

26 October 1944

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army (Thru: Commanding Officer,  
442d Infantry Regiment.)

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, it is recommended that TAKASHI KUSUNOKI, 30104561, Private First Class, Company A, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment, be awarded the Bronze Star for valorous conduct in combat.

2. On 22 October 1944, two hours after the town of Belmont, France was captured, the third platoon of Company A, 100th Battalion, which was then a part of the task force that entered Belmont, was assigned the mission of establishing a route to the portion of the 100th Battalion believed entrapped in the vicinity of Biffontaine. For this mission the platoon was given the aid of five light tanks and mounting them, they started out from Belmont on a mountain trail leading to Biffontaine. About 1500 yards out of Belmont, they encountered heavy enemy small arms fire from well dug-in positions on both sides of the trail. The platoon could have dismounted at this point, but they chose to remain on the tanks and rode through a hail of fire including rifle, machine gun and other automatic arms fire, bazooka and anti-tank grenades. Private First Class Kusunoki and the other men in the platoon, despite intense enemy fire, manned their individual arms and the machine guns on the tanks' turrets and returned fire as best they could. In the fire-fight that lasted for a distance of a half-a-mile, in which four of our men were knocked off the tanks by enemy fire, considerable casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The courageous action of Private First Class Kusunoki and his comrades in neutralizing a considerably portion of the intense enemy fire, enabled the tanks to reach friendly forces with its crew intact. When the trail became too narrow for tanks, the platoon dismounted and plodded on on foot late into the night, stubbornly determined to establish the all-important contact with the encircled forces of its unit. The subsequent establishment of contact between the besieged forces and the rest of the Battalion may be credited to Private First Class Kusunoki and the rest of the platoon who braved point-blank enemy fire to reach their objective.

3. The following information is submitted:
- Character of terrain: Wooded trail.
  - Hostile observation: Excellent--our troops on tanks in full view of the enemy in well dug-in positions on both sides of trail
  - Visibility: Good during day: Poor at night.
  - Character of enemy fire: Machine gun, rifle, machine pistol, bazooka, and anti-tank grenades.
  - Morale of our troops: Excellent; Of the enemy: Good.
  - Effects of deed: Established vital contact between entrapped forces and its unit.

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4. I have personal knowledge of this deed.
5. Rank and organization at the time of the incident: Private First Class, Company A, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment.  
Rank and organization at the present time: Same
6. The entire subsequent service of Private First Class Kusunoki has been honorable.
7. Previous awards: None.
8. TAKASHI KUSUNOKI, Private First Class, 30104561, Company A, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment. For valorous conduct in combat. When the third platoon of Company A was assigned the mission of establishing contact with some forces of the 100th Battalion believed to be entrapped in the vicinity of Biffontaine, Private First Class Kusunoki and his comrades mounted the five light tanks assigned them for the hazardous mission and started for their objective. Encountering a hail of enemy fire including rifle, automatic arms and bazooka fire and anti-tank grenades from well dug-in positions on both sides of the trail, Private First Class Kusunoki and the rest of the platoon fearlessly returned fire with their individual weapons and the machine guns emplaced on the tanks, thus neutralizing a considerable portion of the concentrated fire and enabling the tanks to reach friendly forces. Private First Class Kusunoki's conspicuous gallantry, fearless determination and disregard for personal safety which contributed immeasurably to the subsequent establishment of the vital contact between the Battalion and its encircled forces, reflect credit on the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Waipahu, Oahu, T.H.

*David Novack*  
DAVID NOVACK  
2d Lt, Infantry  
Platoon Leader

1st Ind. SK/s  
Company A, 100th Bn, 442d Inf Regt, APO 758, U.S. Army 26 October 1944.  
To: Commanding Officer, 100th Bn, 442d Inf Regt.

Approved.

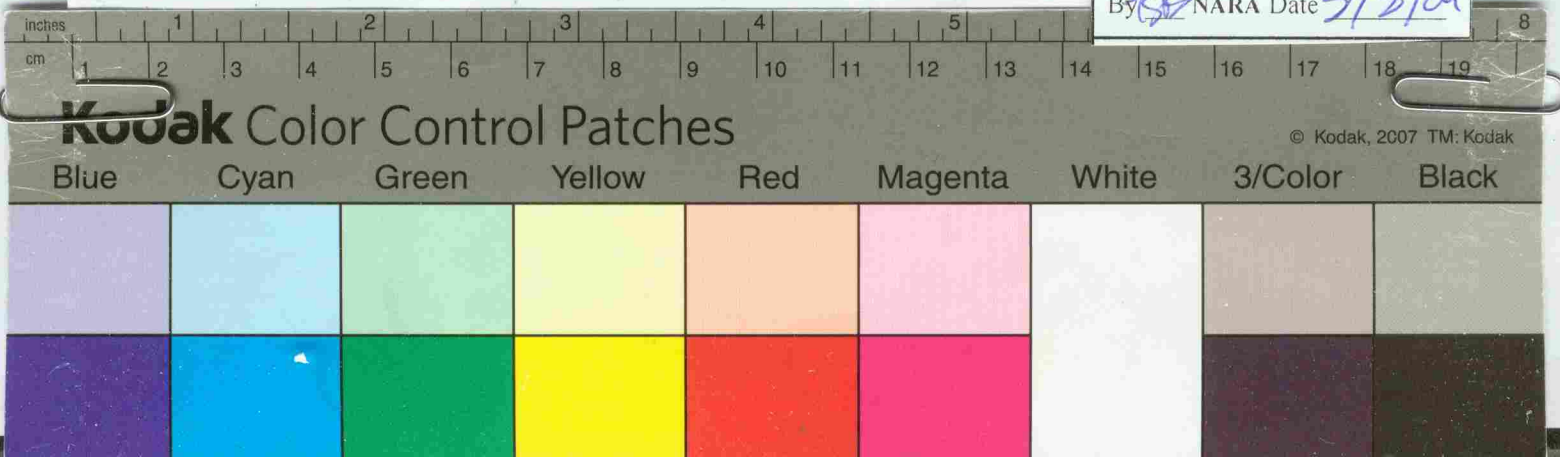
*Sadami Katakara*  
SADAMI KATAHARA  
1st Lt, Infantry  
Commanding.

