

Pfc Thomas Isamu Yamanaga
February 17, 1914 - October 21, 1943



Thomas Isamu Yamanaga was born in Honolulu, Oahu, on February 17, 1914. He was the son of Nisuke and Chiyo Yamanaga. He was educated at Pauoa Elementary School and McKinley High School in Oahu. He married Hilda Miyoshi Sato of Honolulu on April 14, 1942. Before entering the service, he was employed by Castle & Cooke Terminal, Ltd., Honolulu, as a longshoreman.

Yamanaga (SN 30102445) was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu in November, 1941. He trained at Schofield Barracks in Oahu and then shipped to the continental United States for advance combat training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

He served with the 298th Infantry Regiment and later transferred to D Company, 100th Infantry Battalion in the continental United States. Upon completion of training he was dispatched overseas to Algeria, Africa and subsequently participated in the landing at Salerno, Italy for the Italian Campaign.

He was awarded the Distinguished-Service Cross; Purple Heart Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals; and the WWII Victory Medal.

Pfc. Thomas Isamu Yamanaga was a Browning automatic rifleman in a lead rifle squad. He had silenced an enemy machine gun, and was killed in action in the Salerno to Cassino Campaign near Leonardo and Alife, Italy, on October 21, 1943.

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

Exerpts 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

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #464, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS)

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Awards, Posthumous, of Distinguished Service Cross. . . . I Section

I AWARDS, POSTHUMOUS, OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended a Distinguished Service Cross is awarded, posthumously, to the following named enlisted man:

THOMAS I. YAMANAGA, (30 102 445), Private First Class, Company A, *** Infantry Battalion (Separate). For extraordinary heroism in action on 21 October 1943, in the vicinity of Alife, Italy. While attacking enemy positions, the company in which Private First Class YAMANAGA was a gunner was pinned down by heavy enemy machine gun fire from the front. On his own initiative, Private First Class YAMANAGA worked his way forward in full view of the enemy, to a position where he could engage the enemy gun with his automatic rifle. He immediately delivered such effective fire that the enemy gun was silenced, whereupon his company, no longer pinned down, successfully continued the attack. Private First Class YAMANAGA was mortally wounded in rendering this outstanding service to his fellow soldiers. His initiative and courage in the face of danger were an inspiration to all who witnessed his bold deed.

By command of Lieutenant General CLARK:

A. M. GRUENTHER,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

M. F. GRANT,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Lester N. Wells
LESTER N. WELLS,
1st Lieut., ACD.
Ass't Adj. Gen.

