

Saburo Arthur Kitagawa earned and received the following citations:

Bronze Star Medal – awarded 9/9/48 “For meritorious achievement in ground operations against the enemy” during the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, in the Rome-Arno Campaign. Participated in heavy combat in the storming of the German occupied Benedictine Abbey at Monte Cassino, Italy.

Bronze star engraved on reverse: Saburo A. Kitagawa

Ribbon bar pin and small enameled bar pin included - all in leather presentation box.

Purple Heart Medals, 10/27/44, for combat wounds suffered in Vosges Mountains, France. Also wounded in combat in Italy, Monte Cassino region, 4/44.

2 ribbon bar pins and 2 small enameled bar pins included - all in leather presentation box.

Combat Infantryman Badge, received 7/44, awarded 7/8/48. (long rectangular metal pin with rifle on blue background, central open laurel wreath in background)

Good Conduct Medal with ribbon bar pin and small enameled bar pin.

European-African-Middle Eastern ribbon bar pin with 4 bronze battle participation stars:

Rome-Arno Campaign (1/22 to 9/9/44), Southern France Campaign (8/14 to 9/15/44),

North Appenines Campaign 9/10-27/44 and Rhineland Campaign (9/15/44 to 3/21/45)

Ribbon bar pin’s vertical, colored stripes signify (left to right): sands of North African desert, Italy, Forests of Europe, USA, Forests of Europe, Germany, sands of North African desert.

Entitled to European-African-Middle Eastern medal as well, but receipt delayed.

World War II victory ribbon Entitled to WWII victory medal as well, but receipt delayed.

Presidential Unit 3rd Citation with clusters (small gold framed blue rectangles with oak leaves):

Presidential Unit Citation with one oak leaf cluster

Distinguished Unit Citation with two oak leaf clusters

WWII Star Military Service pin (small cloisonne enameled rectangular pin with central star)

French Legion of Honor medal “Chevalier” (of the Legion of Honor) awarded 3/26/14 at the

French Embassy in Washington, DC, 70 years after Sab fought on French soil in October, 1944.

US Army pins - round bronze pins

Infantry pin with crossed rifles - round bronze pin

Marksmanship pin with proficiency in pistol, carbine, machine gun

Expert Rifleman pin with proficiency as expert, smallbore, rifle

Ruptured Duck honorable discharge pin

Patches earned:

Technician Fifth Grade rank - “T” beneath two chevron stripes

“Go For Broke”, motto and insignia of the 442nd - red, white, blue - upraised arm holding torch

Square patch with 4 horizontal bars signifying participation in 4 battles

European Headquarters for Allied Forces patch - eagle surrounded by stars

European Theater of Operations – Army Advanced Base patch - lightning bolt under star

77th Inf. Div. patch - gold Statue of Liberty (homage to NYC roots) on dark blue background

Ruptured Duck honorable discharge ribbon patch

Congressional Gold Medal - awarded collectively to the 100th Inf. Bn., the 442nd R C T, and and Military Intelligence Service of the US Army, Washington, DC, 11/2/11.

All of the above are displayed in the collection and archive of Saburo and Yoriko Kitagawa at Topaz Museum, Delta, UT (except some patches and the Congressional Gold Medal).

Other related effects and articles included in the displayed collection and archive of Saburo and Yoriko Kitagawa at Topaz Museum:

Dog tag and chain: SABURO A KITAGAWA
39913697 T4343 0
MRS YORI KITAGAWA
2130 OH STREET NW
WASHINGTON D C P

From the displayed archive of Saburo and Yoriko Kitagawa at Topaz Museum, Delta, UT:
Collection of shell jewelry and artwork created by Sab's mother, Misao Takabatake Kitagawa while incarcerated at Topaz, living with her family in barrack 36 - 4 - C:

Small box of tiny dyed pink shells
Bouquet of yellow and purple pansies
Bouquet of violets with greenery and tied with a ribbon
Pin - gamboling dark wood bear cub with white bead eye
Pin - light blue oval pin covered with tiny shells, featuring three large flowers with greenery
Screw-backed light pink shell cabbage rose earrings
Many containers and a "King Cole" prepared mustard jar from that time, of different sized and kinds of tiny shells used in her creations.
Artificial leaves with wires, artificial flower centers, thin wires, wooden (some natural, some painted, some with pin backs) forms of different shapes and sizes to create pins
Paper cut out patterns from scrap paper - her pencilled Japanese characters visible on some, identifying patterns and grouped together, held by a black hairpin
A length of blue ribbon, twine
A tiny string of shells

Not included in archived collection of Saburo and Yoriko Kitagawa displayed at Topaz Museum:

