

The background is a collage of various newspaper clippings and headlines related to Japanese-Americans during World War II. Some visible headlines include: "Are Playing Heroic Role", "U. S. JAPANESE WIN PRAISE AT CASSINO", "Japanese-American Wounded Seriously", "U. S.-BORN JAPS FIGHT IN ITALY", "LOYALTY IS DEMONSTRATED", "Jap-Americans Prove Worth in Combat", "Real Americans", "Jap-American Gets 'Chautauque' Wings", "American-Born Japanese Fight", "Army to Loyal Japanese Citizens of U. S.", "AMERICAN BORN JAPANESE TO GET PRE-DRAFT EXAMS", "PLOESTI HERO VISITS DENVER", "Americans Aid Italy 'The Chance'", "Japanese-American Girl Enlists For Service In WACs", "Japs Good House-to-Boys in Cassino", "U. S. Japanese Are Excellent In Combat", "Nisei Ready To Serve As Draftees", "WACs House Fighting", and "NISEI TROOPS".

## **T/SGT Thomas Tamemasa Sagimori**

**1919 - 1945**

**Thomas Sagimori was born on July 29, 1919 in Berkeley, CA. He was the oldest of five children.**

**He enlisted in the army on July 7, 1941.**

**After the war broke out, the Sagimoris were sent to Topaz. Thomas' two younger brothers would eventually enlist from Topaz-Karl in 1944 and Minoru in 1945.**

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

# SGT. SAGIMORI, PFC. IKEDA KILLED ON ITALIAN FRONT

Relatives of two Topaz families serving with the 442nd Infantry in Northern Italy were killed in action April 5, according to War Department wires received here. They are Sgt. Tom Sagimori, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tomejiro Sagimori of 4-11-B; and Pfc. Roy Ikeda, son of Mrs. Takeko Ikeda of 6-11-CD.

Sgt. Sagimori, who was sent overseas last April, was wounded in action twice before in France and Italy. A platoon sergeant with a rifle company, he participated in the rescue of the now famous "Lost Battalion"

near Bruyeres in Southern France last November. As members of the Japanese American Task force which participated in this action, Sagimori's group was awarded the Presidential Citation as a Distinguished Unit.

A former resident of Berkeley, he is a graduate of the University of California with a degree in forestry. He served with the Forestry Service of the federal government before he was inducted into the army four years ago.

Pfc. Ikeda, a former San Franciscan, was in the army for three years, and received his training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Pfc. Ikeda was wounded in action once before on October 16, 1944, in France.

## Topaz Has 12 Gold Stars On Service Flag

TOPAZ, UTAH, April 26-- The number of gold stars on the Topaz Service flag were increased to 12 today with the reported deaths of Sgt. Tom Sagimori and Pfc. Roy Ikeda.

The parents of the Nisei soldiers were informed by the War Department that their sons were killed in Italy April 5 while fighting with the 442nd Infantry in Northern Italy.

Sgt. Sagimori, former Berkeley resident and graduate of the University of California, was a member of the Japanese-American task force which was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation for rescuing the now famous "Lost Battalion" near Bruyeres, France, last November. Pfc. Ikeda was from San Francisco.

Six other Nisei soldiers, from Topaz, were wounded in action in Italy recently, their families have

**M E S**  
K L Y

April 24, 1945

## FAMILIES IN ACTION

ie. Since he into the army he was rt Ord, Calif., and Fort Me- before be- seas last a former res- d.

RI, 29, was 19, accord- cation his d Mrs. Hide- 7-11-CD, re- . Sgt. Mo- in the ser- four years;

GENERAL ORDERS #22, HEADQUARTERS MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS,  
U. S. ARMY, APO 512, 22 January 1946.

AWARD OF SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

THOMAS SAGIMORI, 39009726, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company L, 442d Regimental Combat Team, for gallantry in action near Mount Folgorito, Italy on 5 April 1945. Despite heavy enemy fire, Technical Sergeant Sagimori led his platoon to secure a ridge and he killed four of the enemy. He then exposed himself further to attack a machine-gun nest, throwing a grenade and killing one of the enemy and wounding another. In this action, Sergeant Sagimori was fatally wounded. Sergeant Sagimori's gallantry is in accord with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Suye Sagimori (Mother), 4-11-C, Topaz, Utah.

