

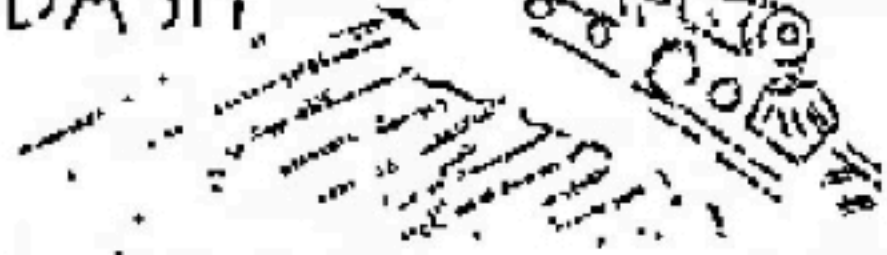
PFC Isao James Tsuno

1915 - 1942

Isao James Tsuno was born in 1915 in Oakland, CA. He enlisted in the Army in June 1941. In March 1942, his father, Minoru, was picked up by the FBI and separated from the family. The rest of the Tsunos were sent to Topaz. Minoru would be released from Santa Fe and reunited with the family on October 16, 1942.

Isao was training at Fort Snelling, MN when he became ill and died on October 27, 1942. He was the first soldier to die from Topaz.

RESIDENT IN CROSS COUNTRY DASH



By Evelyn Kirimura

Death came to a plucky youth in the U.S. Army despite his younger brother's dash across the country from Topaz to save his life.

The wire notifying the family of the death of Pfc. Isao Tsuno arrived on Oct. 27, shortly on the heels of a grateful letter addressed to Charles F. Ernst, project director, by the stricken youth's brother, Iwao.

The Tsuno family was first notified of the critical condition of the 27-year-old soldier by telegram from Fort Snelling, Minn. Upon receipt of the wire, the family quickly made arrangements through the Community Welfare Division to secure a permit for the brother and the guardian, Mr. Tsutsui, to go to the side of the youth, confined at the Station Hospital at Fort Snelling.

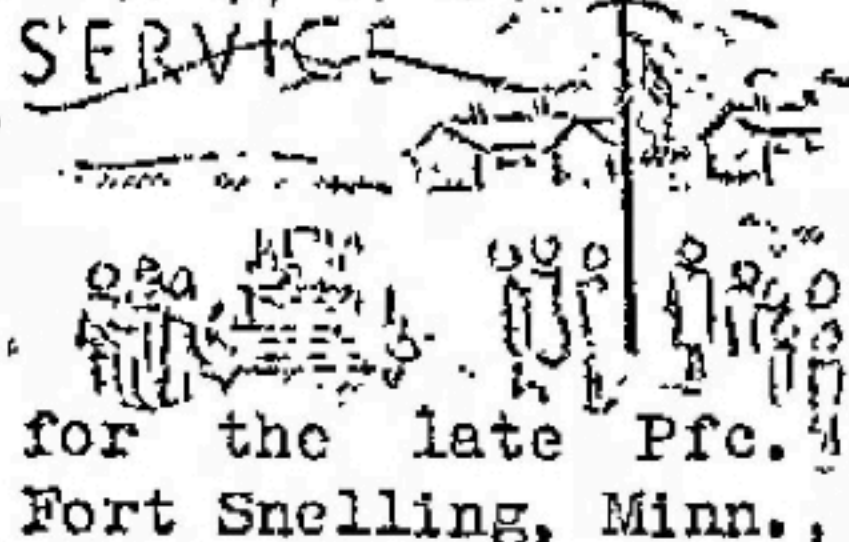
The pair left Topaz on Oct. 15. On Oct. 23rd, Ernst received a letter from Iwao, stating that he had arrived in time to give a blood transfusion. He added that Mr. Tsutsui was also standing by in case another transfusion was necessary.

The letter declared that Tsuno now had a 50--50 chance for recovery and expressed deep appreciation to Ernst for the cooperation he had offered. It stated:

"He (Isao) seemed to have given up hope, but our arrival has helped a great deal."

MEMORIAL SERVICE

By Iwao Kawakami



Under a clear blue sky, a City-wide memorial service, sponsored by the Community Council of Topaz, was held at the civic center Thursday afternoon for the late Pfc. Isao Tsuno, who was stationed at Fort Snelling, Minn., at the time of his death.

In conjunction with the service, a minute's silence was observed throughout the entire City at 2:25 PM.

The mass for the service was conducted by the Bishop R. Matsukage of the Buddhist church, and the valediction was delivered by the Rev. K. M. Kumata. In the name of the President of the United States, the corporal of the guard presented an American flag to the Tsuno family. Besides the military police, Topaz Legionnaires formed the guard of honor.

Condolences were extended by Masato Maruyama, representing the Council, and Project Director Charles F. Ernst. Lowering of the colors and sounding of "Taps" closed the brief, impressive ceremony.

To pay final respects to a comrade-in-arms were

present the following nisei soldiers on furlough: Pvt. Ben Ogo, Fitzsimmons General Hospital, Denver; Corp. Masayuki Watanabe and Pvt. Yoshio Watanabe, Camp Crowder, Missouri; Corp. Akira Yamauchi, Pfc. William T. Iino and Pfc. Takami Misaki, Camp Robinson, Arkansas; Pvt. Shigeru Sasaki, Fort Riley, Kansas; Corp. Joseph Ito, Camp Grant, Illinois.

