

III -- 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:

MAURY S. CRALLE, O-17729, Lieutenant Colonel, Inf., Headquarters \*\*\* Army Group, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations from 18 September 1944 to 6 March 1945 in France. Entered the service from Washington, D. C.

EDWARD F. REAM, JR., O-272716, Major, FA, Headquarters \*\*\* Army Group, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations from 15 August 1944 to 21 February 1945, in France. Entered the service from Chicago, Illinois.

CARL D. BETHEL, JR., O-486140, First Lieutenant, Signal Corps, \*\*\* Signal Service Company, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations in France from 10 September 1944 to 1 February 1945. Entered the service from Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

RAYMOND DREBIN, O-1300944, First Lieutenant, Inf., Company "B", 100th Battalion, \*\*\* Regimental Combat Team, for heroic achievement on 20 December 1944, in the vicinity of Grimaldi, Italy. As the leader of a three man patrol on a mission of obtaining information regarding the enemy's disposition, Lieutenant Drebin displayed outstanding leadership and disregard for personal safety while under enemy fire. His soldierly skill, resourcefulness and ability to direct the efforts of the patrol enabled the group to out-manuever a superior enemy force and to successfully complete the mission. Entered the service from Seattle, Washington.

LOUIS C. NOVAK, O-503090, First Lieutenant, Signal Corps, \*\*\* Signal Service Company, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations in France, from 10 September 1944 to 1 February 1945. Entered the service from Berwyn, Illinois.

WILLIAM E. ARII, 39000870, Staff Sergeant, Inf., Company "B", 100th Battalion, \*\*\* Regimental Combat Team, for heroic achievement on 20 December 1944, in the vicinity of Grimaldi, Italy. As a member of a three-man patrol on a mission of obtaining information regarding the enemy's disposition, Sergeant Arii displayed outstanding fortitude and disregard for personal safety while under enemy fire. His soldierly skill, resourcefulness and ability to coordinate his efforts with the other members of the patrol enabled the group to out-manuever a superior enemy force and to return with valuable information regarding the enemy's positions. Entered the service from Rivers, Arizona.

BEN T. FUKUTOME, 39914171, Staff Sergeant, Inf., Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, \*\*\* Regimental Combat Team, for heroic achievement in the vicinity of Biffontaine, France on 28 October 1944. After an arduous day of evacuating the wounded under intermittent enemy fire, Sergeant Fukutome volunteered to lead his men on an emergency call over 800 yards of wooded and mountainous terrain, and through an enemy mine field, to evacuate a wounded man. While returning to the aid station the group was caught in an artillery barrage. Though the men wanted to take cover, Sergeant Fukutome urged them on, reminding them of the patient's critical condition, and by his exemplary courage and leadership under fire,

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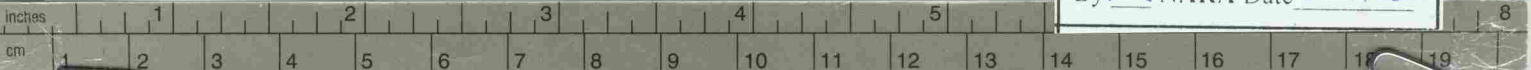
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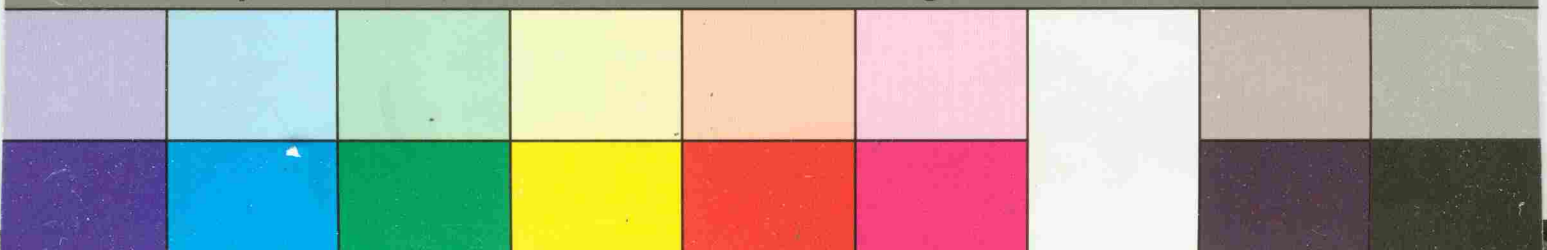
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the counter-attack was broken. Sergeant Karatsu was killed in a subsequent action.  
Next of Kin: John U. Karatsu (Father), 10-4-7-E, Amache, Colorado.

COMPANY "B", 100TH BATTALION  
442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, APO 758  
United States Army.

