

## **Pvt. Masao Shigezane**

July 6, 1925 - April 21, 1945



Masao Shigezane was born in Los Angeles on July 6, 1925. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kinzo Shigezane. The Shigezane family was incarcerated in the Amache Relocation Center in Colorado. He had attended high school in Los Angeles and Amache.

Shigezane (SN 37363824) was drafted in the Army from Kimball, Nebraska in June 8, 1944. He received his basic training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi prior to his joining the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team.

He was shipped overseas in December 1944 and joined Company B, 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and saw action in the French Riviera during the Champagne Campaign. The 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Combat Team opened the spring offensive on April 4, 1945 penetrating the Gothic Line in Italy and pursued the Germans relentlessly.

He was awarded the Silver Star (posthumously), Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge.

Pvt Masao Shigezane was killed as he heroically and bravely engaged the enemy in the Po Valley Campaign on April 20, 1945.

He is interred at the Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles, California. He was survived by his parents, Mr. Kinzo and Mrs. Kinzo Ichikawa Shigezane; four brothers, Joe of Cleveland, Togo of Three Forks, Montana; Minoru and Toshiaki of Amache, and two sisters.

SPECIAL ORDER #107, HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY 20 August 1945  
AWARD, POSTHUMOUS OF SILVER STAR

MASAO SHIGEZANE, (37363824), Private, Infantry, United States Army,  
*For gallantry in action on 21 April 1945 near Marciaso, Italy. When Private SHIGEZANE'S squad attacked a strongly defended house, the enemy retaliated with a heavy concentration of hand grenades and automatic rifle and machine gun fire. At the front of the advancing squad, Private SHIGEZANE, realizing that heavy casualties would result if the squad were forced to halt, crawled forward twenty yards under sniper fire and exploding grenades. Within fifteen yards of the house, Private SHIGEZANE rose, and after rapid rifle fire, threw hand grenades through the windows and doors, stunning the enemy troops and forcing them from their advantageous positions. As Private SHIGEZANE motioned the squad to come forward, he was killed by sniper fire from the rear. Inspired by their comrade's leadership, the members of the squad closed with the Germans, forcing their surrender. Private SHIGEZANE aggressiveness and courage in battle are exemplary of the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. Entered military service from Los Angeles, California, Next of kin: Kinzo Shigezane (father), Fork, Montana.*

*Granada Pioneer, Citation copy from National Archives-NJAHS, San Francisco NARA  
Prepared for AJA WWI Memorial Alliance by Mits Kojimo  
Russell K. Shoho*

