

CONFIDENTIAL

COMPANY "C" 100TH BN 442D INFANTRY REGIMENT  
APO 758, U.S. ARMY

4 November 1944

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U.S. Army  
(Thru: Commanding Officer, 442d Inf Regt)

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, it is recommended that KOICHI K. SEKIMURA, 30103033, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C 100th Bn 442d Inf Regt, be awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

2. On the attack of Biffontaine, France, on 22 October 1944, Pfc Sekimura, exhibited outstanding courage and initiative in clearing a house of enemy riflemen. When Company C was engaged in a fierce house-to-house fight in the town of Biffontaine with an enemy stubbornly determined to hold the town, a platoon of which Pfc Sekimura was a member was denied advancement by automatic and rifle fire from a building a short distance down the street. On his own initiative Pfc Sekimura crept up to the building by hugging the walls lining the street and attempted to reach the open window when a machine pistol opened fire on him, missing him by inches. He dove for the ground, then dashed around the corner of the building for cover. He then pulled the pins of two fragmentation grenades and tossed them into the enemy-occupied room through the open window and returned to his platoon under cover of the adjacent buildings. The grenades caused the enemy to withdraw from the house, leaving three wounded. Pfc Sekimura and his squad advanced and occupied the building and set up a strong-point in preparation for the counter-attack. When the counter-attack finally came that night, Pfc Sekimura remained at his post through the fierce enemy fire which included anti-tank gun fire, and he and his men successfully repulsed the enemy attack, thus contributing immeasurably to the company's subsequent success in capturing the town of Biffontaine.

3. The following information is submitted:

- a. Character of terrain: A small French village.
- b. Hostile observation: Good observation in broad daylight.
- c. Proximity of enemy: Enemy in buildings within 25 yards.
- d. Visibility: Good in spite of rain.
- e. Morale of our troops: Good. Of the Enemy: Good.
- f. Results of deed in question: Contributed to the company's subsequent capture of the town by neutralizing an enemy strongpoint.

4. I have personal knowledge of the above incident.

5. Rank and organization at the time of incident: Private First Class, Company C 100th Bn 442d Inf Regt.

6. The entire subsequent service of the individual recommended has been honorable.

7. Previous awards: None.

SEKIMURA - K.K.

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By AR NARA Date 8-11-00

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8. PROPOSED CITATION:

KOICHI K. SEKIMURA, 30103033, Private First Class, Company C 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action on 22 October 1944 in the town of Biffontaine, France. When his platoon was denied advancement by the enemy emplaced in a building well-armed with automatic weapons and rifles in the fight for the town of Biffontaine, Pfc Sekimura advanced alone by utilizing what cover the walls lining the street offered and crept up to the enemy-occupied building. Though fired upon by an enemy sniper armed with a machine pistol, he utilized the corner of the building for cover while he pulled the pins of two fragmentation grenades and tossed them into the enemy-occupied room through an open window and returned to his platoon under cover of the adjacent buildings. Pfc Sekimura's courageous action in advancing alone to the enemy-occupied building and tossing the grenades that wounded three and caused the enemy to abandon that strongpoint contributed immeasurably to the company's subsequent occupation of the town. Pfc Sekimura's display of complete disregard for personal safety, fearless determination and conspicuous courage is a credit to the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Hilo, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii.

*Walter F. Johnston*

WALTER F. JOHNSTON  
1st Lt, Infantry  
Commanding.

1st Ind.

Company C 100th Bn 442d Inf Regt, APO 758, U.S. Army. 4 November 1944

To: Commanding Officer, 100th Bn 442d Inf Regt

Approved.

*Walter F. Johnston*

WALTER F. JOHNSTON  
1st Lt, Infantry  
Commanding.

2d Ind.

Hq 100th Bn 442d Inf Regt, APO 758, U.S. Army. 5 November 1944

To: Commanding Officer, 442d Inf Regt

Approved.

*Alex E. McKenzie*

ALEX E. MCKENZIE  
Major, Infantry  
Commanding.

