

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1944.

PFC. OMIYO PROVES HIS AMERICANISM

**Soldier of Japanese Descent
Back Blinded After Brave
Role in Italian Fighting**

A NEAST COAST PORT, Jan. 17 (UE) — Pfc. Hoshinoo Omiya of Honolulu, a Japanese-American who fought bravely until both eyes were blown out by a land mine, was among those wounded of the Tunisian, Sicilian and Italian campaigns who have been flown from this port to the Memphis General Hospital by the troop carrier command of the Army Air Forces.

Private Omiya's parents were Japanese. His father is dead but his mother and two sisters are waiting anxiously for him to return home. He entered the Army before Pearl Harbor. He is 24 years old and his comrades call him "Turtle."

With a smile, he told of his days at McKinley High School and of his interest in sports.

Then, after a pause, he told about advancing with his machine-gun platoon after crossing the Volturno River. He said the first man in the column tripped over a wire which set off a land mine. Private Omiya was the fourth man in the column and the blast caught him full in the face. The first man in the column received only slight scratches.

Most of Private Omiya's time is spent listening to the radio.

More than 500 casualties have been moved by air from this port. In the transfers there was not so much as a case of air sickness.

Some men took seats on the C-47 cargo planes while the more seriously wounded were placed on litters. Many slept through most of their trip. The ride was pleasant and smooth.

The men transferred to Memphis were accompanied by Lieut. Col. George K. Lewis, a surgeon, and two flight nurses.