

SADAO MUNEMORI

WWII

Private First Class

Company A, 100th Battalion

442nd Regimental Combat Team

Aug. 17, 1922 – Apr. 5, 1945

Los Angeles, California



Growing up with discrimination in the 1930's Los Angeles was painful. "NO JAPS ALLOWED" said a sign that turned young Sadao away from a public swimming pool. He was the son of Kametaro and Nawa Munemori from Hiroshima. Sadao attended Fletcher Drive Elementary School and graduated Abraham Lincoln High School in 1940.

Munemori worked as a mechanic before being inducted into the Army on February 11, 1942. Shortly after he left for the Army, his family was removed from their home and incarcerated at the Manzanar Relocation Camp in California.

After completing his infantry training, Private Munemori became a replacement soldier for the 100th Battalion and was shipped overseas to join the unit. In March of 1945, the 442nd RCT, including the 100th, was sent to break the Italian Gothic Line, a German Army defensive stronghold.



During the American assault, a fierce German attack forced Munemori and two squad members into a crater. He climbed out to attack and silence two enemy machine guns before returning to the crater. An enemy grenade bounced off his helmet and landed in the hole. With no time to grab and throw the grenade out, Munemori smothered the blast with his body. He sacrificed his life to save the lives of his fellow soldiers.

For his actions, Sadao Munemori was awarded the Medal of Honor. Two statues have been erected in his honor, one in Evergreen Cemetery, Los Angeles and the other in Piestrasanto, Italy.