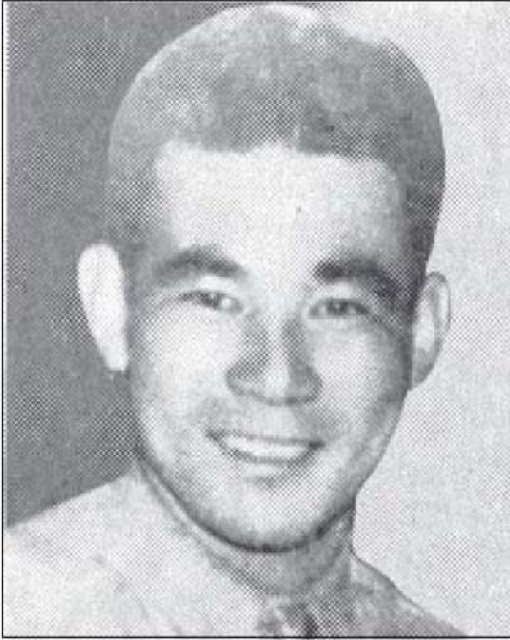


Sgt Masaharu Takeba

April 24, 1918 – January 9, 1944



Masaharu Takeba was born on April 24, 1918, in Honolulu, Oahu. He was the son of Magoichiro and Iwano (Okazaki) Takeba. He was educated at Lunalilo School, Washington Intermediate School, and McKinley High School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was employed as a table captain at Hawaiian Pineapple Co., Ltd., in Honolulu, Oahu.

Takeba (SN 30101509) was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu on June 30, 1941. He was combat trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

He served in Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria, Africa and Italy.

He was awarded the Silver Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Medal, American Campaign Medal European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Sgt. Masaharu Takeba was killed in action near San Vittore, Italy, during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign on January 9, 1944.

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

GO No. 48, Hq 34th Inf Div. , USA, 17 June 1944 AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR THE SILVER STAR (Posthumously) MASA HARU TAKEBA (30101509), Sergeant, CO. B, 100 Infantry Battalion. For gallantry in action on 7 January 1944, in the vicinity of Cervaro, Italy; Sgt. Takeba, acting as platoon sergeant led his men in occupying part of the north end of Hill 1109, without knowing that the enemy was on the top of hill approximately 200 yards away. With excellent observation the enemy immediately delivered heavy mortar, machine gun and rifle fire on Sgt Takeba and his platoon. One of his men was hit by an enemy sniper and seriously wounded. Notifying his second-in-command that he was going to advance forward and at the same time take the wounded man to cover, he instructed the platoon to cover his advance. With utter disregard for his own safety, Sgt Takeba ran over the open terrain to his wounded

comrade Although bullets were flying all around him, Sgt Takeba picked up the man and carried him 75 yards over exposed rocky terrain to a covered position. By his heroic deed in the face of heavy enemy fire, Sgt Takeba saved the life of his comrade who undoubtedly would have been killed if left on the open terrain exposed to further enemy fire. The coolness, courage and excellent leadership of Sgt Takeba was highly commendable and in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service. He entered military services from Honolulu, Hawaii. Next of kin: Mr. Magoichiro Takeba (Father), 909 A-South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii. Award made by command of Major General RYDER, 34th Infantry Division.

Excerpts taken from *In Freedom's Cause: A Record of the Men of Hawaii Who Died in the Second World War* with permission from The University of Hawaii Press.
Russell K. Shoho