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Hq 100th Bn, 442d Inf Regt, APO 758, U.S. Army 27 October 1944.

2d Ind.

GS/s

To: Commanding Officer, 442d Inf Regt

Approved.

*Gordon Singles*  
GORDON SINGLES  
Lt Col, Infantry  
Commanding.

201 - Kusunoki, Takashi (Enl) 3d Ind. CWP/gjt  
HEADQUARTERS 442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, APO 758, U. S. Army,  
24 November 1944.

To: Commanding General, 44th A.A.A. Brigade, APO 758,  
U.S. Army

Approved.

*C. W. Pence*  
C. W. PENCE,  
Colonel, 442d Infantry,  
Commanding.

200.6- Kusunoki, Takashi (Enl) 4th Ind. RCT/gfw  
HEADQUARTERS, 44TH AAA BRIGADE, APO 758, U. S. Army, 30 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Sixth Army Group, APO 23, U. S. Army.

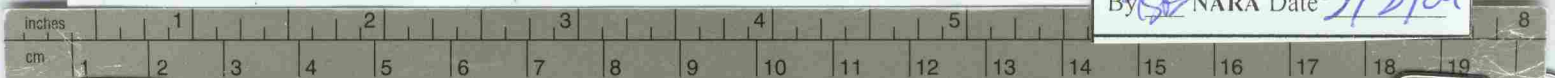
Approved.

*Ralph C. Tobin*  
RALPH C. TOBIN,  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Commanding.

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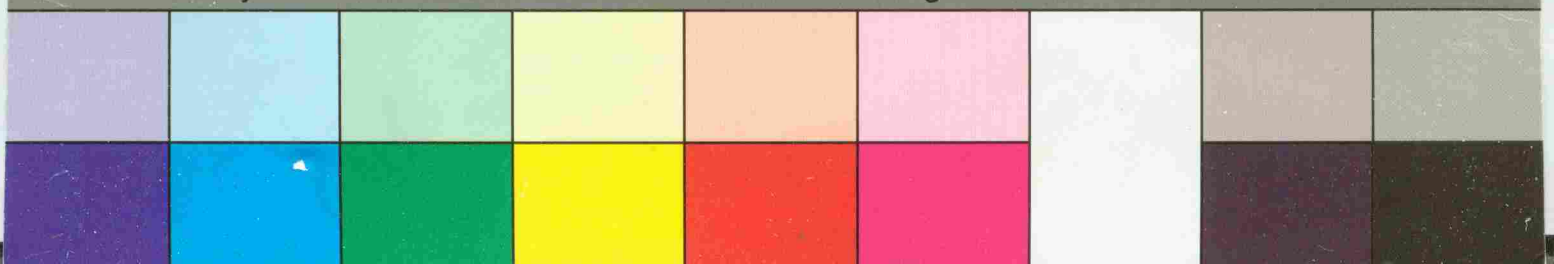
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CITATION FOR BRONZE STAR MEDAL

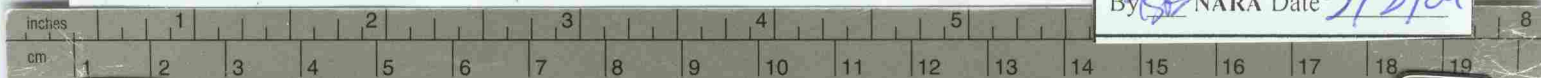
TAKASHI KUSUNOKI, 30104561, Private First Class, Company "A", 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement on 22 October 1944. Directed to establish contact with elements of their battalion entrapped in the vicinity of Biffontaine, France, Private First Class Kusunoki and his comrades started for their objective mounted on five light tanks. Encountering a hail of fire from well dug-in enemy positions on the road, Private First Class Kusunoki and the rest of the platoon fearlessly resisted with their individual weapons and the machine guns emplaced on the tanks, neutralized a considerable portion of the concentrated fire and enabled the tanks to reach friendly forces. By his heroic disregard for personal safety, Private First Class Kusunoki contributed immeasurably to the subsequent attainment of the objective and reflects honor upon the United States Army. Entered the service from Waipahu, Oahu, T. H.



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