

## **Pfc. Fumitake Nagato**

**August 2, 1918 - October 20, 1944**



**Pfc. Fumitake Nagato**

Fumitake Nagato, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bunzo Nagato, was born on August 2, 1918 in Los Angeles, California. He had two brothers and three sisters. Fumitake graduated from high school in Brawley, California and was farming in Brawley. When the War broke out, Fumitake's family was sent to the Relocation Camp in Poston, Arizona (60-4-C). Fumitake volunteered out of Poston and after completing his basic training, Pfc. Fumitake Nagato went overseas and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, Company G. At that time one of Fumitake's brothers was also serving in the U.S. Army in South Korea.

Pfc. Fumitake Nagato (Serial No. 39 160 752) was killed in action on October 20, 1944 during the Battle of Bruyeres Campaign in the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France, in which the city of Bruyeres was liberated after three days of intensive fighting.

Pfc. Fumitake Nagato and Pfc. Saburo Tanamachi were the first two war heroes of Japanese ancestry to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, the nation's greatest military shrine, when their remains were buried in impressive rites on June 4, 1948. The funeral rites were conducted as well, in a symbolic manner, for all the Nisei soldiers who died in American uniform in World War II. General Jacob L. Devers, Chief of Army Field Forces, who commanded the Sixth Army Group under which the 442nd Regimental Combat Team fought in France, delivered one of six eulogies at this special ceremony of unprecedented gathering of high military and civilian government officials, in which he said that "There is one supreme and final test of loyalty to one's native land. This test is readiness and willingness to fight for and, if need be, to die for, one's country. These Americans, and their fellows, passed that test with colors flying. They proved their loyalty and devotion beyond all question...The United States Army salutes you Pfc. Fumitake Nagato and Pfc. Saburo Tanamachi. You and your compatriots will live in our hearts and our history as Americans, first class."

Others who spoke were Rep. Gordon L. McDonough of California, Rep. Walter Judd of Minnesota, Rep. Ed Gossett of Texas, Jesse S. Shima, head of the Japanese American Society of Washington, and Mike M. Masaoka, legislative director of the Japanese American Citizens League. Among the eighteen honorary pallbearers were Col. Virgil R. Miller, who commanded the 442nd in the final stages of the Vosges campaign, Col. Charles W. Pence, commanding officer of the 442nd from the time of its activation to the time of his transfer because of injuries received during the rescue of the Lost Battalion, Col. Charles H. Owens, wartime commander of the 141st Infantry Regiment, parent unit of the Lost Battalion, and Lt. Col. James M. Hanley, formerly commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, to which Pfc. Nagato and Pfc. Tanamachi belonged at the time of their death.

Pfc. Fumitake Nagato received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Citation, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

# PACIFIC CITIZEN



SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH,

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1948

Price: Seven cents.

## to Be Buried in Arlington

### Army Plans Special Funeral Rites to Honor Two 442nd Soldiers Who Died in France

Army Hopes Ceremonies Will Show Esteem In Which Nisei GIs Are Held; Noted Military Leaders, Congressmen Will Participate

By TOSUKE YAMASAKI

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Two Nisei privates who volunteered for combat service in Europe in World War II will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, the shrine of national heroes, on Friday afternoon, June 4.

Members of the famed 442nd Japanese American Regimental Combat Team, these gallant heroes—one from Los Angeles and the other from San Benito, Texas—will be the first persons of Japanese ancestry to be interred in the 84-year old history of the national cemetery.

Simultaneous releases by the Public Information Division of the Department of the Army and the Washington Office of the JACL Anti-Discrimination Committee revealed that an unprecedented gathering of high military and civilian government officials, including Chief of Army Field

immediate vicinity in the fall of 1944, elements of the 442nd received six Distinguished Unit Citations, known as "Presidential Citations."

The Japanese American Regimental Combat Team, generally recognized as the most decorated unit in U. S. military history for



General Jacob L. Devers, Chief of Army Field Forces, who commanded the Sixth Army Group under which the 442nd (Japanese American) Combat Team fought in France, will deliver a eulogy at the special ceremonies on June 4 which will mark the interment of the first two war heroes of Japanese ancestry who will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Gen. Devers also has been designated by the Department of the Army as one of the honorary pall-bearers.

