Pfc Itsuo Sugiyama
May 25, 1924 - October 23, 1944

Itsuo Sugiyama was born in Kukuihaele, Hamakua, Hawaii, on May 25, 1924. He was the son of Wakiichi and Riyo (Nono) Sugiyama. He was educated at Waialae School and McKinley High School in Oahu. Before entering the service, he was a mechanic at Schubert’s Cyclery in Honolulu, Oahu.

Sugiyama (SN 30104655) was inducted into the Army at Honolulu, Oahu in March, 1943. He was a member of the original 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He took advance combat training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

He served in Company A, 1st Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the continental United States, Italy and France.

He was awarded the Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Badge, 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Distinguished Unit Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pfc. Itsuo Sugiyama died of wounds near Biffontaine, France during the Battle of Bruyeres campaign on October 23, 1944.

He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Exerpts taken from In Freedom’s Cause: A Record of the Men of Hawaii Who Died in the Second World War (1949) with permission from The University of Hawaii Press.
Russell K. Shoho