Congressional Gold Medal
Technician Fifth Grade patch
Square patch with 4 horizontal bars
Ruptured Duck honorable discharge ribbon patch

Saburo's Army jacket (wool Eisenhower jacket, size 36R, labeled inside "3991-3697 Kitagawa"):

Infantry pin on R collar, Ruptured Duck ribbon patch above R chest pocket; Go For Broke patch, Technician Fifth Grade rank patch ("T" beneath two chevron stripes) on R sleeve.
US Army pin on L collar; European Headquarters for Allied Forces patch, Technician Fifth Grade rank patch, square patch with 4 horizontal bars (signifying 4 battle campaigns) on L sleeve.
Army cap (size 7 ¼) with blue piping, US Army pin and small metal hexagonal Go For Broke insignia pin attached.

Original artwork by Rachel Kitagawa Shapiro, 2005 - Sab and Yori's granddaughter
48.25" x 20.5" x 5/8" thick Acrylic paint on 3 joined mirrored sections

A statement on the injustices of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and the American public who allowed this to happen. The viewer sees himself in the mirrors, as being complicit in the unjust imprisonment of the 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry. There is a rendition of the poignant, iconic photo, (on display at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles) of the tiny girl dressed in her Sunday best, clutching an American flag, awaiting deportation under the edict of E.O. 9066.

Saburo Arthur Kitagawa and Yoriko Shimasaki Kitagawa – A Chronology of an American Couple
(with historic context*) Compiled and written with gratitude and love by their daughter,
Ellen Sayo Kitagawa Shapiro, April, 2022 - April, 2023

2/28/21 Saburo Arthur Kitagawa was born in San Francisco's (SF) "Japantown", at home, 1551 Post St. (Post and Laguna Sts.) He lived to age 95, passing away 7/19/16, in Warminster, PA. Saburo was the third son ("san" means "3" in Japanese, so he was affectionately called "San-chan") of Hiroshi Kitagawa and Misao Takabatake Kitagawa. Born on US soil to Japanese immigrants, Saburo (also known as "Sab" and later, "Art") was a second generation "Nisei". Hiroshi Kitagawa (2/2/1887-4/6/1980) was from Hokkaido, northernmost island of Japan, and grew up in the countryside far from Sapporo. Emigrating to San Francisco, CA, first-generation "Issei" Hiroshi became a deacon of the First Reformed Church, the largest Japanese Christian church in SF and was a calligrapher of the Church program in Japanese. Saburo was baptized there 3/25/23. (Saburo met Yoriko, later to become his wife, in the church youth group, nicknamed the "Holy Terrors" under youth leader, Henry Tani (whose youngest son is American astronaut Daniel Tani, first Japanese American to walk in space, 12/2001). Hiroshi was a calligrapher for a Japanese newsletter. His older brother was a Shinto priest. After emigrating to CA from Japan, he moved to the east coast briefly after the great CA earthquake of 1917. He "saw the world" while sailing around it, learning English and taught it to other immigrants. His youngest son, Mutsuo decided to pursue art, becoming a commercial artist and later sculptor, perhaps influenced by the many visits to museums father and son shared. Misao Takabatake (6/8/1895- 3/30/1984) was from Shizuoka (famous tea growing region), on Honshu, Japan's main island. She was a "picture bride" though both she and Hiroshi had met in Japan. She knitted, crocheted and was a creative artist, fashioning lovely pins from the tiny shells (from ancient, dried Sevier Lake) she found and dyed while at Topaz. Though she never learned English, she "spoke" to others through her delicious foods for which she was famed. Hiroshi and Misao separately entered the US through Angel Island, (near Alcatraz Island) the "Ellis Island" of the west coast. Both are buried in a Japanese cemetery, Colma, CA, near Tanforan race track, San Bruno, CA (site of the former Assembly Cntr. for Japanese Americans). Saburo was the third of their seven children: Fred Ichiro (1918-1919); Robert Jiro (1919-1937); Saburo (Sab) (1921-2016); David Yoshiro (Yosh) (1923 -1999); Peter Goro (Pete) (1925-2001); Naomi (1927-1998); Mutsuo (Mik) (1935-2020).

8/11/21 Yoriko ("Yori") Shimasaki was born in San Francisco's "Japantown", 1537 Post St., neighbors of the Kitagawa family. Her father was Yoriyoshi Shimasaki (6/26/1883 – 5/9/1936) from Kochi-ken, Japan, who emigrated to San Francisco 2/18/1907, holding various jobs working on the railroad between SF and San Jose, picking orchard fruit, attending school, worked as a cook at the Cosmos Club in SF, graduated from automobile school, and worked on a design to apply for a patent. He married Matsuko Akashi 12/4/1917. Matsuko ("Matsu") Akashi Shimasaki (3/15/1894 – 3/17/1964) was from Chiba, Japan. Matsu, bold and independent was purported to be one of the first women to drive a model T in her San Francisco neighborhood. Yori's only sibling was her older sister, Yoko ("Mary Ann") Shimasaki (3/2/1919 – 12/26/2004) who married William Toyoji Utsumi in 1941. Yori Shimasaki Kitagawa passed away 10/19/1995 at age 74 years.

