

PVT Yutaka Koizumi

1922 - 1944

Yutaka Koizumi was born in 1922 in San Francisco, CA. Yutaka and his parents and siblings were sent to Topaz.

Yutaka was among the first group of Nisei men to volunteer from Topaz in January 1943. He trained at Camps Shelby and Blanding and then served as one of the replacements for the 100th Battalion.

Yutaka was killed in action on May 23, 1944 in Fondi, Provincia di Latina, Lazio, Italy. He was the first soldier killed in action from Topaz.

First Nisei Volunteer from WRA Center Killed in Action Recently on Italian Front

**Pvt. Yutaka Koizumi of San Francisco Was
Among Volunteers from Topaz Camp, Joined
100th Battalion After Training at Camp Shelby**

TOPAZ, Utah—The first Japanese American volunteer from a war relocation center to be killed in action was identified this week, according to the Topaz Times. He is Pvt. Yutaka Koizumi, 22, who is reported by the War Department to have been killed in action in Italy on May 23 during the U. S. Fifth Army's "march on Rome."

Pvt. Koizumi was among the first volunteers at Topaz when military service was reopened to Japanese Americans in January, 1943. He entered the army last summer from Detroit Lakes, Michigan, where he had relocated in June.

Pvt. Koizumi, a native of San Francisco, was evacuated from that city with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Suyematsu Koizumi, in the army-ordered evacuation in 1942. He is also survived by a brother, Yosh, and a sister, Kiyo. His parents are now relocated in South Minneapolis.

A home memorial service was held for him on June 16 by relatives and close friends in Topaz.

The nisei soldier received his military training with the Japanese American Combat Team at Camp Shelby, Miss., and later at Camp Blanding, Florida. It is believed that he volunteered as one of the replacements for the famous 100th Infantry Battalion in Italy and was killed in action while serving with that unit.



TOPAZ VOLUNTEER PVT. Y. KOIZUMI KILLED IN ACTION

The first Topaz volunteer for the Japanese Combat Team to die overseas, Private Yutaka Koizumi, 22, of the 442nd Infantry was killed in action in Italy on May 23, according to word received here. He entered the army last summer from Detroit Lakes, Michigan, where he had relocated in June.

Pvt. Koizumi is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Suyematsu Koizumi who are now relocated in South Minneapolis. He is also survived by a brother, Yosh, and a sister, Kiyo. He is formerly of San Francisco, and received his army training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and Camp Blanding, Florida.

A home memorial service was held for him last night by relatives and close friends here.

PARENTS OF LATE TOPAZ SOLDIER THANK RESIDENTS

Mr. and Mrs. S. Koizumi of Minneapolis, Minnesota, expressed their appreciation to the community of Topaz for honoring their son, the late Pvt. Yutaka Koizumi, at memorial services held here recently.

In a letter to the community council, the parents of the late Topaz soldier said:

"In the recent issue of the Topaz Times we read of the camp-wide memorial service honoring the 10 boys killed in action.

"As our son, Pvt. Yutaka Koizumi was one of the honored we wish to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude. We were indeed very sorry we were not there to attend the impressive service.

"Enclosed please find \$20 in money order on behalf of our son and the family.

"We would sincerely appreciate your printing a note in the Topaz Times expressing our thanks and gratitude to the people and friends of Topaz."

(Editor's note: The community council has decided to accept the \$20 donation and has turned over \$10 of it to the local UCC)

Koizumi Awarded Purple Heart

Mr. and Mrs. S. Koizumi, parents of Pvt. UtaKa Koizumi of the 349th Infantry who was killed in action in Italy, were informed by Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, that their son was awarded the Purple Heart for bravery and sacrificing his life in the defense of his country.
