

CONFIDENTIAL

COMPANY K  
442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM  
APO #464 U.S. ARMY

201 - Kagawa, Buddy Y. (Enl)

20 May 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Army, APO #464, U.S. Army.  
(Through channels)

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, it is recommended that BUDDY Y. KAGAWA, 30104923, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company K, 442d Regimental Combat Team, be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action.

2. a. His rank and organization at the time the deed was performed were: Staff Sergeant, Company K, 442d Regimental Combat Team. At present: Unknown.  
(Seriously wounded in action, he was evacuated to the Zone of the Interior)

b. Previous awards: None.

A similar recommendation has not been previously submitted.

c. The subsequent service of Staff Sergeant Kagawa has been honorable.

d. I have personal knowledge of the action described.

3. On the morning of 28 October 1944, the second day of the 442d Regimental Combat Team's 4-day drive through the Forêt Domaniale du Champ, 2 kilometers east of Biffontaine, Eastern France, that effected the relief of the "lost" 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry, the 3rd Battalion resumed its attack southwesterly along a heavily-forested ridgetop. Almost at once, the leading elements of Company K, which was to suffer 6 killed and 28 wounded during the day's fighting were pinned down by heavy machine gun fire and subjected to continuous mortar and artillery barrages. In the 3rd Platoon sector on the left flank, Sgt Kagawa was ordered to bring up his reserve 1st squad on a skirmish line with the 2nd and 3rd squads to help ward off an expected enemy counterattack. To clear the flank and immediate forward area of enemy resistance for the safety of his men, Sgt Kagawa obtained a BAR and proceeded alone under mortar and artillery barrages toward the front lines 100 yards away. He proceeded from tree to tree for 50 yards when he was almost hit by an enemy sniper firing from a position 75 yards distant. By directing several bursts with his BAR, he killed the hostile rifleman. Another sniper whose attention was drawn to him by the exchange of shots fired at him but missed. Sgt Kagawa killed him with BAR fire. Two other snipers fled before the deadliness of his fire. He had moved forward again a few yards when an enemy machine gun 100 yards distant opened fire on him. Taking cover he worked his way to a position where he

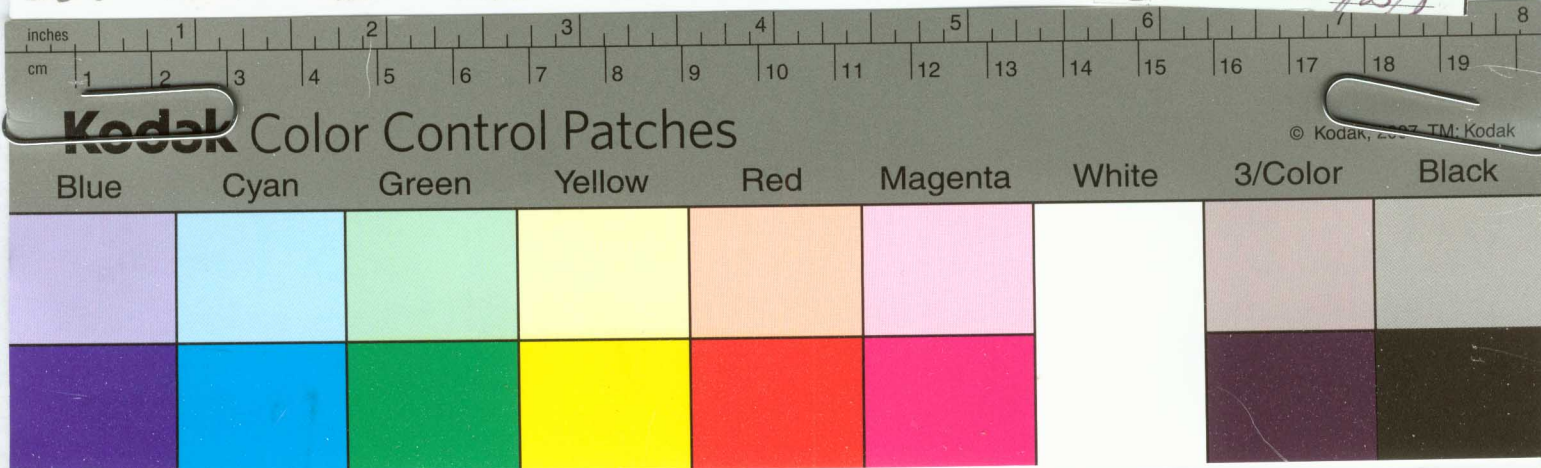
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had a clear field of fire. Though under fire from snipers and the machine gun, he exposed himself to fire several bursts with his BAR at the nest, finally killing the gunner and destroying the nest. Having cleared the flank and front of enemy resistance singlehandedly, he waved his men forward. Placing them in a defensive skirmish line abreast with the other squads of the platoon, he had them dig-in while he stood guard against enemy action. During this time in which he was continuously exposed to mortar and artillery barrages, he drove off several enemy snipers. During one of the artillery barrages, he was seriously wounded by a shell fragment. In spite of the serious nature of his wound, he remained on guard until his men were securely dug-in. When he had posted security, and was certain that his men were entrenched, he returned to the aid station for medical attention. By his lone, aggressive attack on the enemy, and his sentinel service while suffering from the pain of a serious wound, he warded off an expected enemy counterattack and saved his squad from further casualties.