2 February 1945.

201 - DREBIN, Raymond (Off)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Bronze Star.

TO : Commanding General, 44th AAA Brigade, APO 758,  
U. S. Army. (Thru: Channels)

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, and Circular 25, Headquarters, Seventh Army, dated 7 November 1944, it is recommended that RAYMOND DREBIN, 01300944, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company "B", 100th Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team, be awarded the Bronze Star for valorous conduct in action.

2. a. At the time the deed was performed, his rank and organization were: Second Lieutenant, Company "B", 100th Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team.  
At the present time: First Lieutenant, Company "B", 100th Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team.
- b. Previous award: None.
- c. A similar recommendation has not been previously submitted.
- d. Entire subsequent service of Lt Drebin since the performance of the act cited has been honorable.
- e. I have personal knowledge of the action described.

3. On 20 December 1944, Lt Drebin of Co "B", 100th Bn, 442d RCT, led 2 men on a patrol to reconnoiter an unscouted road in the Maritime Alps that led toward the town of Grimaldi, Italy. His company commander was in immediate need of information on enemy activity in that sector and Lt Drebin's mission was to obtain whatever information he could. As he reached the crest of a hill, he observed an isolated house 100 yards below in the valley occupied by hostile troops. To determine the disposition and size of the enemy forces, Lt Drebin, on his own initiative, made a lone reconnaissance. Deploying his men to cover his movements, Lt Drebin crept and crawled over the rocks which were devoid of cover. As Lt Drebin approached within 20 yards of the house, the enemy opened fire with about four rifles and a machine pistol. Lt Drebin, realizing his patrol lacked both sufficient manpower and firepower, ordered his men to withdraw. Although he had to expose himself to intense small arms fire, Lt Drebin, without regard for his safety, covered the withdrawal of his men by laying down protective fire with his carbine until his two men were in a comparatively safer position a short distance away from the house.

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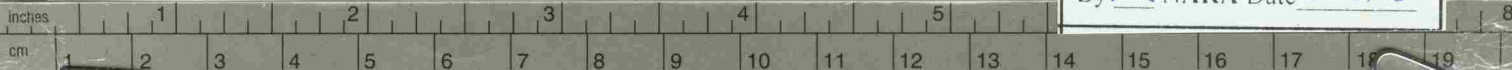
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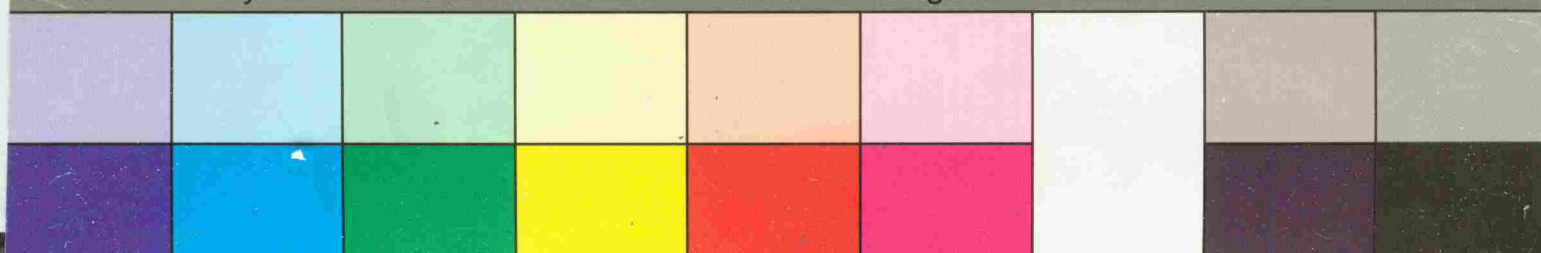
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(Ltr Co B, 100th Bn, 442d RCT, subj: "Recommendation for Award", dated 2 Feb 45, continued)

Lt Drebin decided to find another return route, and after personally reconnoitering for a safer route, led his patrol back to his company with valuable information concerning the enemy.

4. The following information is submitted:

- a. Character of terrain: Rugged, mountainous.
- b. Hostile observation: Good.
- c. Character of enemy fire: Small arms fire.
- d. Visibility: Clear.
- e. Location of the enemy: In well protected houses.
- f. Morale of our troops: Excellent. Of enemy's: Good.
- g. Casualties sustained: One wounded.
- h. Effects or results of the deed in question: The patrol ascertained position and probable strength of the enemy in the vicinity.

