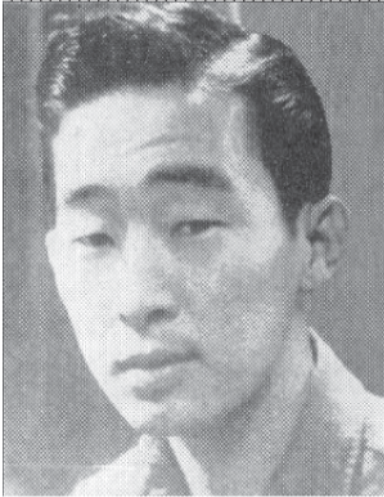


Pfc Mitsumi Donald Okamoto

August 27, 1921 - April 21, 1945



Mitsumi D. Okamoto was born in Honolulu, Oahu, on August 27, 1921. He was the son of Juichi and Satsuyo Okamoto. He was educated at Kauluwela School, Central Intermediate School, McKinley High School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was a truck driver for Pepsi-Cola, Honolulu, Oahu.

In March 1943, he volunteered and was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu (Serial number 30105239) trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi with Company H of the 442nd Regimental Combat and volunteered to join Co. B of the 100th Battalion as a replacement and saw combat in three campaigns in Italy, and two in France.

His awards include the Silver Star Medal, Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, European-African-Middle-Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II

Victory Medal.

Pfc. Mitsumi D. Okamoto was killed in action on April 21, He is interred at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii.

Silver Star Citation reads:

*Donald M. Okamoto*30105239, Private First Class, 100th Battalion Company B, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, awarded the Silver Star (Posthumously) for gallantry in action near Seravezza, Italy, on April 21, 1945. As gunner of a light machine squad which was accompanying an assault platoon from the 442nd RCT during an attack on a heavily defended enemy position, Private First Class Okamoto gave his life in order to successfully protect his comrades and complete the mission which they had undertaken. When his platoon was endangered by intense and accurate enemy fire, he leaped out of his comparatively well protected position and with utter disregard for his own safety; he dragged his machine gun into the open where he could manipulate the weapon with complete freedom and maximum effectiveness. Okamoto forced the Germans to draw back with his devastating and raking fire allowing his comrades to seek a more favorable position to fire on the enemy. Largely due to Okamoto's activity and presence, the enemy concentrated their fire on him as his platoon was able to secure the objective. But, exposed as Private First Class Okamoto was to the enemy, he was fatally wounded by an enemy machine gun. His outstanding courage and self sacrificing heroism was an inspiring example to all who saw him and exemplified the highest tradition of the Army of the United States and the American Infantryman. Next of kin: Satsuyo Okamoto, (Mother), Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. "

Excerpts from University of Hawaii 's In Freedom 's Cause: A Record of the Men of Hawaii Who Died in the Second World War

Silver Star citation -Archives National Japanese American Historical Society researched by Mits Kojimoto