THAT WAY. ALSO ON BEHALF OF HIS SOLDIER SON HE DONATED \$300 TO LAVA CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, \$25 TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AND \$25 TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY. WE CAN BE PROUD OF FAMILIES LIKE THIS AND OF BOYS IN OUR NATION LIKE EDDIE.*

*PAULINE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ELLEN CONCERNING THE MEMORIAL MONUMENT WHICH INCLUDED THIS COMMENT: "I THINK IT IS MOST APPROPRIATE AND COMMENDABLE WHAT THE MEMBERS OF THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE ARE DOING. I HOPE I CAN VISIT LAVA ON MY NEXT VISIT TO IDAHO AND SEE THE FINE MEMORIAL YOU HAVE PUT UP."*

## **STAR OF GOLD**

*Dedicated to Pfc. Edward Ogawa, who was killed in action somewhere in France, October 18, 1944.*

*Shadows fall and day is ending  
Night's dark curtain wraps the earth  
Shutting out the sun's right glory,  
Hushed the rolling, swelling surf;  
But a new light, soft and mellow,  
Creeps above the mountains far,  
Hallowed in its quiet splendor,  
'Tis the evening's first bright star.*

*And its rays fall whitely, softly,  
Thru a window, bright and new.  
Like a silent benediction  
On a star that once was blue.  
Somewhere on the field of battle and bold,  
Death has called another comrade—  
Turned that star of blue to gold.*

*He would not have us murmur,  
At the fate which seems so sad,  
He was proud to fight for freedom,  
Glad to give the all he had.  
How he must have loved Old Glory,  
As she floated high and bright,  
Loved her field of richest blue,  
With stars of purest white.*

*For that flag he faced all danger  
On the shores of Normandy,  
In his loyal heart rejoicing  
For the chance to keep men free,  
“Greater love hath no man,”  
So the master’s words are penned,  
“That he gives his life for others  
And their sacred rights defend.”*

*Now he sleeps in peace out yonder,  
Under skies of azure blue,  
And the glow of God’s own candles  
Sheds a golden, heavenly hue.  
Stars above in all their beauty,  
Seems to whisper as they shine,  
“Rest securely in they slumber,  
We are guarding thee and thine.”  
So when shadows fall at evening  
And we kneel our thanks to give,  
Let’s not forget our debt to him  
Who died that we might live.  
Let’s not forget our debt to him  
Who died that we might live.  
Let us ask our God in heaven,  
Whose love is all untold,  
Just to smile upon our comrade  
And keep his star all gold.*

*--By Kathryn Fagnant*

Profile prepared for AJA WWII Memorial Alliance by Mits Kojimoto with extracts from:  
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