5. PROPOSED CITATION:

RAYMOND (NMI) DREBIN, 01300944, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company "B", 100th Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team. For valorous conduct in action on 20 December 1944, in the vicinity of Grimaldi, Italy. While leading a 3-man reconnaissance patrol, Lt Drebin was fired upon by a numerically superior enemy force. Realizing that his patrol was outnumbered, Lt Drebin ordered his men to withdraw, at the same time offering protective fire for his patrol from an exposed position. After personally reconnoitering for a safer return route, Lt Drebin led his patrol back to his company with valuable information concerning the enemy. The aggressive leadership displayed by Lt Drebin is a distinct credit to the Army of the United States. Home Town; Seattle, Washington.

*Paul E. Froning*  
PAUL E. FRONING  
Capt, Inf, Co B, 100th Bn  
Commanding.

201 - DREBIN, Raymond (Off) 1st Ind.  
HQ 100TH BN, 442d RCT, APO 758, U. S. Army. 3 Feb 45.

AEM/tn

TO: Commanding Officer, 442d RCT, APO 758, U. S. Army.

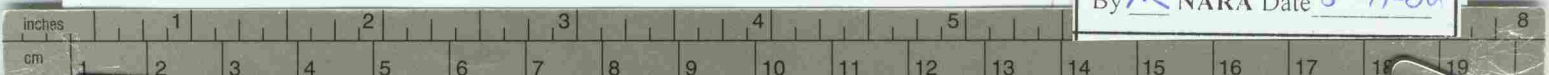
Approved.

*Alex E. McKenzie*  
ALEX E. MCKENZIE  
Major, 100th Bn, 442d RCT  
Commanding.

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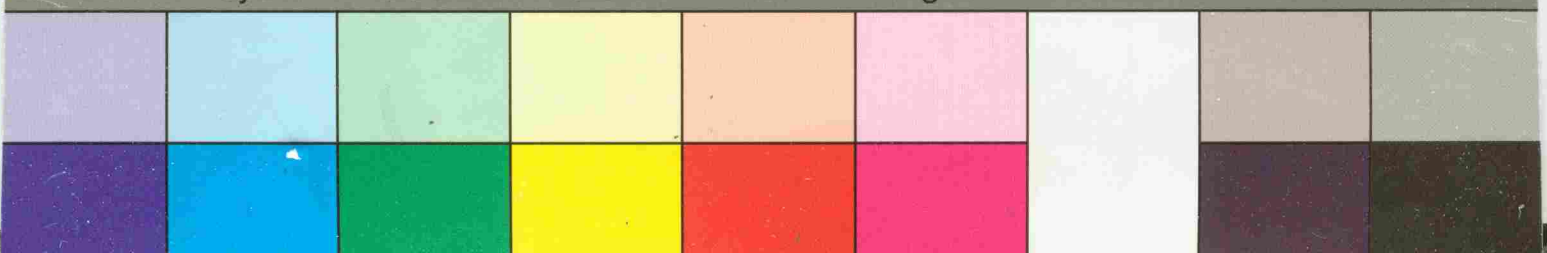
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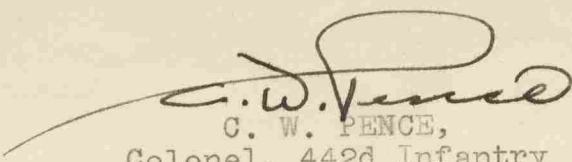




201 - DREBIN, Raymond (Off) 2d Ind. CWP/tn  
(Recommendation for Award of Bronze Star)  
HQ 442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, APO 758, U. S. Army. 4 Feb 45.

TO: Commanding General, 44th AAA Brigade, APO 758, U. S. Army.

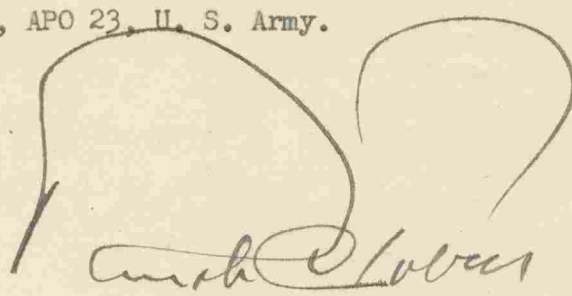
Approved.

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

200.6 3rd Ind. RCT/gfw  
HEADQUARTERS, 44TH AAA BRIGADE, APO 758, U. S. Army, 2 March 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 6th Army Group, APO 23, U. S. Army.

Approved.

