Valiant Fight of T-Sgt. Tanouye Before His Death Is Revealed

(Editor's Note--The following item released by the War Department through the War Relocation Authority tells of the valiant action of T/Sgt. Ted T. Tanouye, Torrance Japanese, who was killed a few weeks ago in Italy. The item, the WRA explains, was written before his death but was not cleared for publication until after his death. Sergeant Tanouye entered the Army at Fort MacArthur in February, 1942m completed his training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and went overseas in May, 1944. He was wounded in Italy on Sept. 1, and died Sept. 6. He was 24 years of age, and is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nikuma Tanouye, and five brothers and sisters. The family is now at the Rohwer Relocation Center, McGehee, Ard.

Sgt. Tanouye finished high school at Torrance in 1938 and was a member of the football team two years.

The following is a quotation from a letter of condolence sent to Mr. Tanouye by his son's commanding officer, "He was a credit to his race, an excellent soldier, a loyal American who was respected and admired by everyone in the company.")

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY--In the recent fight for Hill 140 on the Fifth Army front in Italy Technical Sergeant Ted T. Tanouye, Torrance, Calif., personally knocked out two machineguns and killed 14 Germans.

Leading a dawn attack Tanouye's platoon of the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team spearheaded the advance of 24th "Red Bull" Division forces on the heavily fortified Hill 140.

The terrain afforded little cover. Ordering his men to dig in as best they could, Tanouye, with two men, skirted the positions of an enemy machinegun holding up the advance. Armed with his Tommygun and hand grenades, he crawled though open space under heavy small arms fire to within grenade range of the machinegun. Making a final dash toward his objective, he pulled the pin, tossed his grenade and hit on the nest and killed the two machinegunners.

With dawn, the three men cam under the observation of the enemy and were fired on by six snipers. Picking off three of the Germans, one by one, the Japanese Americans withdrew and rejoined their platoon.

Reorganizing his platoon, Tanouye, with one Browning automatic rifleman, successfully flanked the enemy main position on the hiss while the rest of his men made a frontal attack. After he had been knocked down but not seriously injured by a grenade fragment, Tanouye rushed another troublesome machinggun nest and put it out of action by killing all four members of its crew with his Tommygun.

His action, followed by a barrage laid down by his mortarmen, opened the way for the remainder of the 34th Division troops to drive the Germans from their hilltop position. During this drive a German lieutenant and most of his 60men were killed or captured. Sergeant Tanouye was credited with an additional eight Germans killed and seven wounded.

The fighting Japanese American was a sales clerk in Torrance before he entered the service at Fort MacArthur, Calif., in February 1942. His mother, Mrs. Momoya Tanouye lives at the Rohwer Relocation Center near McGehee, Ark.

The enlisted personnel of the 442nd is made up of Americans of Japanese ancestry.

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