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Rohwer Soldier Gets Commission On Battlefield

ROHWER—S-Sgt. James H. Kurata, whose parents live in the relocation center here, was recently commissioned a second lieutenant on the battlefield somewhere in France.

The 26-year-old Japanese-American won the battlefield promotion for his sterling work with the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 442nd Combat Team, during its drive with the 36th "Texas" Division in the Seventh Army's push through the Vosges mountains of northeastern France last fall.

It was during the bitter fighting in the Vosges that the combat team made the heroic rescue of the "lost battalion" in the thickly wooded forests near Bruyeres.

In Italy, Lt. Kurata's unit, then attached to the famed 34th "Red Bull" Division of Lt. Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army, fought in the Allied drive from north of Rome to and across the Arno River.

Lt. Kurata, a native of Lodi, Calif., graduated in 1937 from Lodi Union High School, where he starred two years in football and was an honor student.

Following a few years as a farm laborer, he enrolled in 1940 as an engineering student at the College of Pacific, where he studied till his induction into the Army at Sacramento in September, 1941. While he was undergoing basic training, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenji Kurata, along with 110,000 other Japanese-Americans, were evacuated from the West Coast.

Lt. Kurata has two other brothers in the service: Pvt. Fred Kurata, also with the 442nd Combat Team in France, and Pvt. Joe Kurata in Camp Croft, S. C.