Forces Jacob L. Devers, and a number of Congressmen, will stand at the graves to pay final homage to the Nisei dead. Non-sectarian religious services will be conducted by the Army Chief of Chaplains, Major General Luther D. Miller.

The two soldiers are Privates First Class Fumitake Nagato, son of Bunzo Nagato, now of 2037 South 12th Street, Arlington, Virginia, and Saburo Tanamachi, son of Kumazo Tanamachi, of San Benito, Texas. Both men were killed on October 29, 1944 while

its size and length of service, fought with distinction in every engagement it was called upon to undertake. In 120 days of combat in France and Italy, the 442nd as a whole suffered nearly 300 per cent casualties, losing 9,486 killed and wounded from a unit whose normal fighting strength was only slightly above 3,000. The 442nd was the only Combat Team specially organized and maintained through the war by the Army. All of its enlisted personnel and many of its officers were Americans of Japanese ancestry. many

engaged in the historic rescue of a "lost battalion" of the 36th (Texas) Division from a trap in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France. Their remains were returned to this country last month aboard the Army funeral ship Lawrence Victory and are being laid to rest at the national cemetery in compliance with the wishes of the next of kin.

Attending the funeral rites will be five key officers of the 442nd combat team and the 36th Division to which the all-Nisei unit was attached during its tour of duty in France. Representatives of the National Japanese American Citizens League, the Washington JACL Chapter, the JACL Arlington Cemetery Committee, and the local Japanese community will witness the services. They will offer floral wreaths in honor of the two Nisei heroes and their families who are to be present on this memorable occasion.

The significance of such an unusual number of military officials, according to a special memorandum issued by the information division of the Army Department, "consists in the fact that these two individuals are the first Japanese Americans to be buried at Arlington," and that appropriate observance of these funeral rites "will, in some measure, indicate to the Japanese American population in the United States and to the American public at large the esteem in which these soldiers were and are held by the Department of the Army."

The Vosges engagement in which Privates First Class Nagato and Tanamachi met their death was one of the outstanding small unit campaigns of the war. Elements of 442nd, battling in wet, freezing weather, rescued the first battalion of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Division, which was completely cut off and surrounded in a virtually inaccessible wooded area.

Despite terrific casualties inflicted by Nazi arms, two battalions of the 442nd reached the lost battalion in a desperate five-day struggle after other units had failed. In rescuing the lost battalion, of which 189 men remained alive at the conclusion of the engagement, the 442nd had lost 200 killed and 800 wounded. For this gallant action and for other operations in the

of whom volunteered for overseas combat duties while confined in relocation camps.

The Department of the Army, in making the ceremony for Privates Nagato and Tanamachi an occasion of great significance, has designated the following to be honorary pallbearers; General Jacob L. Devers, Army ground forces chief, who commanded the Sixth Army Group under which the 442nd fought in France; Major General John E. Dahlquist, Deputy Director of Personnel and Administration, Army General Staff, who commanded the 36th Division in the Vosges; Major General Hobart R. Gay, commanding general of the military district of Washington, D.C.; Major General George A. Horkan, chief of Memorial Division, office of the Quartermaster General who is operating head of the Return of World War II Dead program.

Other Army-designated pallbearers are: Colonel Virgil R. Miller, professor of military science and tactics at Penn State College, who commanded the 442nd in the final stages of the Vosges battle; Colonel C. W. Pence, now at Fort Benning, Georgia, formerly commanding officer of the 442nd from the time of its activation to his transfer because of injuries received during the rescue of the lost battalion; Colonel Charles H. Owens, commanding officer of Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C., and wartime commander of the 141st Infantry Regiment, parent unit of the lost battalion; Colonel James Notestein, of Public Information Division, Department of the Army, whose infantry regiment in Italy fought beside the 442nd, and Lieutenant Colonel James M. Hanley, of the Judge Advocate General's Office, formerly commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion to which Nagato and Tanamachi belonged at the time of their death.

General Mark W. Clark, of 5th Army Time and now commanding general of the Sixth Army, will be unable to attend the services, but disclosed he is preparing a message to be read at the occasion. Senators William F. Knowland and Sheridan Downey, both of California, are expected to send special messages.

The honorary pallbearers invited  
(Continued on page 2).