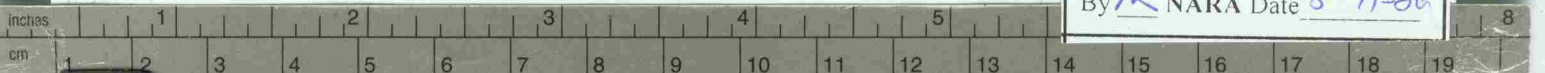
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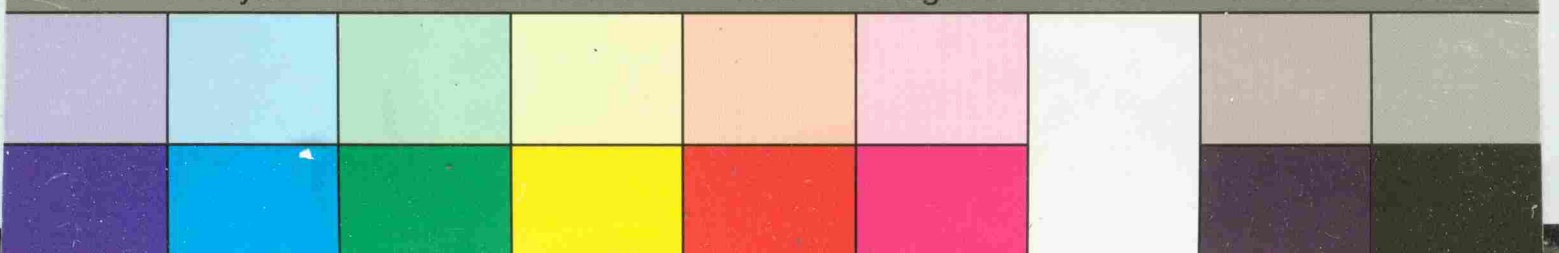
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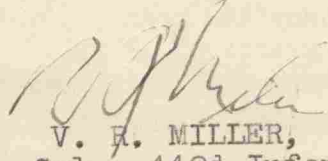




201- Sekimura, Koichi K. (Enl) 3d Ind. VRM/h  
HEADQUARTERS 442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, APO #758, U. S. Army,  
22 November 1944.

TO: Commanding Genral, Seventh Army, Rear Echelon,  
APO #758, U. S. Army.

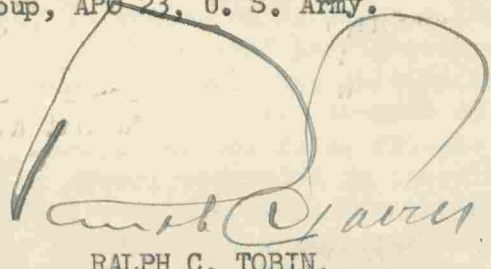
Approved.

  
V. R. MILLER,  
Lt. Col., 442d Infantry,  
Commanding.

200.6- Sekimura, Koichi K. 4th Ind. RCT/gfw  
HEADQUARTERS, 44TH AAA BRIGADE, APO 758, U. S. Army, 27 November 1944.

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

Approved.

  
RALPH C. TOBIN,  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Commanding.

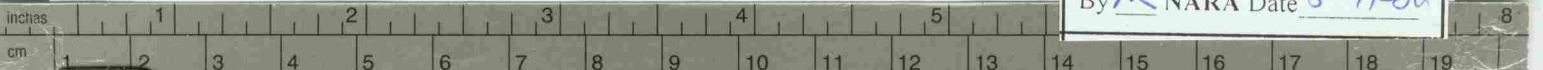
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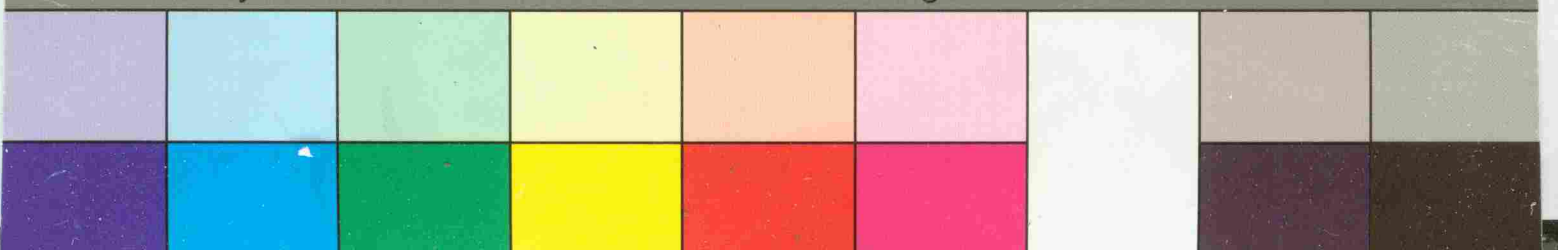
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10 December 1944  
(Date)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF OFFICERS

