



Persephone Wilson (SFSU 2020)

### **442<sup>nd</sup> REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM (1943-46)**

The 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regimental Combat Team was activated in 1943, comprised mainly of Japanese Americans whose families were still held in America's ten internment camps. Most volunteered to prove their loyalty to the United States. After a year of training, they were deployed to Europe and joined the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion already in Italy. The two formally merged in 1944, called the 100/442. When they were inactivated in 1946, about 18,000 nisei had served and they were the most decorated unit in US military history with 14,000 awards.

The Distinctive Unit Insignia of the 442<sup>nd</sup> contains the "Go for Broke" motto, a slang used by Hawaiian gamblers to mean "wager everything." The leaf represents protection in Hawaiian culture and the Mississippi River steamboat symbolizes Camp Shelby, the site of their activation and training.