4. The following information is submitted:

- a. Character of terrain: Heavily wooded ridgetop that gave enemy opportunity to lay down grazing fire.
- b. Hostile observation: Good, from prepared positions selected to give best fields of fire.
- c. Character of enemy fire: Small arm, sniper, machine pistol, machine gun, mortar and artillery fire.
- d. Visibility: Good, but limited by trees and underbrush.
- e. Location of the enemy: 75 to 100 yards distant in prepared positions in the Foret Domaniale du Champ, 2 kilometers east of Biffontaine, Eastern France.
- f. Morale of our troops: Excellent. Of the enemy: Excellent.
- g. Casualties sustained: October 28: 6 KIA and 28 WIA
- h. Effects or results of deed in question: Cleared forward area so that his men could safely advance.

5. Proposed Citation: BUDDY Y. KAGAWA, 30104923, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company K, 442d Regimental Combat Team. For extraordinary heroism in action on 28 October 1944 near Biffontaine, Eastern France. When his reserve squad was ordered forward, Staff Sergeant Kagawa alone cleared the area to the flank of the pinned-down attacking squads so his men could safely advance. With BAR fire he killed two enemy snipers who shot at him, and frightened away two others. Exposing himself to a machine gun's direct fire, he duelled with the gunner until he killed him. When seriously wounded by a shell fragment, he continued to give protection to his men until they were securely dug-in. His fortitude and fighting spirit are in accord with the U.S. Army's highest traditions. Entered service from Honolulu, Hawaii. Home town: Honolulu, Hawaii. Next of kin: Torakichi Kagawa, father, 3260 Charles St., Honolulu, Hawaii.

