

Sgt. Sadamu R. Sueoka

February 16, 1924 - April 6, 1945



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Sgt. Sadamu R. Sueoka, son of Jiichi and Shika Torikai Sueoka, was born on February 16, 1924 in Isleton, California. He was the fifth born of ten children—Hatsuko Inouye (deceased), Misao Harada, Tomiko Kagimoto, Kenji Sueoka (deceased), Sadamu Sueoka (deceased), Wataru Sueoka (deceased), Sue Fujimoto (deceased), George Sueoka, Jimmy Sueoka, and Bill Sueoka. Sadamu was known as “Bob” to all of his friends. He attended Woodland High School in Woodland, California.

When the War broke out, the Sueoka family was sent to the Merced Assembly Center in Merced, California before being evacuated to a Relocation Camp in Amache, Colorado. Although his family stayed in Amache, Bob relocated to Chicago alone and was employed at Curtis Candy. Shortly thereafter he was drafted into the Army in May, 1944 (Serial #37 363 812) and was inducted into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team,

Company C. He took his seven weeks of basic training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. After basic training, he went on a seven-day furlough back to Amache, Colorado to visit his family before being shipped overseas to Southern France in the Champagne Campaign.

His close friend and brother-in-law Katsuyuki Fujimoto recalls receiving a letter from Bob seven days before he was killed, in which Bob sent him a picture of Northern Italy just a week before the last push in the Po Valley Campaign. From Bob’s comrades Katsuyuki learned that on April 6, 1945, Bob was killed in action when he was ordered to knock out the German nest over to their right flank by himself under the cover of darkness. He was spotted by the Germans and was shot and bled to death, while his comrades, who wanted to rescue him, had to stand by helplessly lest they give away their location. Sgt. Sadamu R. Sueoka was awarded the Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman’s Badge and is interred at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, California.