Saburo's first boyhood job was delivering newspapers.

He enjoyed fishing in Half Moon Bay with his father, finding abalone and other fish. (Today,

Sab's grandson, Timothy Hisao Shapiro, living in the area, enjoys Half Moon Bay as well.)

Sab worked picking strawberries in Modesto and celery in Stockton, CA.

1938 Saburo graduated Commerce High School, SF, CA

1939 Yori graduated Galileo High School, SF, CA

Saburo attended San Francisco Junior College receiving an Associate of Arts degree June, 1940.

Yori attended San Francisco Junior College and received an Associate of Arts degree, May, 1941.

Saburo helped build the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, as a "pick and shovel" laborer.

4/7/41 – 3/13/42 Saburo earned a civil service stenography job in Fort Ord, a station hospital for the US War Department, commuting back home to SF on weekends from the Monterey Bay area hospital where he worked during the week.

On 12/7/41 just after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was ordered off a bus and jailed overnight.

Someone vouched for him and he returned to work. 3/13/42 Saburo was suspended from his job "for administrative purposes", a US government euphemism for their mass wartime evacuation program, authorized 2/42.

*2/19/42 US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing evacuation of all persons deemed a threat to national security, forcibly relocating 120,000 Japanese Americans, 2/3rds of them US citizens, inland into ten concentration camps.

EO 9066 authorized the Secretary of War, Henry Stimson, to designate new military areas.

*3/2/42 General John DeWitt, commanding general of Western Defense Command, defined areas where Japanese Americans could not live: 200,000 square miles which included the western half of WA state, OR, CA and the southern third of AZ. Assistant Chief of Staff of the Western Defense Command was Colonel Karl Bendetsen.

*3/14/42 The Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA) was set up by the Western Defense Command to handle details of the evacuation.

*3/18/42 EO 9102 established the War Relocation Authority (WRA) to resettle evacuees.

By 3/23/42, 1000 Japanese Americans from Los Angeles were headed to Manzanar Reception Center, and by 8/7/42, all Japanese Americans were evacuated to Assembly Centers or to one of the ten concentration camps, far from the west coast.

*Earl Warren, Attorney General of CA (who would later become Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court), used his position and his influence with the military to push for the evacuation of all west coast Japanese Americans.

*Head of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, together with the Department of Justice opposed the evacuation on grounds of violation of the 5th Amendment rights of the Japanese Americans and blamed the groundswell of mass hysteria of the public for this drastic, wrongful action.

On Mother's Day, 1942, the Kitagawa family and Shimasaki family were forcibly removed from their homes in San Francisco to Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno, which became Tanforan Assembly Center in 4/42, to house mainly San Francisco Bay Area Japanese Americans. They would remain at this "temporary" location until September. (An "address" listing for Saburo Kitagawa at Tanforan Center was 132-2).

*This racetrack turned assembly center was surrounded by barbed wire fencing with armed military police on guard. 180 barracks with 26 converted horse stalls accommodated 7816 persons of Japanese ancestry, forced to live in filthy, horsefly and flea infested dwellings with 24 latrines for the entire camp. Despite these primitive conditions, and demonstrating “gaman”, the Japanese term for persevering with quiet resolve and dignity, and “shikataganai”, making the best of a situation, the Japanese term meaning “it can’t be helped, it can’t be undone”, the occupants cleaned, held art and adult education classes, grew flowers and gardens and learned to adapt and survive deplorable conditions and utter lack of privacy.

September 1942 to as late as August 1945, members of the Kitagawa and Shimasaki families were incarcerated at Topaz Internment Camp, Utah, some allowed to leave between those dates. (Eventually, all would return to the Bay Area except Saburo and Yori Kitagawa, the only ones from their families to settle on the east coast after WWII.) Yori Shimasaki arrived to Topaz on 9/22/1942; Saburo Kitagawa arrived on 10/18/1942.

*“Topaz (built in the Sevier desert in Utah) was described as a “barren, sand-choked wasteland” with summer temperatures soaring into the nineties and winter temperatures hovering near or below zero. Constant winds caused intolerable dust storms.” Guards stationed in guard towers held rifles pointing inward (contradicting the government’s explanation that the evacuation’s purpose was to protect the Japanese Americans), and patrolled the camp’s inmates imprisoned in their barbed wire enclosed area in the desert. One elderly inmate, Mr. Wakasa, (who was deaf had strayed too close to the barbed wire perimeter) was mistakenly shot and killed.