*TSUTOMU YOSHIDA*  
TSUTOMU YOSHIDA  
2nd Lt., Infantry  
Co K, 442d Infantry

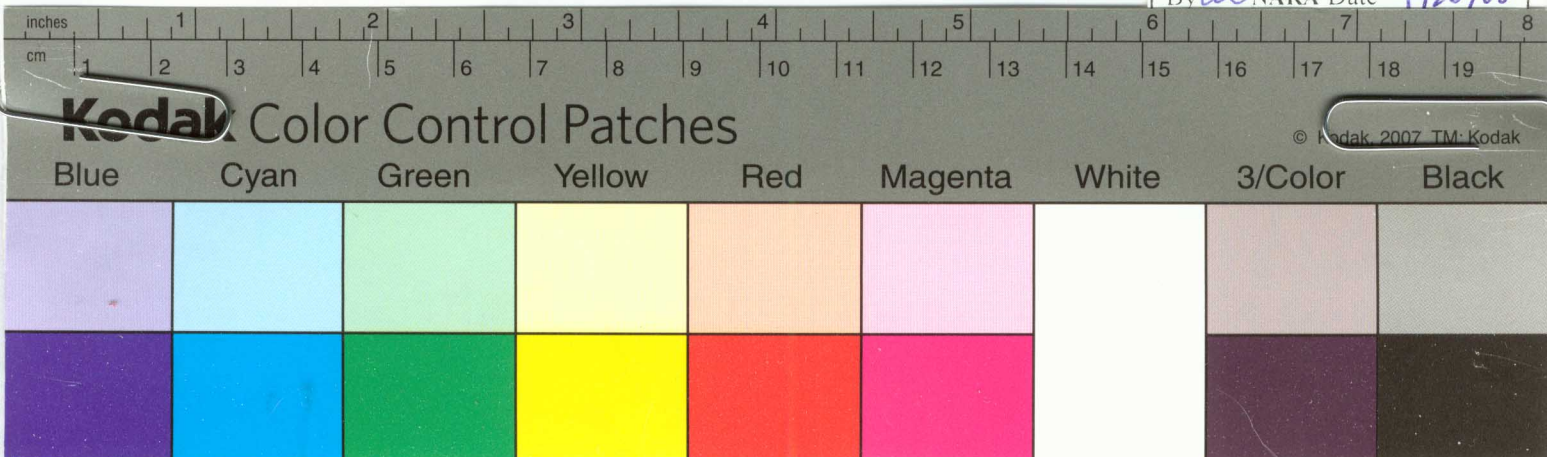
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By zw NARA Date 4/28/08





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(To accompany Recommendation for Award for Staff Sergeant Buddy Y. Kagawa)

AFFIDAVIT

APO #464 )  
U.S. ARMY : SS  
Italy

Personally appeared before me an officer duly authorized to administer oaths of this nature, one, Private First Class Shigeo Fujino, ASN 30104737, Company K, 442d RCT, who being duly sworn deposes and says:

On the morning of 28 October 1944, the 3rd Battalion was called upon to continue its drive toward the relief of the "lost battalion" in the Foret Domaniale de Champ, France. Companies K and I were the leading elements of the attack. Company K was immediately pinned down by heavy machine gun fire, and concentrations of mortar and artillery shells. Our 1st squad was in reserve. Our squad leader S Sgt Buddy Kagawa was ordered to move us forward on a skirmish line to stop the enemy from counterattacking. Disregarding his personal safety, he worked his way forward alone through the heavy artillery and mortar barrages. Creeping and crawling from tree to tree over the wooded terrain and firing his borrowed BAR, he cleared four snipers from the forward area, killing two of them. This drew the fire of a machine gun about 75 yards away upon him. While under its fire, he directed several bursts at the hostile nest with his BAR and killed the gunner. After he had neutralized the enemy position, he signalled us to come up on line abreast with the two other squads. He ordered us to dig-in in a skirmish line, which was both a defensive position and a line of departure for our attack eastward toward the "lost battalion."

During the time we were digging-in he stood guard, exposed to artillery barrages and firing at snipers. He was wounded by a shell fragment, but remained at his post, giving us security. He was suffering from pain when he was finally evacuated. Through his courage and efforts we were able to set up a new position without suffering casualties.

Further deponent sayeth not.

*Shigeo Fujino*  
SHIGEO FUJINO  
Pfc, ASN 30104737  
Co K, 442d R.C.T.

