

Name: CPL James Yoshio Morita

Branch: US Army

Years of Service: 1940 to 1945

MOS: Rifleman, Sales Clerk, Baker

Units Served:

F Company, 2nd Battalion

442nd Regimental Combat Team

Awards:

Congressional Gold Medal

Bronze Star Medal

World War II Victory Medal

Distinguished unit Badge

Good Conduct Medal

American Defense Service Medal

American Theater Service Medal

European-African-Theater Service Medal

Combat Infantry Badge

Sharpshooter Marksman Badge

Battle Star for Rhineland

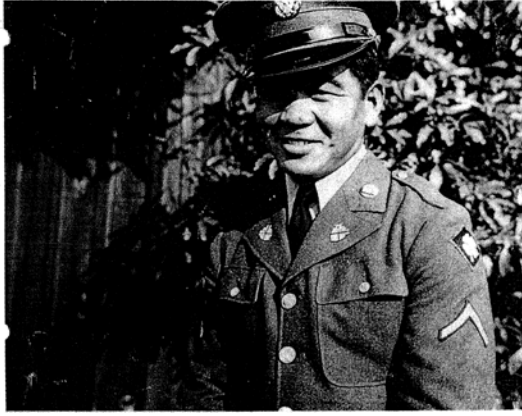
Purple Heart Medal

Knights of the Legion of Honor pending

Major Battles/Campaigns:

Battle of Lost Battalion





Corporal James Morita's Story...

On November 23, 1940, a year before the United States of America entered World War II, the United States selective service inducted (drafted) James Yoshio MORITA into the U.S. Army and sent to Reception Center, Fort MacArthur, San Pedro, California. He had the distinction of being the first American of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) drafted into the U.S. Army from Los Angeles, County.

On December 12, 1940, then Private MORITA was transferred to Company A, 29th Engineers, Oceanside, California. On October 1, 1941, he was appointed the rank of Private First Class and then Specialist 5th Class on November 18, 1941. On December 12, 1941, he was reassigned to the 102nd Radio Intelligence Company, Fort Ord, California. On December 19, 1941, then Specialist 5th Class MORITA was reassigned to the 54th Signal Battalion, Fort Ord, California. On January 17, 1942 he was reassigned to 102nd Radio Intelligence Company, Presidio, and San Francisco, California. On February 18, 1942, he reassigned to Corps Area Service Command (CASC) #1902, Fort Douglas, Utah. On March 19, 1942, MORITA was transferred to Detachment Quartermaster Corps, Fort Snelling Michigan. In March 1943, MORITA was incorporated into the newly formed 442nd Regimental Combat Team at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Re designated in the rank of Corporal, MORITA was assigned to F, better known as Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, and 442nd Regimental Combat Team as a rifleman.

After more than a year of infantry tactics and training, on May 1, 1944, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team boarded Liberty troop transport ships at Norfolk, Virginia for the European Theater of Operations. On May 21, 1944, due to severe weather conditions the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's 2nd Battalion to include Fox Company arrived at Oran, Algeria. In early June 1944, onboard the British ship His Majesty's Ship (HMS) Samaria, the 2nd Battalion arrived in Naples, Italy (Mediterranean Theater

of Operations) and consolidated with the remainder of the already arrived units of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

From June 9 to September 5, 1944, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team from Cassino to Rome fought on Italian Soil. On September 30, 1944, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team arrived in Marseille, France and quickly moved to Eastern France and positioned around the town of Bruyeres by October 14, 1944. Fierce and epic combat action from October 15 thru 18, 1944, led to the liberation of Bruyeres. To this day, the town of Bruyeres holds annual celebration and remembrance of their liberators the 442nd Regimental Combat Team from German occupation. The next combat action took place from October 19 thru 24, 1944 in around Belmont-Biffontaine. From October 26 thru 30, 1944 the Rescue of the Lost (Texas) Battalion took place. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team rescued approximately 230 men at the staggering cost of 400 killed or wounded of its own ranks and is aptly captured in the move "Go For Broke". Members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team would later be bestowed the distinction as honorary Texans.



Follow-on combat and defensive actions encompassed around the general area of Biffontaine-La Houssiere Valley. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team then entered the Eastern France Campaign, Forest Dominiale du Champ (Vosges) starting on November 1, 1944. In early November 1944, after a fierce barrage of enemy artillery and mortar fire, Corporal MORITA was discovered lying along a roadside and initially thought dead.

However, fellow soldiers discovered he was unconscious and severely wounded from shrapnel. Corporal MORITA was medically evacuated to the battlefield rear to the 21st General Hospital, Mirecourt, France for life saving medical treatment. He was later medically transported to England for additional and multiple surgeries. He was returned to the United

States for further medical treatment, physical therapy and recovery. With World War II at an end and military demobilization, on December 15, 1945, Corporal James Yoshio MORITA was honorably separated from the US Army at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

Corporal MORITA's military awards include:

- Congressional Gold Medal
- The Bronze Star Medal
- The Purple Heart Medal
- The World War II Victory Medal
- The Distinguished Unit Badge
- The Good Conduct Medal
- The American Defense Service Medal
- American Theater Service Medal
- European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal
- The Combat Infantry Badge
- The Sharpshooter Marksman Badge



In February 2015, James Yoshio MORITA was nominated for the French Legion of Honor - Chevalier and is pending approval by the French Government.