

PFC Roy Yoshikazu Ikeda

1917 - 1945

Roy Ikeda was born in Kimberly, Idaho in 1917. He was one of eight children. In the late 1920s, the Ikeda family moved from Idaho to Spring Glen, Utah. By 1940, the family had moved again to San Francisco.

Roy enlisted on March 10, 1941. He trained at Ft. Sill and later at Camp Shelby. The rest of the Ikeda family was sent to Topaz.

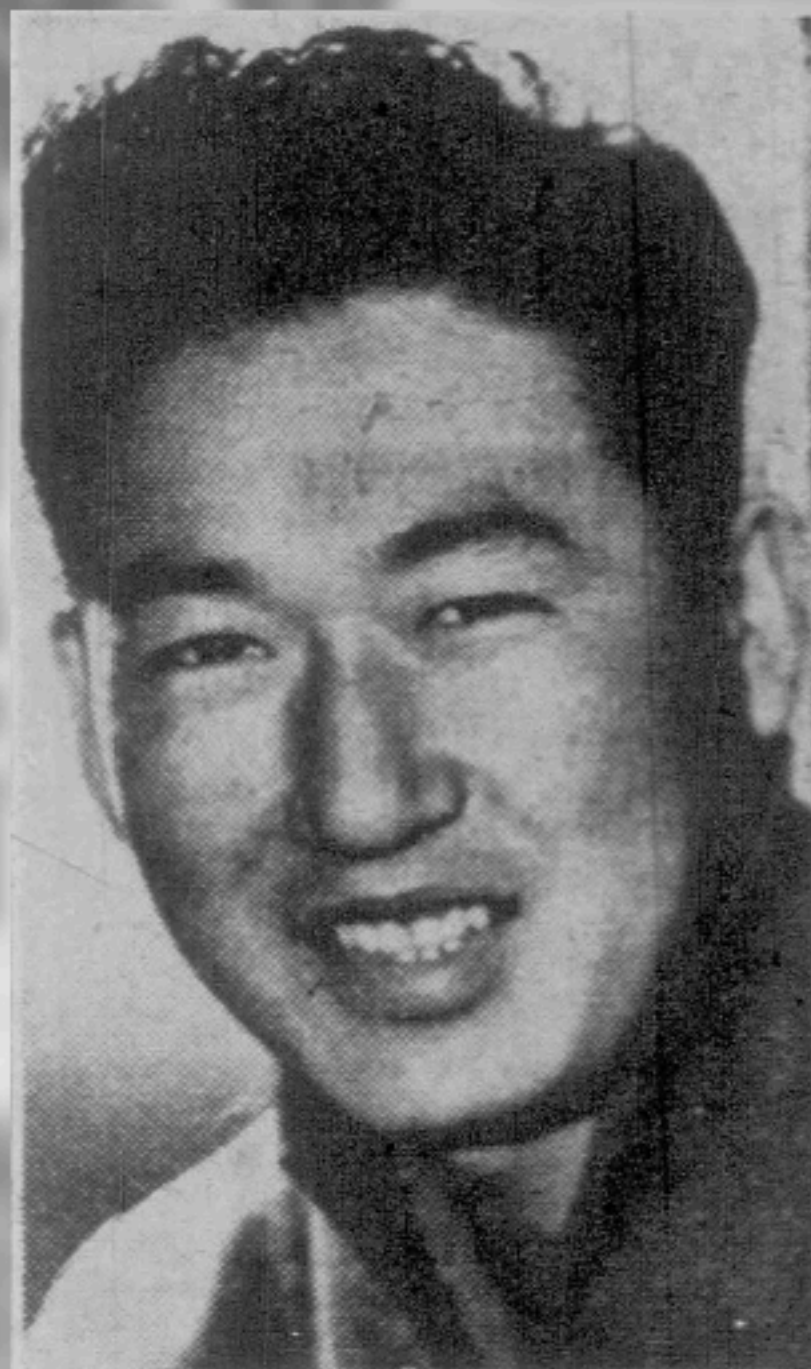
Roy was killed in action on April 5, 1945 in Italy while the 442nd RCT was breaking through the Gothic Line.