## Two Nisei Soldiers Will Be Buried at Arlington Cemetery

(Continued from page 1).

by the Japanese American Citizens League include: Representatives Ed Gosset, Democrat from Texas; Gordon L. McDonough, Republican from California; and Walter H. Judd, Republican from Minnesota; Joseph R. Farrington, Congressional delegate from Hawaii; the Honorable John J. McCloy, president of the World Bank; Dillon S. Myer, wartime head of the War Relocation Authority; Ira Shimazaki, president of the local JAACL chapter, and Jessie S. Shima, head of the Japanese American Society of Washington. Mike Masaoka, national legislative director of the JAACL ADC, will deliver a brief eulogy and has also been named an honorary pallbearer.

The military services will be conducted by the Army which will provide the active pallbearers. Army Chief of Chaplains General Miller will be assisted by the ceremonial detachment, band and firing squad from Fort Myer, Virginia. After full military honors have been given, brief civilian Protestant services will be conducted by Reverend Andrew Kuroda, associate minister of the First Evangelical and Reformed Church, Washington, D.C.

Brief eulogies will be given by General Devers, Congressman Gossett and McDonough, Mike Masaoka and Mr. Shima. In commenting on the forthcoming funeral services, Congressman Gossett declared:

**"Texans are glad to honor the 442nd Regimental Combat Team along with her famous 36th Division.**

**"In death, Privates First Class Fumitake Nagato and Saburo Tanamachi served two causes. They glorified and helped to save American institutions. They also glorified Japanese American citizenship.**

**"Our nation is doubly proud of them."**

Congressman McDonough said: "Their devotion to the United States and heroism under fire has won them the honor of being the first American-born Japanese to be buried in the shrine of national heroes at Arlington National Cemetery and is ample evidence of the tolerance and understanding of democracy in this great nation."

Representative Walter H. Judd, one-time missionary to China and an expert on Far Eastern relations, author of H.R. 5004 which would extend naturalization to the parents of Nisei soldiers, also took the occasion to comment on the ceremony. He asserted:

**"To bury on June 4th in Arlington National Cemetery with special exercises two American soldiers of Japanese ancestry who were killed in combat**

**in France while rescuing the 'Lost Texas Battalion,' is a well-deserved tribute to their heroic sacrifices for their country.**

But an even more worthy tribute and reward, as well as simple justice, would be for Congress to pass H.R. 5004 which would make it possible for their fathers and mothers who were born in Japan but have lived in the United States since before 1924 and who will live here until they die, to become full-fledged citizens of this country which they taught their children to love and serve so well. Let us who live strive as nobly to make America just and generous as did they who died."

The presence of John J. McCloy was requested by the JAACL in view of the deep attachment which the former Assistant Secretary of War has for the 442nd. Mr. McCloy played an important role in the activation of the Japanese American combat team and only last week asserted before a Senate subcommittee that he "was proud of his connection with it." Delegate Farrington's interest in the ceremony stems from the fact that Japanese Americans from Hawaii formed the original 100th Infantry Battalion, the first Nisei military organization to see overseas combat. The 100th was later incorporated into the 442nd. Members of the 100th comprised about half of the personnel of the 442nd.

Private Nagato was born in Los Angeles, California, on August 2, 1918. He was a member of Company "G," 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He is survived by his parents, two brothers, one of whom is now with the U.S. Army in south Korea, and three sisters. The Washington JAACL ADC office reported that two of the sisters, now residing in Los Angeles, are flying to Washington to attend the burial rites. The third sister is now in the employ of the Treasury Department here while the youngest brother is attending junior high school at Arlington. Private Nagato is holder of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Private Tanamachi, born in Long Beach, California, April 1, 1917, moved to Texas with his parents in 1921. He was a member of "E" company. Two younger brothers, Goro and Walter, served overseas in Europe during World War II; another brother, William, is now with the occupation forces in Germany. The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kumazo Tanamachi, and a sister, Mrs. Fumi Onishi, are coming to Washington to attend the services. The late private held the Silver Star.



# Nisei GIs Eulogized as Two Japanese Americans Buried in Arlington Cemetery Rites

Gen. Devers Outstanding Military, Civilian Leaders Pay Tribute to Nisei at Ceremony for Two Who Died During Rescue of Lost Battalion

By TOSUKE YAMASAKI

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Two Nisei war heroes, both privates first class who fought with the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team, were buried in Arlington National Cemetery on June 4 in impressive rites attended by outstanding military and civilian officials.

