

CONFIDENTIAL

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

5 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 MASANAO OTAKE, 01703069, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment, be awarded (posthumously) the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

2. On the attack of Hill 578, on 17 October 1944, in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France, Lt Masanao Otake, one of the platoon leaders of Company C, led his eight riflemen across a hundred yards of open flat ground in the attack on a building occupied by the enemy. To attack the enemy-occupied farmhouse, it was necessary to advance over a flat terrain almost completely lacking in cover or concealment and covered by three machine gun positions reinforced by machine pistols and rifles emplaced on the hillside overlooking the field between Lt Otake's men and their objective. Ordering his men to follow him, he dashed out into the open field. Inspired by his example his men immediately followed him. Lt Otake and his men fired at the enemy emplacements on the hill-slope and the enemy-occupied building as they dashed across the field and "hit the ground" at intervals while the enemy fired at them. The enemy force, estimated at five men, abandoned the farmhouse when they were subjected to the small arms fire. By "leaping frog" Lt Otake and his eight men force finally succeeded in reaching the farmhouse, but it now found itself cut off from the rest of the battalion. Observing that Lt Otake and his men were in a vulnerable position the enemy of a platoon strength launched a determined attack on the farmhouse. Though greatly out-numbered, Lt Otake urged his men to hold on to their hard-earned position. Inspired by his gallant spirit, his men were able to repulse the hostile threat, but Lt Otake was mortally wounded in the action by several machine pistol bullets and died a short while later. His heroic action in leading his men across the hundred yards of open terrain covered by three machine guns, and in capturing and defending the enemy-occupied farmhouse, secured the Battalion's left flank as it attacked Hill 578.

3. The following information is submitted:

- a. Character of terrain: A flat open field, almost completely lacking cover or concealment.
- b. Enemy observation: Good in broad daylight.
- c. Proximity of enemy: Enemy machine gun nests and snipers emplaced at vantage points on hillside overlooking open pasture. Enemy advanced to within 50 yards of friendly position at one time.
- d. Morale of our troops: Good. Of the enemy: good.
- e. Effects of deed: Secured the Battalion's left flank thereby contributing to the unit's success in capturing the hill.

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By KJ NARA Date 08/14/99

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- f. Hill 578 which was the Battalion objective was defended by 12 machine guns and supporting weapons. Lt Otake and his men absorbed three of the 12 machine guns by occupying the farmhouse.
4. I have personal knowledge of the incident described above.
5. Rank and organization at the time of the incident: Second Lieutenant, Company C 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment.
6. The entire service of the individual recommended has been honorable.
7. Previous awards: Silver Star (GO 40, Hq 34th Inf Div, 23 May 44)
8. PROPOSED CITATION: (Posthumous)

MASANAO OTAKE, 01703069, Second Lieutenant, Company C 100th Bn 442d Inf Regt. For gallantry in action on 17 October 1944 in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France. In the 100th Battalion's attack on Hill 578, it became necessary to send some riflemen to an isolated farmhouse situated on flat open ground to secure the Battalion's left flank. Lt Otake, who was assigned the task of leading a squad of eight men to capture the enemy-occupied farmhouse, dashed out toward the building, running through a hundred yards of open field covered by three machine guns and other small arms. Inspired by his example, his men immediately followed him. While the enemy fired at them, Lt Otake and his men advanced on the enemy-occupied farmhouse and captured it after a brief fire-fight. When a platoon of enemy troops returned to re-occupy the building Lt Otake led his squad in a fierce fire-fight to defend their position. Though our squad was able to repulse the hostile threat, Lt Otake was mortally wounded in the action and died a short while later. Lt Otake's complete disregard for personal safety, his gallant leadership and determination of purpose exemplify the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Kikuno Otake (mother), Lahaina, Maui, 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. 6 November 1944  
To: Commanding Officer, 100th Bn 442d Inf Regt  
Approved.

*Walter F. Johnston*  
WALTER F. JOHNSTON  
1st Lt, Infantry  
Commanding.