Topaz Nisei Killed In Italy Action

Pfc. Roy Y. Ikeda, 27, son of Mrs. Takeko Ikeda, Topaz, former San Francisco resident, was killed in Italy, April 5, where he was serving with the Fifth army.

A graduate of Carbon high school, Price, Pfc. Ikeda went to San Francisco, where he resided until returning to Utah and entering the service three years ago. He received training at Fort Sill, Okla., and Camp Shelby, Miss. He was wounded while serving in France, Oct. 16, 1944.

Survivors, besides his mother, include two brothers, Pvt. Donald Ikeda, Camp Blanding, Fla., and George Ikeda, Price; five sisters, Mary Ikeda, New York City; Kay Ikeda, Salt Lake City; Ruby, Deo and June Ikeda, all of Topaz.



Pfc. Roy Y. Ikeda . . . Topaz soldier killed in Italy.



R. IKEDA MEMORIAL SERVICE SET MONDAY

Memorial service for the late Pfc. Roy Ikeda who was killed in action earlier this month in Italy will be held at the local Buddhist church Monday evening at 7 o'clock.

The late soldier is survived by his mother, Mrs. Takeko Ikeda, and six sisters and brothers.

Three Dead Utah Heroes Honored at Fort Rites

Three Utah service men were honored with posthumous military decorations which were presented to their next of kin at formal ceremonies in the Fort Douglas post theater Saturday at 1 p. m. by Brig. Gen. John H. Wilson, chief of staff.

Pfc. Glen McInelly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur O. McInelly, Escalante; Lt. Col. David E. Jones, 117 6th East, and Pfc. Roy Y. Ikeda, son of Taka Ikeda, 110 S. State, were honored.

Pfc. McInelly, killed March 17 in the southwest Pacific, was awarded the silver star for gallantry in action. Col. Jones earned the bronze star in Nov., 1944, and Pfc. Ikeda was awarded the bronze star for action Jan. 30, 1945.



HONOR AMERICANS WHO SACRIFICED LIVES

Brig. Gen. John H. Wilson, Ninth service command, presents the bronze star medal to Mrs. Taka Ikeda, 126-2nd East, for which her nisei

son, Pfc. Roy Y. Ikeda, gave his life. Three other Utah heroes also were posthumously awarded medals at Fort Douglas ceremonies.

They, Too, Die for Their Country

The other day, in the tabulation of Utahns killed in action in this war, three of the eight names listed were those of Japanese-Americans. It serves to call to the attention of Utahns the service so many of these Americans of Japanese ancestry are giving in this war.

These three boys were killed in Italy where, presumably, they were fighting with the 442nd regiment, a unit composed entirely of Japanese-Americans. One of them, Sgt. Tom Sagimori, had been wounded twice previously. Another, Pfc. Noburu Miyoko, is the second member of his family to die in combat and he has two more brothers in the army, one of whom is now hospitalized in Italy. The third, Pfc. Roy Y. Ikeda, had been in the service three years and was wounded last fall while serving in France. He has a brother who is also in the army.

The case of a fourth Japanese-American, Pvt. Victor Akimoto, listed as dead two days later, was quite unusual. First of all, Akimoto voluntarily gave up his technical sergeant's rating here in the United States to join the Japanese-American 100th infantry battalion as a private in order to get into combat. He was cited in Italy for capturing four Germans while unarmed. He was wounded while fighting in France and died later in a German hospital. Victor Akimoto is the second son of this Japanese-American family to die in combat service. Another brother is now in officer candidate school at Fort Benning, Ga.

A good many of these Japanese-American boys have already given their lives in combat both in Europe and in the Pacific. Many more have been wounded. A number have earned awards for heroism.

It is a simple fact that these thousands of young men of Japanese ancestry are proving to America the hard way that they are entitled to call themselves Americans. The courage they have shown in action, their patriotic willingness to shed their blood in defense of the country of their birth, has earned for them and for their loved ones here at home America's respect and praise.