Pursuant to paragraph 2, Special Orders Number 36, this headquarters, dated 7 November 1944, the Awards and Decorations Board met at Headquarters Sixth Army Group on 9 December 1944 for the purpose of reviewing the recommendation for the award of the Silver Star to PFC Koichi K. Sekimura, 30103033, Company "C", 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment.

FINDINGS

The board having carefully considered the evidence before it, finds that the recommendation (justifies) (~~does not justify~~) the award of the Silver Star and recommends its approval with the following citation:

KOICHI K. SEKIMURA, 30103033, Private First Class, Company "C", 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 October 1944 in the town of Biffontaine, France. When his platoon, engaged in fierce house to house fighting, was denied advancement by the enemy in a building well-defended with automatic weapons and rifles, Private Sekimura voluntarily advanced on the enemy occupied building. Although under heavy machine pistol fire, Private Sekimura, utilizing the corner of a building for cover, succeeded in throwing two fragmentation grenades into the enemy occupied position, wounding three, causing the abandonment of the structure by the enemy, and thereby contributed immeasurably to the subsequent occupation of the town. Entered service from Hilo, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii.

William R. Watson  
Col. Member 198

Member

F R Fuller, Col. Inf.  
President

J Hitting Col  
Member

A J. Smith  
Recorder Capt. 1944

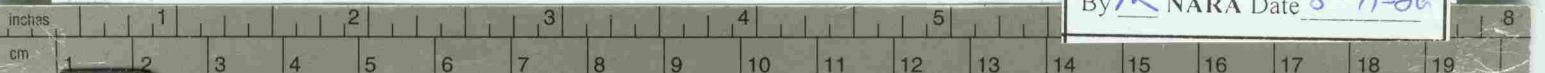
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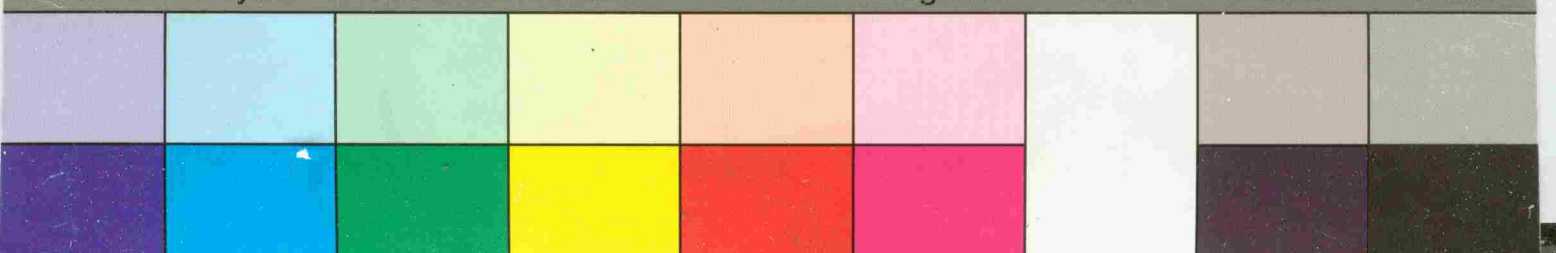
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gave them first aid. Without regard for his own safety he personally undertook the removal of most of the mines from the area through which the wounded men had to be evacuated and, while thus engaged, was himself wounded by an exploding mine. Disregarding his wounds and using an improvised stretcher, he effected the evacuation of the men from the mined area until a second explosion blew off his right foot and further wounded him. Refusing help from the others for fear of having them set off more mines, Lieutenant Mahon tended to himself and crawled thirty yards until clear of the infested area. Entered the service from Waterford, Pennsylvania.