Topaz was built upon a dried lakebed of 11,000 year old Sevier Lake which derived from ancient Lake Bonneville from 15,000 years before. The dried lakebed was responsible for the shells, dust, mud and lack of trees and rocks at Topaz. “Barracks were framed in pine and covered with tarpaper. Each barrack had cots and mattresses, a coal-burning stove, an electric light, no insulation, no running water.” Striving for normalcy, sports were played, dates made, dances held and children attended school. Sand and dust were constantly swept, and children carried coal buckets to fill pot-bellied stoves. The incarcerated created furniture from scrap lumber, made artwork from found objects and painted and formed the thousands of tiny shells remaining from the dried, ancient lakebeds, into jewelry and art objects. The family unit, where discipline was paramount and respect instilled, was subverted and broke down as communal living prevailed and parents lost control over their own and their children’s lives. Human dignity was completely compromised under these harsh living conditions.

*Topaz processed approximately 11,212 residents, with an average population of approximately 8300. It consisted of 42 blocks. Each block had 12, 20’ x 120’ barracks, housing 275 persons.

*In the center of each block was a community dining hall, laundry, lavatories and showers for men and women. There was no privacy in the lavatories. It cost the government 45 cents per day to feed each person in the concentration camp.

Saburo harvested sugar beets while in camp.

3/24/43 Yori, (who had to suffer a tonsillectomy in addition to the other hardships while living at Topaz) was given permission to leave Topaz to work as a stenographer for the War Relocation Authority US Dept. of the Interior in Washington, DC.

Saburo (also called "Sab" or "Art") Kitagawa was one of the first wave of volunteers from Topaz to become part of US Army Infantry as part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, comprised of Japanese Americans, activated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the War Dept. on 2/1/43.

In the aftermath of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Selective Service on 1/5/42 had reclassified draft-age men of Japanese ancestry as "4-C enemy alien" and ineligible for military service" but this changed due to need and Saburo was one of the first of 105 men to volunteer from Topaz to prove their loyalty to the USA, their birth country, and to disprove suspected ties to Japan based on ancestry and physical appearance. 1500 Japanese Americans from the mainland and Hawai'i volunteered or were recruited. Fighting overseas, Saburo would write letters and postcards "home" to his family, prisoners living in 36 - 4 - C, Topaz, UT.

5/5/43 Saburo Kitagawa left Topaz for induction at Fort Douglas, UT, with induction in the US Army Infantry as part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team the following day, 5/6/43. Given a free week-long pass by the government to travel anywhere in the country, he traveled to Washington, DC to be with his sweetheart, Yori, who now worked for the War Relocation Authority US Dept. of the Interior and lived in Washington, DC.

5/15/43 Saburo Arthur Kitagawa and Yoriko Shimasaki were married in a civil ceremony in The Covenant-First Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, with only Yori's roommate and dear friend, Katherine Kageyama attending. Katherine and Yori had been allowed to leave Topaz in March for jobs in Washington, DC.

5/16/43 The day after his wedding, Saburo left for Camp Shelby, MS – Army basic training camp as part of Company M (part of the 3rd Battalion) of the 442nd Infantry
Dog tag #39913697; Rank – Private

*6/21/43 Minoru Yasui vs. US Supreme Court - constitutionality of imposed curfew upheld.

*6/21/43 Gordon Hirabayashi vs. US Supreme Court - constitutionality of wartime travel restrictions upheld. He turned himself in to the FBI in protest of the exclusion orders.

*12/18/44 Fred Korematsu vs. US Supreme Court - constitutionality of the evacuation order upheld in a 6 to 3 vote. This defined the authority of a military commander over civilians during a wartime emergency without involving martial law.

Sab was assigned special duty to guard prisoners of war in Enterprise, Alabama. Left 9/9/43.

10/15-30/43 Sab was given two-week furlough: NYC for 7 days, Washington, DC for 6 days

2/22/44 Saburo's ship crossed the Atlantic as part of the first of the replacement volunteers for the 100th Infantry Battalion. The ship zigzagged across the Atlantic dodging German submarines. He was able to avoid seasickness, unlike his comrades, and the ship landed in Casablanca, Morocco. They made their way on a troop ship in a convoy to the Anzio landing. Saburo was assigned to Company D of the 100th Infantry Battalion.