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

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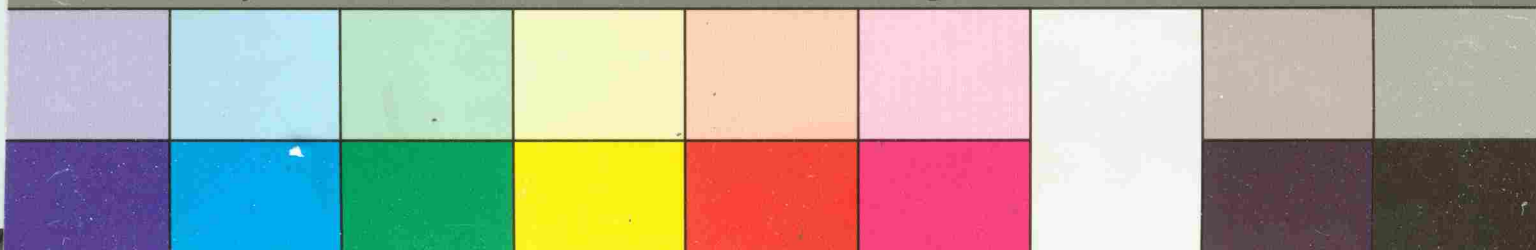
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201- DREBIN, RAYMOND (OFF)

7 MAR 45  
(Date)

MEMORANDUM TO: Board Members.

The attached recommendation for the award of the BRONZE  
STAR MEDAL is submitted for consideration prior to  
formal board meeting. Please indicate recommendations or remarks.

LT. Col. ~~Fuller~~ DZIUBAN

B/S

Col. Watson

B/S - WAW

Col. ~~Gulleton~~

ERSKINE Conant

Col. Gottong

Conant RM

MAJOR

Capt. Maltais

B/S RM

Final recommendation  
at Board Meeting

B/S

RM  
Recorder

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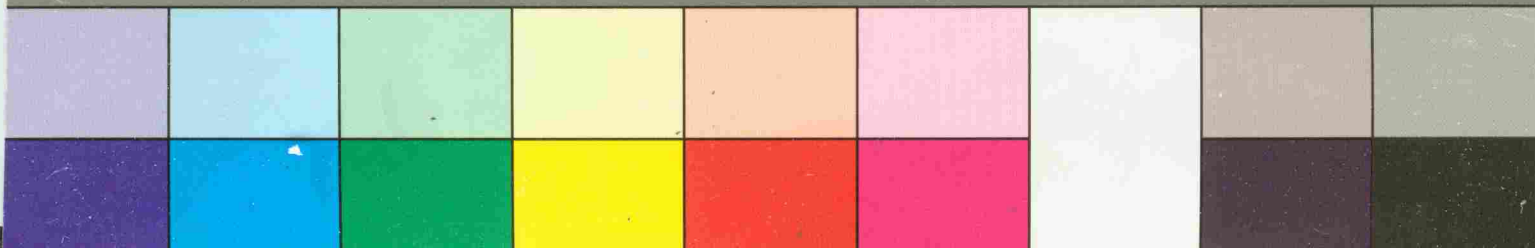
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HEADQUARTERS, 6TH ARMY GROUP  
APO 23, U. S. ARMY

18 March 1945.  
(Date)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF OFFICERS

Pursuant to paragraph 5, Special Orders Number 22, this headquarters, dated 16 February 1945, the Awards and Decorations Board met at Headquarters 6th Army Group on 14 March 1945 for the purpose of reviewing the recommendation for the award of the Bronze Star Medal to 1st Lt Raymond Drebin, 01300944, Inf., Company "B", 100th Bn., 442d RCT.

FINDINGS

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

RAYMOND DREBIN, 01300944, First Lieutenant, Inf., Company "B", 100th Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team, for heroic achievement on 20 December 1944, in the vicinity of Grimaldi, Italy. As the leader of a three-man patrol on a mission of obtaining information regarding the enemy's disposition, Lieutenant Drebin displayed outstanding leadership and disregard for personal safety while under enemy fire. His soldierly skill, resourcefulness and ability to direct the efforts of the patrol enabled the group to out-maneuver a superior enemy force and to successfully complete the mission. Entered the service from Seattle, Washington.

*David G. Jenkins*  
Member  
Lt. Col. G.S.C.

*Stanley W. Drebin*  
Member  
Lt. Col. C.F.

*William R. Watson*  
WILLIAM R. WATSON,  
Colonel, J. President

*W. Pittman Col GSC*  
Member

*R. J. Maltais*  
Recorder

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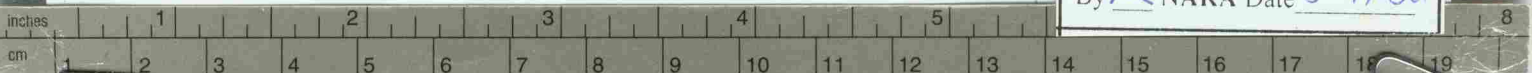
R. J. MALTAIS  
Maj. A. G. D.

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