201-4  
SEKIMURA-K.K.  
KOICHI K. SEKIMURA, 30103033, Private First Class, Company "C", \*\*\* Battalion, \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 October 1944, in the town of Biffontaine, France. When his platoon, engaged in fierce house-to-house fighting, was denied advancement by the enemy in a building well defended with automatic weapons and rifles, Private Sekimura voluntarily advanced on the enemy-occupied building. Although under heavy machine pistol fire, Private Sekimura, utilizing the corner of a building for cover, succeeded in throwing two fragmentation grenades into the enemy-occupied position, wounding three, causing the abandonment of the structure by the enemy, and thereby contributed immeasurably to the subsequent occupation of the town. Entered the service from Hilo, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii.

IV -- AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended the Bronze Star Medal is awarded by the Army Group Commander to the following named individuals:

ROBERT M. AKITA, 39914554, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in combat, on 20 October 1944, in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France. During an attack on enemy positions by two of the battalion's companies, all wire communications were cut by the enemy barrages, leaving only the radio, operated by Sergeant Akita, as a means of contact between the two companies. Despite the heavy enemy fire which was directed in his immediate vicinity, Sergeant Akita stubbornly remained at his post and was directly responsible for the excellent coordination of the two attacking units. Entered the service from Salt Lake City, Utah.

THOMAS R. KINCH, M 106249, Private, Canadian Army, Fourth Company, Second Regiment, \*\*\* Special Service Force, for heroic achievement in action against the enemy, near Valmontone, Italy, on 29-30 May 1944. Prevented by enemy outposts and patrols from completing a night mission of obtaining vital enemy intelligence, Private Kinch volunteered to remain with his leader, hide in a neighboring wheat-field during the day, and return with the necessary information the following night. Although subjected to enemy, as well as friendly artillery fire during the entire day, he remained with his group, returning the following night with information which prevented an enemy counter-attack and also materially aided in his unit's offensive against the enemy. Entered the service from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

V -- AWARD OF THE SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal is awarded by the Army Group Commander to the following named individual, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight:

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(over)

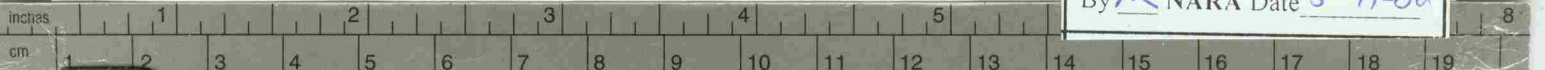
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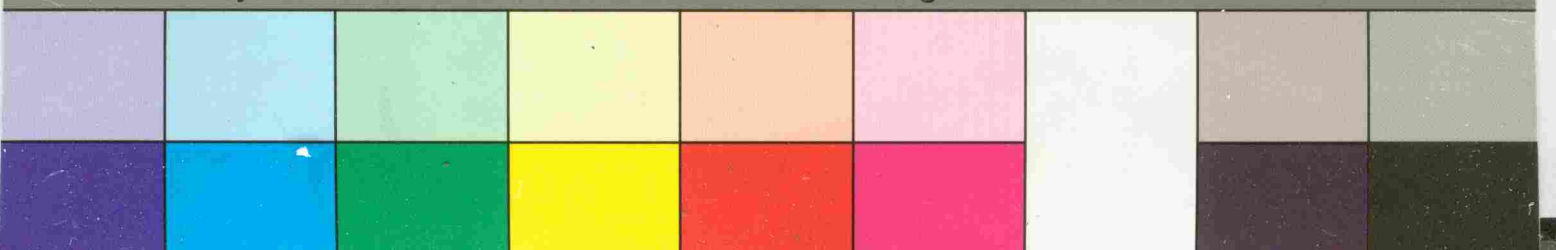
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# CITATION FOR SILVER STAR

KOICHI K. SEKIMURA, 30103033, Private First Class, Company "C", 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 October 1944, in the town of Biffontaine, France. When his platoon, engaged in fierce house-to-house fighting, was denied advancement by the enemy in a building well defended with automatic weapons and rifles, Private Sekimura voluntarily advanced on the enemy-occupied building. Although under heavy machine pistol fire, Private Sekimura, utilizing the corner of a building for cover, succeeded in throwing two fragmentation grenades into the enemy-occupied position, wounding three, causing the abandonment of the structure by the enemy, and thereby contributed immeasurably to the subsequent occupation of the town. Entered service from Hilo, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii.

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