Pfc. Fumitake Nagato, formerly of Los Angeles, and Pfc. Saburo Tanamachi of San Benito, Tex., are the first soldier dead of Japanese ancestry to rest in the nation's greatest military shrine.

High military and civilian dignitaries, including Gen. Jacob L. Devers, Chief of Army Field Forces, and members of the Japanese American community assembled at the gravesites to pay final homage as the Nisei soldier dead were accorded full military honors.

The simple, solemn ceremony was highlighted by eulogies which provided eloquent testimony of the respect which the Army and others have for Nisei soldiery.

Although the remains that were committed to the soil of Virginia were those of Pfc. Nagato and Pfc. Tanamachi, the funeral rites were conducted as well—in a symbolic manner—for more than 650 Nisei who died in American uniform in World War II.

The Army's tribute to the Nisei was eulogized by Gen. Devers who said: "There is one supreme and final test of loyalty to one's native land. This test is readiness and willingness to fight for and, if need be, to die for, one's country. These Americans, and their fellows, passed that test with colors flying. They proved their loyalty and devotion beyond all question."

Gen. Devers was one of six speakers who delivered eulogies to the Nisei soldier dead during the ceremonies.

Others who spoke were Rep. Gordon L. McDonough of California, Rep. Walter Judd of Minnesota, Rep. Ed Gossett of Texas, Jesse S. Shima, head of the Japanese American Society of Washington, and Mike M. Masaoka, legislative director of the JACL Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The eighteen honorary pallbearers included John J. McCloy, president of the World Bank; Dillon S. Myer, director of the Inter-American Institute; Gen. Devers, Major General John E. Dahlquist, who commanded the 36th (Texas) Division in the Vosges campaign; Major General Charles L. Bolte, the commanding general of the 34th Division to which the 442nd Combat Team was attached during



# Two Issei Soldiers Buried in Vanport Flood

## Pres. Okada Asks JACL Aid for Flood Victims

President Hito Okada of the National JACL this week asked all chapters and members to aid in the relief of Japanese American victims of the Vanport City disaster.

He announced that national board members, contacted by wire, had approved plans to aid the flood victims.

All JACL chapters are being contacted in an effort to raise emergency funds, he said.

He urged all JACL members and organizations to send donations to Tosh Kuge, president of the Portland chapter, 1204 S. W. 3rd ave., Portland 12.

## French Mayor Thanks JACL For Packages

A letter from Mayor Louis Gillon of Bruyeres, France was received this week by Hito Okada, national president of the JACL, in which the mayor of the French community expressed the appreciation of the citizens of Bruyeres for the CARE packages which were sent by JACL chapters and individuals.

"The people of the village thank you sincerely for the gifts and have asked me to convey their heartfelt gratitude," Mayor Gillon declared.

The CARE food and infant packages were sent to the people of Bruyeres by JACL groups in appreciation of the action of the Bruyeres citizens in setting aside a plot of ground for a memorial to the men of the 442nd Combat Team who participated in the liberation of the community. A JACL plaque was dedicated in ceremonies at Bruyeres last Oct. 30.

## NISEI TO TEACH JAPANESE TO ARMY PERSONNEL

SAN FRANCISCO—A Nisei instructor, Miss Marianne S. Kusaka of San Francisco, will assist personnel of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation in learning the Japanese language, it was announced this week.

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Closes of all among the participants to the spirits of the soldier dead were Cols. Pence, Miller and Hanley who led the Nisei combat unit through some of the bitterest campaigns of the war. Col. Pence was wounded during the rescue of the Lost Battalion, in the same campaign in



Pfc. Saburo Tanamachi (above) of San Benito, Tex., and Pfc. Fumitake Nagato of Los Angeles became the first Japanese Americans to rest in Arlington National Cemetery when their remains were buried in impressive rites on June 4.

which Pfc. Nagato and Pfc. Tanamachi died.

Words of committal were pronounced by Army Chief Chaplain Luther Miller.

After the military rites had been completed, the Rev. Andrew Kuroda rendered the civilian Protestant services in the Japanese language.

