

T/Sgt. Kiyoshi Shiramizu

February 1, 1919 - January 14, 1944



T/Sgt. Kiyoshi Shiramizu

Kiyoshi Shiramizu was born on February 1, 1919 in Salinas, California to Yenzo and Tokuyo Tagomori Shiramizu. He was the second oldest of seven siblings— Louise Malmberg, Kiyoshi Shiramizu, Takeo Shiramizu, Harry Shiramizu, Kazuo Shiramizu, Rose Yura, and Sumiye Iwata. He attended Chular Elementary and Junior High Schools and Gonzales High School and graduated from Salinas High School. Kiyoshi was in Boys Scouts in Chular and played football in Gonzales High School. He married Shizuko (Ruth) Egawa, who presently lives in Denver, Colorado, and they have one son—Mikio Melvin Shiramizu.

When the War broke out, his family was sent to the Relocation Camp in Poston Camp #2, Arizona. Kiyoshi was drafted (Serial No. 39 161 870) in Los Angeles, California and received his basic training at Camp Barkley, Texas and then went on to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 100th Infantry Battalion, Medical Detachment in the Salerno to Cassino Campaign in Italy. During January 7-15, 1944 the 100th, which was attached to the 34th Red Bull Division under Maj. Gen. Charles W. Ryder at the time, faced stubborn enemy resistance in very mountainous terrain of the Cassino hills. T/Sgt. Kiyoshi Shiramizu was killed in action on January 14, 1944 near the vicinity of Presenzano, Italy and is one of the first Japanese Americans to be killed in battle with the 100th.

T/Sgt. Kiyoshi Shiramizu was awarded the Purple Heart and Combat Medical Badge. He was originally interred in the temporary U.S. Military Cemetery in Marzanelo Nuovo, Italy. Later his remains were brought over to the United States, and he is presently buried at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, California.