*3/26/44 "...prior to the fall of Monte Cassino, the replenished 100th Bn. landed at Anzio, Italy, to help defend the beachhead against German attacks. A victory at Anzio and Monte Cassino would clear the way for the Allies to reach Rome..." Anzio was the second front between German's Gustav Line of defense and Rome. The 100th were assigned a section in the Anzio beachhead in April. When the Allies broke out of the beachhead 5/23/44, the 100th led the way! They took Cisterna, then raced on to Civitavecchia, and Rome.

*6/2/44 the 442nd landed at Naples, then on to Anzio beaches for diversionary assault just prior to D-Day.

"At Anzio, there was a Benedictine Abbey on a hilltop at Monte Cassino occupied by Germans "who could look down on us" and so we could only move during the cover of nighttime. We were successful and made our way to Rome and Saburo Kitagawa was there for its liberation."

*6/4/44 Rome is liberated by the 100th, but the soldiers of the 100th were ordered to stay outside of Rome and so were denied their rightful heroes' welcome and celebration.

*6/6/44 D-Day, when Allied land, sea and air joined forces on the beaches of Normandy, France in an operation dubbed "OVERLORD", the largest invasion force in human history, to fight to liberate north west Europe from Nazi occupation.

*6/15/44 north of Rome, the 100th Battalion became the First Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, assigned to the 34th "Red Bull" Division, renown for their prowess, but the 100th Infantry Battalion retained its separate, distinguished name, suffering so many casualties, it became known as "the Purple Heart Battalion". Companies were "anti-tank"-small cannons on wheels dragged by soldiers; cannon companies; and the infantry.

The 442nd RCT consisted of 1st Bn., the 100th, companies A, B, C, D;

Saburo Arthur Kitagawa served in the 1st Battalion of the 442nd, the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company D.

2nd Bn., companies E, F, G, H; 3rd Bn., companies J, K, L, M.

*6/26/44 the 442nd RCT is assigned to the Fifth Army, attached to the 34th Red Bull Div.

*7/9/44 the 100th occupies Leghorn (Livorno) and is directly under the command of the Fifth Army in Rome. Livorno is liberated 7/19/44, pushing the German Army north of the Arno River.

Sometime in July, 1944 Saburo was sidelined by dysentery (causing his weight to plummet from 150# to 118#) and malaria and sent to recover in a rest camp in Italy where he also recovered from gunshot and shrapnel wounds suffered in a dugout as an incoming artillery shell hit a sandbag, engulfing him in debris, dirt and smoke.

He rejoined the 442nd in Southern France and his unit fought successfully to liberate Bruyeres, Biffontaine and Belmont.

*8/14/44 the 100th Inf. Bn. is redesignated as the 100th Battalion of the 442nd Infantry.

*9/27/44 the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team leaves Naples for France.

*9/30/44 the 100th/442nd RCT is attached to the 36th Div., the Texas Div. of the Seventh Army at Epinal.

*10/15/44 the 100th/442nd RCT enters battle of Bruyeres in Vosges Mountains of northeast France. In 3 days of fighting, the 100th takes Hill A, 2nd Bn. takes Hill B and enters town, 2 days later, 100th takes Hill C. Bruyeres is liberated 10/18/44.

*10/25/44 the 100th/442nd RCT captures Biffontaine, earning the 2nd Presidential Unit Citation, also for the Rescue of the Lost Battalion.

10/27/44 Saburo Kitagawa was wounded in action in the forest of the Vosges Mountains in southeast France, just before the completion of the rescue of the "Lost Battalion". Hunkered down in a slit trench in the dense forest, a shell hit an overhanging branch and exploded, causing him serious shrapnel wounds.

*The rescue of the "Lost Battalion" – Texans of the 141st Rgmt., 1st Bn. of the 36th Division (Major General John E. Dahlquist, Commander of the 36th Div.), were ordered to clear a ridge deep in the Vosges Mountains but become trapped, surrounded by Germans near the German border, 2 miles east of Biffontaine, near Bruyeres. They were rescued in three days (10/25-28/44) by the 100th, at heavy expense of the rescuers. To rescue 211 of the 275 Texans, the 442nd suffered 710 (of 4500) wounded and 140 killed! Later, in a ceremony in Lepanges, northeast France, Maj. Gen. Dahlquist highly praised the heroism and sacrifice of the 442nd/100th, and before addressing them, was stunned to see just the remnants of the army, the few soldiers who remained after their brave rescue of the Texans.

After recovery in a hospital, Saburo requested and was granted assignment in a "non-combat" position, clerical work with the Office of Deputy Commander of European Theater, Commander and Inspector General's Section at a post in Paris, where he worked until returning to the USA.

