



Persephone Wilson (SFSU 2020)

100th Infantry Battalion (1942-46)

In 1942, the Hawaiian Provisional Infantry Battalion, comprised mostly of Japanese Americans, was activated in the Territory of Hawai‘i. They were renamed the 100th Infantry Battalion after being transferred to mainland United States. The 100th was deployed in 1943 to Europe, where they became known as the “Purple Heart Battalion” and received two Distinguished Unit Citations. In 1944, they formally joined with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and together, they were called the 100/442. The unit was inactivated in 1946. More than 1,400 nisei served on the 100th.

The Distinguished Unit Insignia of the 100th contains their motto, “Remember Pearl Harbor” as a reminder of why the men were fighting. The leaf symbolizes protection in Hawaiian culture and the Hawaiian chieftain helmet symbolizes strength and valor.