

Pfc Tatsuo Yoshizaki

February 1, 1925 - April 6, 1945



Tatsuo “Tats” Yoshizaki was born in Santa Fe Springs, California, on February 1, 1925, the son of Ryunosuke and Kinu (Nishiyama) Yoshizaki. In addition to his parents, survivors included sisters Terry and Jean and a brother, Mas.

He was educated at Norwalk Jr High School and Excelsior High School in Norwalk, California. Before entering the service, he was the mess hall coal stoker at Rohwer Relocation Center, where he and his family were relocated for the duration of the war.

Tatsuo was inducted in 1944 (Army serial #38663482) and received basic infantry training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and after going overseas in late 1944 he was assigned to C Company 100th Infantry, 442nd Regimental Combat Team joining them in France as a replacement. The 100th Battalion would then return to Italy and together with the elements of the 92nd Division, the 100th/442nd

Regimental Combat Team was to crack the western anchor of the Gothic Line.

Pfc Yoshizaki was Killed in Action on April 6, 1945, the second day of the Po Valley campaign. The fighting for the 100th Battalion C Company was costly as eleven men lost their lives on April 5th and 6th, the first two days of the Po Valley Campaign, Six additional men of C Company would die before the campaign would end on April 28th, 1945.

His Rohwer Camp friend, Kiyoshi “Bones” Fujimoto recalls looking up Tatsuo in France and agreed that they would see each other after the war was over. Pfc Yoshizaki was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal. Other awards included Combat Infantryman Badge, American and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Tatsuo Yoshizaki is interred in the Veterans section of the Evergreen cemetery in Los Angeles, California.

This was compiled for AJA WWII Memorial Alliance’s CD-ROM “Echoes of Silence” by Jim Yamashita and Kuniko Shimoguchi with data received from Terry (Yoshizaki) Mitobe and Kiyoshi Fujimoto,