3/45 Saburo A. Kitagawa - rank "Private, 1st Class"

4/45 Saburo Arthur Kitagawa attained rank "Technician Fifth Grade" (Technician = Corporal)

*4/5/45 The 442nd and 100th broke the "Gothic Line" in Italy, chasing German forces out of the mountains and into the Po Valley.

*4/29/45 The 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, the only Nisei unit to fight in Germany, helped liberate Dachau concentration camp and shot locks off the gates to the crematorium.

*5/2/45 the Third Reich surrenders, officially ending WWII in Europe.

*8/15/45 was Victory in Japan (VJ Day), signaling the end of WWII.

11/28/45 Saburo returned to the US aboard the USS Lejeune sailing from Le Havre, France, arriving in New York City, 12/6/45.

12/12/45 Saburo Arthur Kitagawa, 39 913 697, Technician Fifth Grade, Company D, 100th Infantry Battalion, Army of the United States, was honorably discharged at the Separation Center, Fort George G. Meade, MD, and arrived home to enjoy civilian life with his wife, Yori, still employed as a secretary in the US Dept. of the Interior, residing at 5203 Newport Avenue, Chevy Chase 15, MD, which became their first home together.

Saburo A. Kitagawa; ASN 39913697, T/5; Co. D, 100th Infantry Battalion which became the 1st Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, served as an infantryman in the heavy weapons unit, carrying machine guns and their 55# tripods, and mortars, enabled by his strength and build at 5'11" and 150#. He served 22 months in European Theatre of Operations, with the 100th Infantry Battalion, Co. D, from February, 1944 through October, 1944. His unit successfully fought at Anzio and Monte Cassino, Italy and was part of the group that liberated Rome, as well as Bruyeres, Biffontaine, and Belmont in France.

Saburo participated in 4 campaign battles:

Rome-Arno Campaign, January 22 to September 9, 1944

Southern France Campaign, August 14 – September 15, 1944

North Appenines Campaign, September 10 – 27, 1944

Rhineland Campaign, September 15, 1944

Battle of Bruyeres, France, October 15 – 18, 1944

Biffontaine was liberated by 100th Bn. 10/23/44; Belmont was also liberated by 100th Bn.;

Rescue of the "Lost Battalion" Texans of 141st Inf. Rgmt. 36th Div. took place, 10/25-28/44.

Northern Appenines – Po River Campaign

Rhineland Campaign, September 15, 1944 – March 21, 1945

Saburo Arthur Kitagawa earned and received the following citations:

Bronze Star Medal - awarded 9/9/48 "For meritorious achievement in ground operations against the enemy" during the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, in the Rome-Arno Campaign. Participated in heavy combat in the storming of the German occupied Benedictine Abbey at Monte Cassino, Italy. Bronze star engraved on reverse: Saburo A. Kitagawa.

Ribbon bar pin and small enameled bar pin included.

Purple Heart Medals, 10/27/44 for combat wounds suffered in Vosges Mountains, France.

Also wounded in combat in Italy, Monte Cassino region, 4/44.

2 ribbon bar pins and 2 small enameled bar pins included.

Combat Infantryman Badge, received 7/44, awarded 7/8/48. (long, rectangular metal pin with rifle on blue background, central open laurel wreath in background)

Good Conduct Medal - ribbon bar pin and small enameled bar pin included.

European-African-Middle Eastern ribbon bar pin with 4 bronze battle participation stars:

Rome-Arno Campaign (1/22 to 9/9/44); Southern France Campaign (8/14 to 9/15/44);

North Appenines Campaign (9/10-27/44); and Rhineland Campaign (9/15/44 to 3/21/45).

Entitled to European-African-Middle Eastern medal as well, but receipt delayed.

Ribbon bar pin's vertical colored stripes signify (left to right): sands of North African desert, Italy, Forests of Europe, USA, Forests of Europe, Germany, sands of North African desert.

World War II victory ribbon Entitled to World War II Victory medal as well, but receipt delayed.

Presidential Unit 3rd Citation with clusters (small gold framed blue rectangles with oak leaves):

Presidential Unit Citation with one oak leaf cluster

Distinguished Unit Citation with two oak leaf clusters

WWII Star Military Service pin - small cloisonne enameled rectangular pin with central star

French Legion of Honor medal "Chevalier" (of the Legion of Honor) awarded 3/26/14, at the

French Embassy in Washington, DC, 70 years after Sab fought on French soil in October, 1944.