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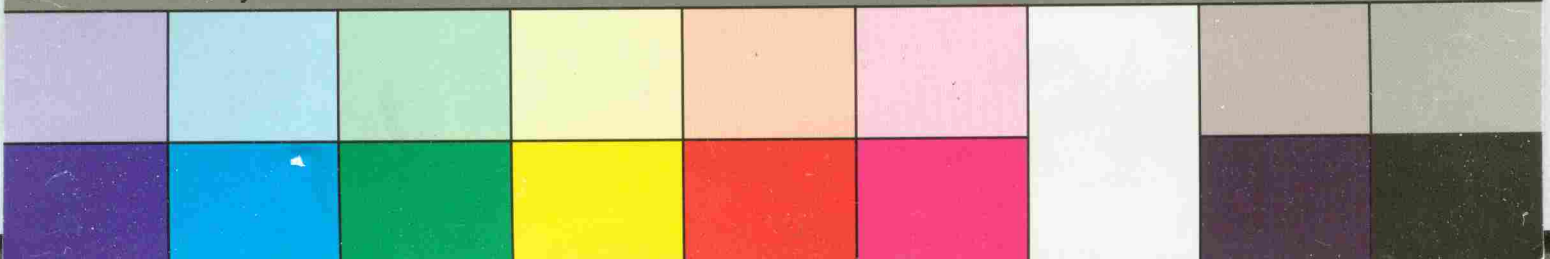
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DSE OK

2d Ind.  
Hq 100th Bn 442d Inf Regt, APO 758, U.S. Army. 7 November 1944

To: Commanding Officer, 442d Inf Regt

Approved.

*Alex E. McKenzie*

ALEX E. MCKENZIE  
Major, Infantry  
Commanding.

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

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

Approved.

*V. R. Miller*

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

200.6- Otake, Masanao 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*

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

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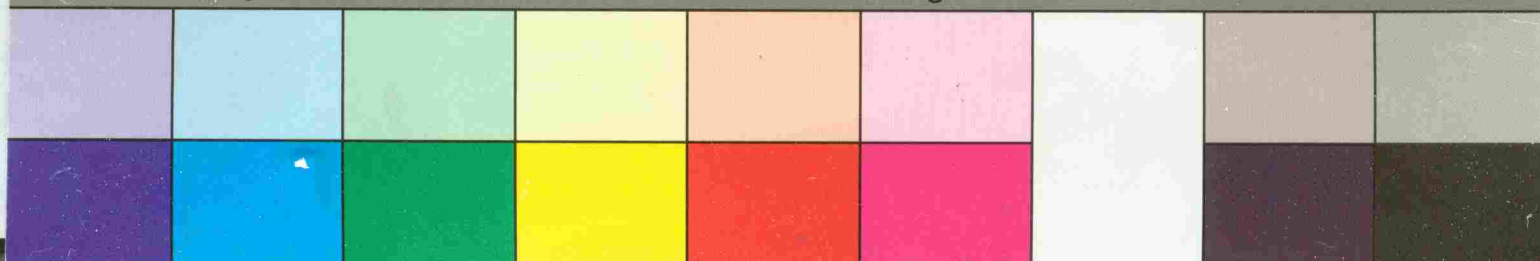
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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY GROUP  
APO 23, U. S. Army

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, OLC, (Posthumous) to 2d Lt. Masanao Otake, O-1703069, 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 a higher decoration and recommends the award of the Distinguished Service Cross with the following citation:

MASANA Otake, O-1703069, Second Lieutenant, Company "C", 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in action on 17 October 1944 in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France. In the 100th Battalion's attack on Hill 578, it became necessary to send some riflemen to an isolated farmhouse, situated on flat open ground, to secure the Battalion's left flank. Lieutenant Otake, who was assigned the task of leading a squad of eight men to capture the enemy occupied farmhouse, dashed out toward the building, running through a hundred yards of open field, raked by machine gun and small arms fire. Inspired by his example, his men immediately followed, and after a brief fire-fight succeeded in capturing the farmhouse. Observing that Lieutenant Otake and his men were in a vulnerable position, an enemy platoon launched a determined counter attack against the farmhouse. Though greatly outnumbered, Lieutenant Otake urged his men to hold their hard earned position, and while gallantly resisting the enemy assault he was mortally wounded by several machine pistol bullets and died a short while later. By complete disregard for his personal safety, gallant leadership and determination of purpose, Lieutenant Otake exemplified the finest traditions of the United States Army. Next of kin: Mrs. Kikuno Otake (Mother), Lahaina, Maui, Territory of Hawaii.

