Pfc. John Y. Tanaka
Killed in action January 20, 1945

Mr. Tsunetaro Tanaka, father of Pfc. John Y. Tanaka was informed that his son had been posthumously awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action. A War, Department citation declared that Pfc. Tanaka “charged forward, firing his automatic rifle to draw enemy fire away from his comrades. In this action Pfc. Tanaka was mortally wounded. “Summoning his last bit of strength” according to the citation” Pfc. Tanaka fired a burst from his Browning automatic rifle, fatally wounding the enemy machine-gunner who was endangering the lives of his comrades. Pfc. Tanaka’s gallant action was largely responsible for the killing of two Germans and the capturing of 12 others.

Pfc. John Y. Tanaka was with Company C 100th Infantry/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Pfc John Y. Tanaka was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Badge and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Pfc. John Y. Tanaka, of Denver, Colorado was killed during the Champagne Campaign near the French Riviera on January 20, 1945.

He is interred at the Arlington National Cemetery Virginia near the nation’s capital, Washington D. C. On this day four Nisei soldiers were buried with nine other American soldiers with an impressive military funeral.

Information extracted from Pacific Citizen
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