Marksmanship pin with proficiency in pistol, carbine, machine gun

Expert Rifleman pin with proficiency as expert, smallbore, rifle

US Army pins - round bronze pins

Infantry pin with crossed rifles - round bronze pin

Ruptured Duck Honorable Discharge pin

Congressional Gold Medal – *Congress’ highest civilian award (authorized by President Obama signing S. 1055 into law), awarded collectively to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service of the US Army in recognition of their dedicated service during WWII - in a ceremony in Washington, DC 11/2/11

Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Saburo in a Chicago ceremony 4/22/12 together with Quilt of Honor presentation to each veteran attending the veterans’ celebration and to accommodate the “overflow” response from the Washington, DC award ceremony, 11/2/11.

Patches earned:

Technician Fifth Grade rank with 2 stripes - patch with 2 chevron stripes above a “T”
Square patch consisting of 4 horizontal bars, representing participation in 4 battles
“Go For Broke” - motto and insignia of the 442nd - red, white and blue patch with upraised arm grasping a torch

European Headquarters for Allied Forces - eagle surrounded by stars

European Theater of Operations – Army Advanced Base - lightning bolt under star

77th Inf. Div. patch - gold Statue of Liberty (homage to NYC roots) on dark blue background

Ruptured Duck Honorable Discharge ribbon patch

*7/15/46 In a ceremony on the White House Ellipse, to honor and recognize the heroism of the returning soldiers of the 442nd and 100th, President Harry S. Truman saluted them, stating, “You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice – and you have won.”

In their 20 months of combat service before the war’s end, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team successfully fought in seven major military campaigns. The 10,000 soldiers of the two groups were awarded 18,000 individual decorations, making the 442nd as a whole, the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the US. They embodied their motto, “Go For Broke” (from the Hawaiian craps game slang “shoot the works”, “give it your all”).

Meanwhile, as the internment camps were dismantled, each internee was given \$25 and a one way ticket “home”.

2/46 – 9/46 Sab worked at The Pentagon and left to attend George Washington University.

10/46 – 7/49 Sab was employed at National Catholic Community Service while attending George Washington University.

Saburo attended George Washington University on the GI Bill, as a political science major hoping for a Foreign Service career. He received an Associates in Arts degree, 5/26/48 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government, at the School of Government’s convocation 11/11/49.

11/49 – 8/59 Sab found employment as an Administrative Secretary to the founder of Turover Lumber Company, Bethesda, MD.

Art and Yori welcomed the first of their four children, daughter Katherine Misa (1950), followed by daughter Ellen Sayo (1952) and sons Martin Akashi (1954) and Ronald Hiroshi (1960), all born in Washington, DC except Ronald, born in Wynnewood, PA near Philadelphia.

8/59 The Kitagawa family moved from Silver Spring, MD to Ardmore, PA

After Yori passed away 10/1995, Art continued to live there until 9/2007.

8/59 – 9/65 Sab was employed as a Personnel/Office Manager at Jerrold Electronics, Philadelphia, PA, a company founded by Milton J. Shapp (who would later become Governor of PA 1971-1979). Jerrold Electronics was a company that manufactured and installed amplifiers and boosters for cable systems. Interestingly, Milton's (future) wife, Muriel (Matzkin) had been hired as a biology teacher at Topaz High School, at the internment camp in UT, but was needed as a physical education teacher instead. One of her students was Sab's sister, Naomi, who graduated high school, class of 1945. Yori first met Muriel in Washington, DC where they were co-workers at the War Relocation Office, Department of the Interior, and became life-long friends. The Shapp's lived in Merion Station, a neighboring community to Ardmore. Muriel's husband, Milton offered Saburo a job at Jerrold and the four of them shared a long, close friendship for decades.

1968 Yori was employed as an accounting clerk in the Treasurer's Office of St. Joseph's University's Evening College, Philadelphia, PA, and later as a secretary at St. Ignatius Nursing Home in Philadelphia, PA.

Yori was a busy mother, raising 4 children but made time for her passion, gardening, and found time to sew, crochet and knit, take up the guitar, jog, learn tap dancing (even after her Parkinson's disease diagnosis in 1987), and was a fabulous cook and baker, famed for her scrumptious Christmas "finger" cookies (Russian tea cookies). The generous bounty of her meals was not lost on John, her future son-in-law who marveled at the 46 fried chicken pieces for 4 people, his first time at their dinner table! She worshiped with her husband and children as faithful stewards and eager volunteers for any missions of their beloved church, St. James United Church of Christ in Havertown, PA., which also promoted many close, lasting friendships, and volunteered with the Delaware County Chapter Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity. Yori was beloved by all for her generous heart and kindness and her ever-present beautiful smile. Art was known to be a "man of few words", but his family and friends knew they were securely loved and valued. Art and Yori loved music, especially classical music and listened to it through the radio and by attending concerts, and encouraged all their children to embrace it as well and learn an instrument or two! They never missed a recital, academic or sporting event of their children. They enjoyed cross country driving trips (3000 miles each way!) with their four children, visiting interesting, historic sites and national parks along the way, before reuniting with family and friends in their hometown, San Francisco, CA! The family enjoyed traveling from Ardmore to visit and hike at Hawk Mountain, Kempton, PA for decades, long before it was popularized as an official bird sanctuary, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

They were thrilled to become "Baa-chan" and "Jii-chan" to their two adored grandchildren, Timothy Hisao Shapiro (1984) and Rachel Kitagawa Shapiro (1987).

