



SADAO MUNEMORI PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

The rocky hillside in Italy nicknamed "The Tomb" was half a world away from San Fernando, California, where Sadao Munemori lived before the war. He volunteered for the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) soon after Pearl Harbor, remembered his sister, so that his "older brother wouldn't be called."

Sadao's visit to Manzanar in May 1943 was the last time he would see his family. One year later, Private First Class (Pfc.) Sadao Munemori, shipped out as part of the early wave of replacements for the hard-hitting all-Nisei 100th Infantry Battalion. Attached to Company A, Sadao fought in multiple battles up the boot of Italy, from the Anzio beachhead to the Arno River, and in the costly rescue of the "Lost Battalion" in France.

The objective of Sadao's last battle was to overrun German fortifications on Mt. Folgorito, near Pisa, Italy. On April 5, 1945, his company first attacked "Georgia" peak at dawn. After his squad leader was wounded, Sadao assumed command and led a successful assault on two machine gun nests. Two weeks away from his 23rd birthday, Sadao threw himself on a German grenade, losing his life while saving two of his men.

The war in Italy ended several weeks later, and in Germany the following month. Pfc. Sadao Munemori was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on March 7, 1946.



Mom,
Thanksgiving
1941