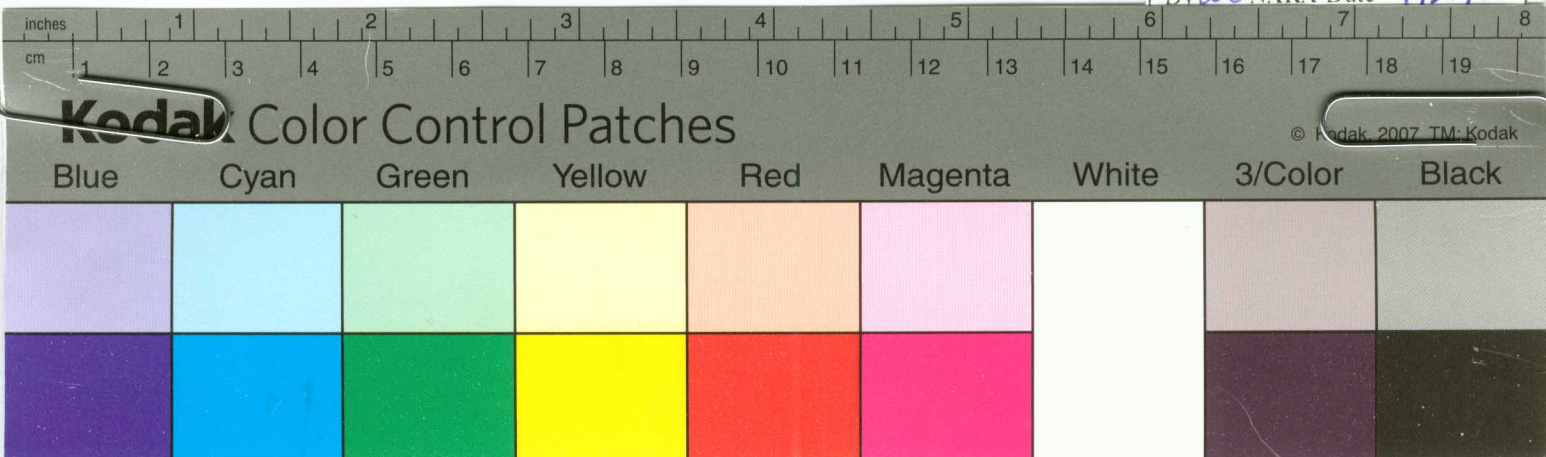
Sworn and subscribed to before me this <sup>25th</sup> day of May 1945, at APO #464, U.S. Army, c/o PM, New York, N.Y.

*William M. Wolf*  
WILLIAM M. WOLF  
1st Lt., Infantry  
Adjutant, 3rd Bn.

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(To accompany Recommendation for Award for Staff Sergeant Buddy Y. Kagawa)

AFFIDAVIT

APO #464 )  
U.S. ARMY : SS  
Italy

Personally appeared before me an officer duly authorized to administer oaths of this nature, one, Private First Class Charles Igarashi, 30105281, Company K, 442d RCT, who being duly sworn deposes and says:

On 28 October 1944 in the Foret Domaniale de Champ, the 3rd Battalion was attempting to contact the "lost battalion". Leading the attack were Companies K and I, and at this time Company K encountered a strong counterattack by an enemy force supported by heavy machine gun fire and mortar barrages. With the 2nd and 3rd squads of the 3rd Platoon engaging the enemy, Staff Sergeant Buddy Kagawa, squad leader of the 1st squad, was ordered to bring us up on a skirmish line with the forward elements. Moving to the front under heavy mortar and artillery barrages he advanced alone to clear a path for us. The area toward the forward line 100 yards away was heavily wooded and the flank was held by numerous snipers and a machine gun. I saw him maneuver from tree to tree for about 50 yards when he was stopped by rifle fire from 75 yards away. He fired a few rounds with his BAR which he had borrowed from the BAR man and killed two snipers. I saw two other snipers farther away run for safety. He moved forward again very cautiously, when suddenly a machine gun about 100 yards away opened fire on him. He took cover while he tried to spot the nest. He moved to a position where he had a clear field of fire. He fired several bursts with his BAR and killed the gunner. He then called us forward to make a skirmish line even with the rest of the platoon. He placed us to best advantage to form a good line of departure and ordered us to dig-in. While we dug in he protected us from sniper fire, and it was during this time that he was wounded by a shell fragment. He stubbornly refused to be evacuated until we had dug-in and he had posted security.

Further deponent sayeth not.

*Charles Igarashi*  
CHARLES IGARASHI  
Pfc, ASN 30105281  
Co K, 442d R.C.T.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 1945, at APO #464, U.S. Army, c/o PM, New York, N.Y.

