

Lt Roy T. Peterson

January 11, 1911 - November 7, 1943



Available records indicate that Roy T. Peterson was born January 11, 1911 and was a native of New York. He was a resident of Essex County, New Jersey when he enlisted in the Army on February 24, 1941 as a private.

Lt. Roy Peterson was assigned to Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion. The 100th Infantry Battalion was composed primarily of Japanese-American soldiers from Hawaii. They initially trained at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin then subsequently received advanced combat training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and participated in maneuvers in the swamp environment of Louisiana.

In August, 1943 the unit was dispatched overseas to Oran, Algeria. Shortly thereafter on September 2, 1943 the 100th Infantry Battalion joined the 133rd Regiment of the 34th Red Bull Division as the American Fifth Army launched a landing at the Salerno beachhead. Joe Takata was the first Japanese-American rifleman casualty in World War II. He was killed in action on September 29, 1943.

Lt Peterson, a platoon leader in Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion led his men and engaged the Germans in combat to penetrate their formidable defensive position. In the early stage of the battle to capture the high ground that the Germans occupied, they had the advantage. Their Luftwaffe commanded the skies, strafing the attacking 100th as they battled their way crossing the Volturno River, venturing into minefield terrain with buried S mines (“Bouncing Betties”), Tellers, or plate-shaped mines and interlocked with crisscrossing machine gun emplacement. The supporting German field artillery, rocket, and mortar barrage combined with the mines and machine gun nests made the attacking force pay a heavy toll of casualties for any advances made.

1st Lt. Roy T. Peterson was killed in action on November 7, 1943 during the Salerno to Cassino campaign combat with his Japanese-American brethren of the Purple Heart Battalion, the 100th Infantry Battalion. 1st Lt. Roy T. Peterson was awarded the Purple Heart and is buried at Long Island National Cemetery at Farmingdale, New York. Section H Grave No. 9599. He was interred September 5, 1948.

*AAD/ Seiki Oshiro
GoForBroke—Chester Tanaka
Mits Kojimoto verified
Lt Peterson's burial site*

Friday, May 11, 2007