

Pvt. Michio Teshima

March 18, 1923 - April 5, 1945



Michio Teshima was born on March 18, 1923. He was a native Californian, formerly of Riverside, California. He attended two years of college and had considerable experience in X-ray, as a laboratory assistant and medical technician because his brother was a doctor. His family was evacuated to Poston Relocation Center in 1942. He was attending college in Michigan prior to his enlistment.

Teshima (SN 36467961) enlisted in the army at Fort Sheridan, Illinois on April 7, 1944. He was assigned to the famous all-Japanese American Company C of the 100th Infantry Battalion as a replacement.

Following their heroic and courageous battle of Bruyeres and the rescue of the LOST BATTALION of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Infantry Division in the Vosges forest of France, the Nisei Combat Team was transferred to southern France in late November for lighter combat duty. The Nisei unit received rest and recuperation, passes to the French Riviera, and much needed replacements to fill their ranks. In March 1945, the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team was returned to the command of General Mark Clark's Fifth Army. On April 5, 1945, after an all-night climb of a 3,000 foot mountain face with full fighting gear, the 100/442 attacked the well-fortified Georgia hill at 0500. By 0532, the surprise attack by the 100/442 had succeeded in pushing the Germans off their well-fortified defense that had withstood five months of Allied assault. The Germans retaliated and counterattacked, sending murderous mortar and artillery fire into the Nisei unit. The 100/442 was able to sustain their attack, but Pvt. Michio Teshima was among those killed on this day, making the supreme sacrifice for his country. I believe that every one that was on the Combat Team on April 5th would be entitled to the Distinguished Unit Citation

He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantrymen Badge.

Pvt. Michio Teshima was killed in the fighting at Serraezzo, Italy on April 5, 1945

He is interred at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, California, which is located 10 miles south of San Francisco, California.

He listed as his next of kin his brother, John Teshima, in care of the General Hospital at Topaz, Utah. Brothers Harry and Yasuichi also survived him

*Prepared for AJA WWII Memorial Alliance by Mits Kojimoto & Lisa Terao Blum; Gila River Camp Newspaper, Japanese American National Library San Francisco.
Russell K. Shoho*