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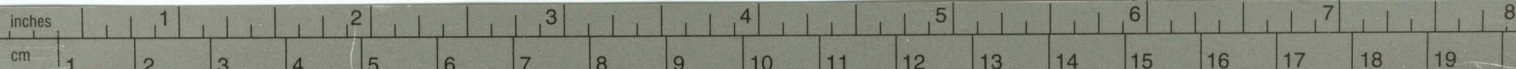
*William M. Wolf*  
WILLIAM M. WOLF  
1st Lt., Infantry  
Adjutant, 3rd Bn.

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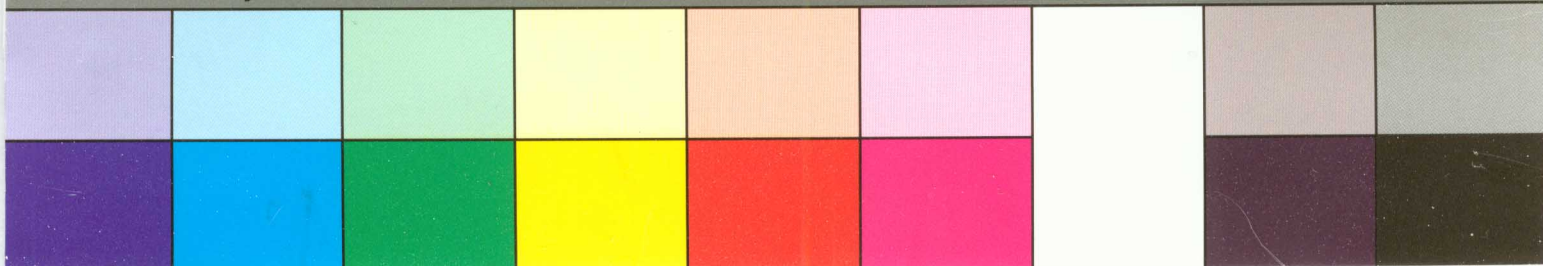
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Kodak Color Control Patches

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Blue Cyan Green Yellow Red Magenta White 3/Color Black





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Ltr Co K, 442d Regt C T, subj: "Recommendation for Award of DSC",  
dtd 20 May 45, contd.

201 - Kagawa, Buddy Y. (enl) 1st Ind. JHK/kt  
COMPANY K, 442d Regimental Combat Team, APO #464, U.S. Army, 20 May  
1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, Third Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team,  
APO #464, U.S. Army.

Approved.

*John H. Kilmore*  
JOHN H. KILMORE  
Captain, Infantry  
Commanding.

201 - Kagawa, Buddy Y. (Enl) 2nd Ind. AAP/kt  
HEADQUARTERS THIRD BATTALION, 442d Regimental Combat Team, APO #464,  
U.S. Army, 20 May 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 442d Regimental Combat Team, APO #464, U.S.  
Army.

Approved.

*Alfred A. Pursall*  
ALFRED A. PURSALL  
Lt., Col., Infantry  
Commanding.

201 - Kagawa, Buddy Y. (Enl) 3rd Ind. VRM/kt  
HEADQUARTERS 442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, APO #464, U.S. Army,  
20 May 1945

TO: Commanding General, Fifth Army, APO 464, U.S. Army.

Approved.



*V. R. Miller*  
V. R. MILLER  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding.