William B. Watson  
Member 198

Member

F. R. Fuller, Col. Inf.  
President

G. H. Hitting Col 480  
Member

R. Maltzer  
Recorder apt. alk

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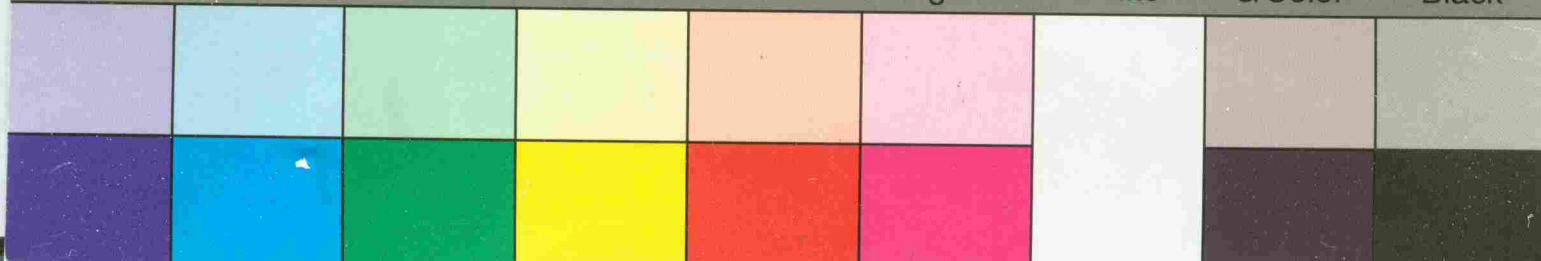
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# CITATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

MASANAO OTAKE, O-1703069, Second Lieutenant, Company "C", 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in action on 17 October 1944 in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France. In the 100th Battalion's attack on Hill 578, it became necessary to send some riflemen to an isolated farmhouse, situated on flat open ground, to secure the Battalion's left flank. Lieutenant Otake, who was assigned the task of leading a squad of eight men to capture the enemy occupied farmhouse, dashed out toward the building, running through a hundred yards of open field, raked by machine-gun and small arms fire. Inspired by his example, his men immediately followed, and after a brief fire-fight, succeeded in capturing the farmhouse. Observing that Lieutenant Otake and his men were in a vulnerable position, an enemy platoon launched a determined counter-attack against the farmhouse. Though greatly outnumbered, Lieutenant Otake urged his men to hold their hard earned position, and while gallantly resisting the enemy assault he was mortally wounded by several machine pistol bullets and died a short while later. By complete disregard for his personal safety, gallant leadership and determination of purpose, Lieutenant Otake exemplified the finest traditions of the United States Army. Next of kin: Mrs. Kikame Otake (Mother), Lahaina, Maui, Territory of Hawaii.

