

Sgt Joseph Shigeo Takata

April 29, 1919 – September 29, 1943



Joseph Shigeo Takata was born on April 29, 1919, in Waialua, Oahu. He was the son of Hiromatsu and Taka (Takazawa) Takata. He was educated at Waialua Elementary School and McKinley High School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was employed as a clerk at Castle & Cooke Terminals, Ltd., Honolulu. He married Florence Fusako Sakamoto of Honolulu on May 26, 1942

Takata (SN 30102426) was inducted into the Army at Honolulu on November 15, 1941. He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu with the 298th Infantry Regiment.

He was assigned to Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion and received advance combat training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. He served in the Hawaiian Islands, the continental United States,

Algeria, Africa and Italy.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously), Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. An American Legion Post is named in his honor: Joseph Shigeo Takata Post No.27.

Sgt. Joseph Shigeo Takata was killed in action at Monte Falciano and Montemarano during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign in Italy on September 29, 1943.

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

AWARDS, POSTHUMOUS, OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY 23 NOVEMBER 1943 SHIGEJO J. TAKATA, (30102426), Sergeant, Company B 100th Infantry Battalion (Sep). is awarded for extraordinary heroism in action. On the morning ***September 1943, west of ***Italy, Sergeant TAKATA personally led his squad in a flanking movement, forcing the withdrawal of enemy machine gunners and materially assisting in the attainment of the Battalion objective. Taking position in front of his men, he led them through intense artillery, mortar and machine gun fire to carry out his mission. He continuously and deliberately disregarded his own welfare in making personal reconnaissance to determine enemy gun position. While so exposing himself, he was struck by an artillery shell and mortally wounded. In spite of his

wounds he attempted to communicate with his platoon leader to inform him what he had learned of the enemy positions. His courage and devotion to duty were an inspiration to the members of his unit and reflect high credit upon him and the military service. He entered military service from Oahu, T.H. Next of kin: Mrs. Florence F. Takata (Wife), Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. By Command of Lieutenant General Clark, Fifth Army, U.S. ARMY
****Asterisks were used for security purpose****Use of asterisks for security purpose.

Excerpts 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