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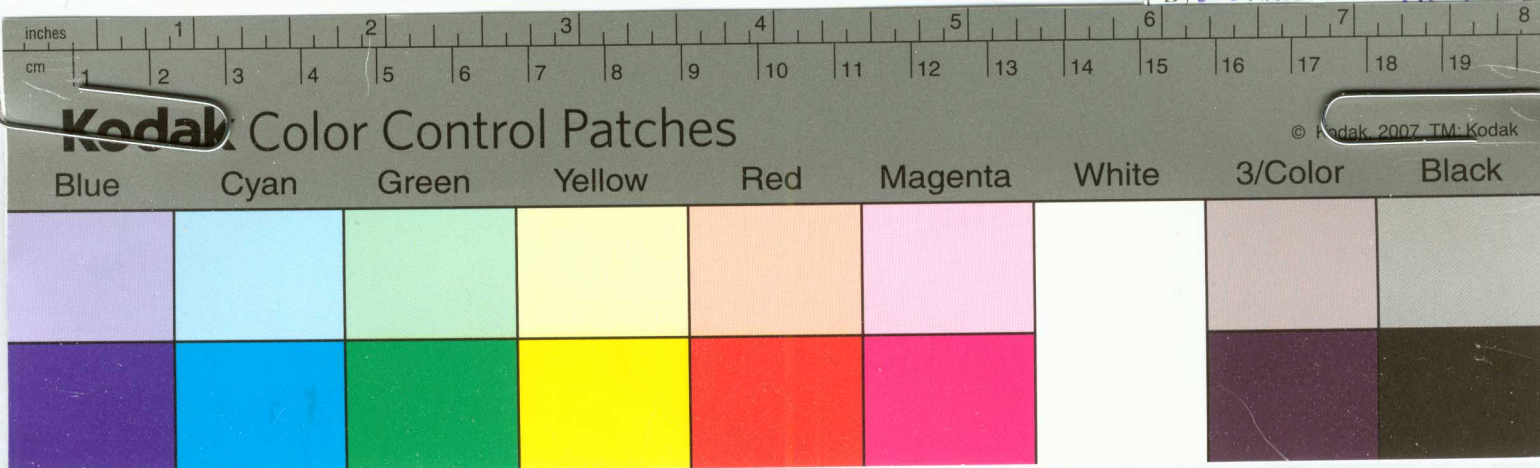
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## CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464 US ARMY

## REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF A BOARD OF OFFICERS

6/10/45  
 Proceedings of a Board of Officers which convened at Headquarters Fifth Army, on JUN 16 1945, pursuant to par 1, SO 145, Hq Fifth Army, c.s. The Board considered the recommendation of:

NAME KAGAWA, BUDDY Y. RANK S Sgt ASN 30104923  
 ORGANIZATION Co K, 442d Regt C Team  
 PROPOSED AWARD DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS

BOARD RECOMMENDS:

APPROVAL

*Willis G. Cronk*WILLIS G. CRONK  
Colonel, Inf  
President

ABSENT

JOHN G. LADD  
Colonel, GE  
Member*Herbert A. Suddard*HERBERT A. SUDDARD  
Lt Col, Ord  
Member*Gandlen W. McConnell*GANDLEN W. MCCONNELL  
Lt Col, FA  
Member*James H. Campbell*JAMES H. CAMPBELL  
Major, FA  
Member*John A. Bergmann*JOHN A. BERGMANN  
1st Lt, Inf  
MemberREGRADED UNCLASSIFIED  
ORDER SEC ARMY BY TAG/7F30  
POSTED RAC 5/7/48 BY *AEH**John D. Rainey*JOHN D. RAINEY  
1st Lt, AGD  
RecorderG-1 *ap-10*D C/S *SS*CG *OK SS*

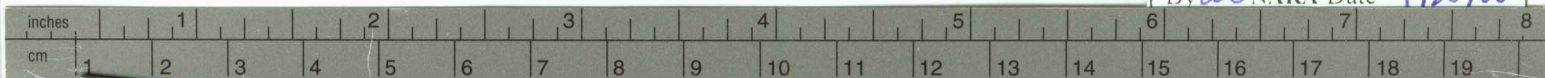
*Agree*  
*Looks like bold hardy action and very poor leadership to me. Can't understand why this Sgt should have undertaken to do by himself a job for which an entire squad had been provided.*

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Blue

Cyan

Green

Yellow

Red

Magenta

White

3/Color

Black



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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464 US ARMY

JDR/rjh

JUL 9 1945

AG 220.5-AD

SUBJECT: Award

TO: Commanding Officer, 442d Infantry  
APO 464, US Army

1. The recommendation for award of the Distinguished-Service Cross to Staff Sergeant Buddy Y. Kagawa, 30104923, a member of your command, has been reviewed carefully, and the Silver Star, which is considered more appropriate, has been awarded.