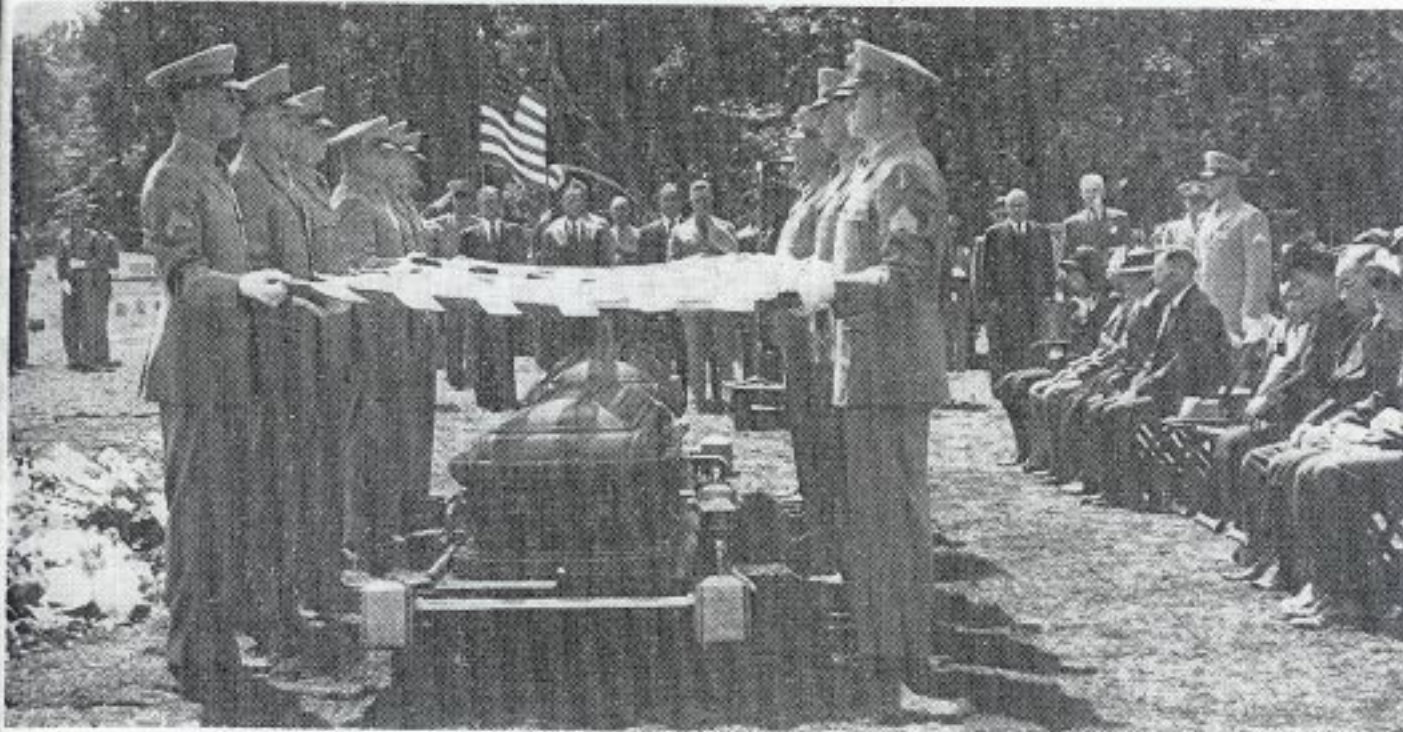
The green hillsides of Arlington cemetery then echoed with the volleys from the firing squad and the notes of the bugler's "Taps" and the families of the soldier heroes received from Gen. Devers the flags which draped the caskets.

The flags were the government's way of saying what Gen. Devers had said a few minutes earlier:

"The United States Army salutes you Pfc. Fumitake Nagato and Pfc. Saburo Tanamachi. You and your compatriots will live in our hearts and our history as Americans, first class."

The bodies were buried head to  
(Continued on page 4).

## Impressive Rites Mark Burial of Nisei GIs in Arlington



For the first time in the history of Arlington National Cemetery, two American soldiers of Japanese ancestry were laid to rest on June 4. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, chief of the Army Field Forces, Fort Monroe, Va., and other high-ranking military officials and civilian leaders participated in the impressive rites which honored Pfc. Fumitake Nagato of Arlington and Pfc. Saburo Tanamachi of San Benito, Tex., who were killed in action during

the rescue of the Lost Battalion. It was noted that this constituted a tribute by the United States army to all men of Japanese ancestry who served during World

In the above photo the honor guard hold flags of Pfc. Nagato and Pfc. Tanamachi as "Taps" is played by a bugler. The Nagato and Tanamachi (right) family shown.—International News photo by B. Brockhurs