Art and Yori embodied the spirit of "enryo" (humility), "gaman" (to persevere with dignity), and "shikataganai" (it can't be helped, it can't be undone) in not burdening their children until

they reached high school age, with their personal history (and that of all west coast Japanese Americans) after Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor, when mass hysteria caused 120,000 innocent Japanese Americans, 2/3 of them US citizens, humiliating discrimination and distrust, resulting in grossly unjust wartime "evacuation" from their lives and homes into primitive concentration camps far away from the west coast and the lives they had known and nurtured and the future they had anticipated. Art and Yori were young adults at the time of the upheaval, just beginning their lives away from their parents and families.

Though they could not speak about these past painful injustices, they insisted that their children be known as Japanese American citizens, and rightfully proud to exist as any other citizen living in the United States of America. Art would rarely speak about his military service.

Art and Yori's family were the only one to remain on the east coast, while all their families eventually returned to the San Francisco Bay Area, CA after Topaz closed in October, 1945. Though they were a family in the great minority living in Ardmore, PA, Art and Yori were active members of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and socialized with other Japanese Americans in the Philadelphia area and kept up close friendships and enjoyed some Japanese traditions, including sharing traditional Japanese foods, with their many Washington, DC friends, as well as their families and childhood friends in San Francisco, CA.

9/65 – 9/69 Art became an Administrative Assistant at Kelly Girl Agency (which offers temporary office help), Phila., PA.

9/69 – 3/87 Art was Executive Administrative Assistant at Davis Advertising Agency, 1528 Walnut Street, Phila., PA, retiring after Yori's Parkinson's disease diagnosis.

* Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (from Public Law 100-383) was signed into law, granting "redress" of \$20,000 and a formal presidential apology by President Ronald Reagan to every surviving US citizen or legal resident immigrant of Japanese ancestry for their wrongful incarceration during World War II. Payouts began in 1990 and by 1992, Art and Yori were among the 82,000 affected Japanese Americans to receive the monetary award.

10/19/1995 – Yori passed away at age 74 from complications of Parkinson's Disease.

9/2007 – 7/2016 Art resided at Ann's Choice Retirement Community in Warminster, PA after living in Ardmore, PA for 48 years.

7/19/2016 Art passed away at age 95 from complications of a stroke suffered in 2/2015.

8/1/2016 Saburo Arthur Kitagawa received a military service with honors, with inurnment together with Yori's ashes in Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, PA.

Art and Yori were life-long Christians and lived their religion, helping anyone in need and always treating people as they wished to be treated. Humility (Japanese term "enryo") was a hallmark of their life. They shunned the spotlight, feeling most comfortable contributing and working hard behind the scenes. Art served as a Deacon and Treasurer at St. James United Church of Christ in Havertown, PA. He and Yori volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, and (Art) Boy Scouts of America. Art's interests were deep sea fishing, cooking and eating, preparing and serving the delicious fish he caught, grilling teriyaki meat sticks for friends and family parties, preparing the Thanksgiving turkey - complete with scrumptious giblet gravy, making pancakes for family Sunday breakfast, being able to fix anything and everything around the house, playing bridge and poker, bowling, tennis, crossword puzzles, reading The Philadelphia Inquirer in its entirety, cross-country driving trips with the family, vegetable

gardening, doting on his cat, Buster, and cheering for the Phillies and Eagles. Yori remained a diehard St. Joe's Hawks fan as well as avid cheerleader for her family and beloved friends. He and Yori enjoyed traveling with Elderhostel, after Art's retirement in 1987 and eagerly attended sports events, academic, music and school ceremonies of their two beloved grandchildren, Timothy and Rachel Shapiro. After Yori's passing in 1995, Art attended with great admiration, pride and love, numerous classical chamber music performances of his gifted granddaughter, Rachel Kitagawa Shapiro, a professional violinist and founding member of the critically acclaimed Aeolus Quartet, now living in Brooklyn, NY. She is also a talented visual artist. He was extremely proud of the stellar achievements of his grandson, Timothy Hisao Shapiro, who fell in love with his grandparents' hometown, the San Francisco Bay Area while attending law school and now resides and works in Palo Alto, CA, as a respected, successful corporate tax attorney.