2. Two copies of the official citation and the appropriate decoration are inclosed for the individual. Presentation should be made promptly with a suitable ceremony.

3. Entries will be made in records in accordance with paragraph 10a, Cir 73, Hq MTOUSA, 12 May 1945.

4. This award will be announced in general orders of this headquarters at an early date.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TRUSCOTT:

2 Incls

1. Citation (dup)
2. Medal #30743

JOHN D. RAINEY  
1st Lt, AGD  
Asst Adjutant General

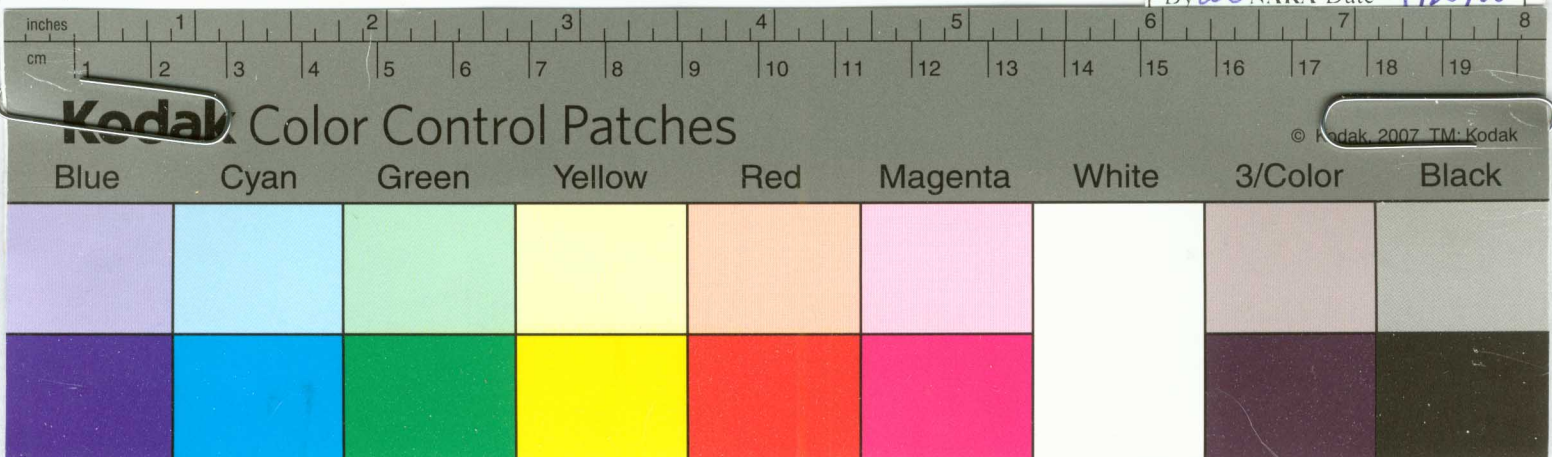
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# CITATION

## SILVER STAR

BUDDY Y. KAGAWA, (30104923), Staff Sergeant, Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 28 October 1944, near Biffontaine, France. Attacking along a heavily wooded ridge, Staff Sergeant KAGAWA proceeded ahead of his squad to clear German flanking positions which had stopped his platoon. Grabbing an automatic rifle, he sprinted from tree to tree through murderous mortar, artillery and sniper fire, killing two enemy snipers and routing two others. Then, exposing himself to direct machine gun fire, he exchanged several bursts, destroying the emplacement and killing the gunner. Having cleared the flank, Staff Sergeant KAGAWA ordered his squad forward and stood guard in an exposed position while his men prepared dug-in positions. Staff Sergeant KAGAWA was seriously wounded during an artillery barrage, but remained on guard until all his men had taken cover. The courage and fighting spirit of Staff Sergeant KAGAWA were an inspiration to his men and exemplify the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Honolulu, T. H.

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