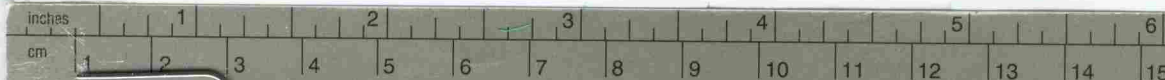


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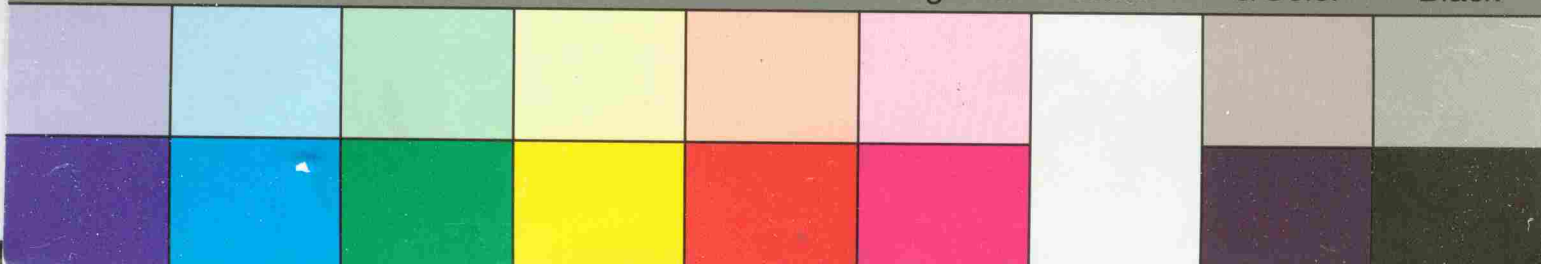
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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY GROUP  
APO 23, U. S. ARMY

GENERAL ORDERS )

13 December 1944.

NUMBER 13 )

Award, Posthumous, of the Distinguished Service Cross. . . . .	I
Award of the Distinguished Service Cross. . . . .	II
Award of the Silver Star. . . . .	III
Award of the Bronze Star Medal. . . . .	IV
Award of the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal . . . . .	V
Award of the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal . . . . .	VI

I -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Distinguished Service Cross is awarded, posthumously, by the Army Group Commander to the following named individuals:

MASANAO OTAKE, O-1703069, Second Lieutenant, Company "C", \*\*\* Battalion, \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in action on 17 October 1944, in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France. In the \*\*\* Battalion's attack on Hill 578, it became necessary to send some riflemen to an isolated farmhouse, situated on flat open ground, to secure the battalion's left flank. Lieutenant Otake, who was assigned the task of leading a squad of eight men to capture the enemy occupied farmhouse, dashed out toward the building, running through a hundred yards of open field raked by machine gun and small arms fire. Inspired by his example, his men immediately followed, and after a brief fire-fight succeeded in capturing the farmhouse. Observing that Lieutenant Otake and his men were in a vulnerable position, an enemy platoon launched a determined counter-attack against the farmhouse. Though greatly outnumbered, Lieutenant Otake urged his men to hold their hard earned position, and while gallantly resisting the enemy assault he was mortally wounded by several machine pistol bullets and died a short while later. By complete disregard for his personal safety, gallant leadership and determination of purpose, Lieutenant Otake exemplified the finest traditions of the United States Army. Next of kin: Mrs. Kikuno Otake (Mother), Lahaina, Maui, Territory of Hawaii.

REYNOLD J. KING, 32211556, Technician Fourth Grade, Fourth Company, First Regiment, \*\*\* Special Service Force, for extraordinary heroism in action near Fort Eminence, Ile de Port Cros, France, on the morning of 15 August 1944. Repulsed by devastating machine gun and mortar fire in its assault on the strongly defended Fort Eminence, Sergeant King's company was momentarily disorganized. Rallying the men of his light machine gun squad, Sergeant King, upon his own initiative moved them to a flank position where fire could be brought to bear on the determined enemy. In crawling well forward to an exposed position to get better observation and to determine the effect of his squad's machine gun fire on the enemy, he succeeded at the same time, with deadly rifle fire, in silencing an enemy machine gun. When his company was directed to withdraw, Sergeant King ordered his squad to remain in position and directed the covering fire for its movement to new positions. The withdrawal of the company completed, he continued to remain in place while he protected, in turn, the withdrawal of his squad, and while thus engaged he was killed by an enemy sniper. The actions of Sergeant King throughout the engagement were above and beyond the normal call of duty and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. Next of Kin: Mr. Olen King (Father) Rural Free Delivery Number 5, Ithaca, New York.

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