

Sgt. George W. Suyama

Born 1917 - October 23, 1944

George W. Suyama was born in 1917. A native of Montana, he was a resident of Lewis Clark. There, he attended 2 years of high school. He was previously employed as a truck and tractor driver.



Suyama (SN 19055942) enlisted in the army at Missoula, Montana on December 23, 1941. He was assigned to Company A of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

On September 30, 1944, following the Rome-Arno Campaign, the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat was transferred from the Fifth Army in Italy to the 36th Division of the Seventh Army in France. The weather in eastern France was a drastic change that included rain, snow, mud, and facing a German defensive minefield, booby traps, heavy concentrations of artillery, rockets (screaming meemies), six-barrel rocket launches, and mortar fire. The Germans used tree burst artillery shelling in the Vosges forest. They also dug, fortified, and camouflaged machine gun nests in the underbrush of the forest.

Fighting both the Germans and the elements proved to be quite a daunting assignment, but the Nisei unit faced their biggest fight to drive the Germans to the border. The Germans had orders to “stand and fight”, for they were now with their backs to the German border, and because of this, they made the Nisei pay for every yard our brave soldiers gained.

On October 18, 1944, Bruyeres fell to the 100th/442nd. The unit then prepared for the counterattack that was sure to come. Fighting off the counterattacks, the 100th moved to take Biffontaine. Fighting house to house, after securing the town, they faced many more counterattacks. They were successful in holding the town, and caused many German casualties. The 100th/442nd took many prisoners but the Germans inflicted several casualties on the Nisei.

George W. Suyama was awarded the Bronze Star; Purple Heart; Combat Infantryman Badge; Distinguished Unit Badge; American Campaign Medal; the European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.

Sgt George W. Suyama was initially listed as Missing in Action but later changed to Killed in Action on October 23, 1944

He is buried at the American Cemetery at Epinal, France.

Prepared for AJA WWII Memorial Alliance by Mits Kojimoto and Lisa Terao Blum *with data from National Archive Records Administration and GO FOR BROKE by CHESTER TANAKA*
Russell K. Shoho