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per authority 1A 2

By *pac* Date *19 Oct 45*

COMPANY "L"

(Company)

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

Date 27 May 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award.

TO : Commanding Officer, 442d Regimental Combat Team.

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, it is recommended that (Name) Rihachi R. Nagata (Rank) Pfc (ASN) 30103443, (Orgn) Company "L", 442d Regimental Combat Team, Infantry, be awarded the (Name of Medal) Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action.

2. Detailed description of action. (Be specific. Do not use general statements. Use reverse side for continuation of description. Use ink or type.)

On 6 April 1945, in the vicinity of Mt. Cerrata, Italy, Pfc Nagata was a member of the attacking 2nd platoon of "L" Company which was attempting to seize a slope dominating the saddle connecting Mt. Folgorito and Mt. Cerrata. Through a mist the group had been able to advance to within 500 yards of the line of enemy defenses. But with the sudden lifting of the mist, they were pinned down by the fire of several enemy machine guns firing from the front and from the flanks. After a few moments in which the platoon and the supporting platoons of the company, were unable to do anything, a white phosphorus shell fell upon the edge of the plateau, indicating that the defending enemy had called for and was receiving artillery support. Pfc Nagata, through his previous experience in combat knew that the white phosphorus shell would be followed by high explosive as soon as the enemy realized that they had zeroed in on the area; on his own initiative he began crawling forward under the sweeping fire of the machine guns on the flank. Coming to within 50 yards of one nest, he fired several rifle grenades, killing one of the enemy and causing two more to surrender. With his removal of this link in the enemy system of defensive cross fires, the platoon was able to move around and force the withdrawal of the remaining machine guns.

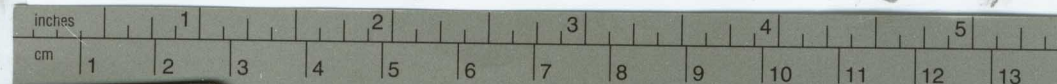
On 20 April 1945 in the vicinity of Tendola, Italy, when the BAR man of the squad to which Pfc Nagata is attached, was wounded, Pfc Nagata abandoned his covered position to creep through the fire of snipers to the man's aid. The sniper had clear vision of Pfc Nagata as he crawled over the open ground for bullets tore through the raincoat which he was carrying on his belt. But in spite of this, Pfc Nagata was more concerned with the life of his wounded comrade than with his own welfare, and continued to crawl. Upon reaching the man, he dragged him to safety, still under the fire of the snipers. The man had begun to cough blood and due to the extreme pain of

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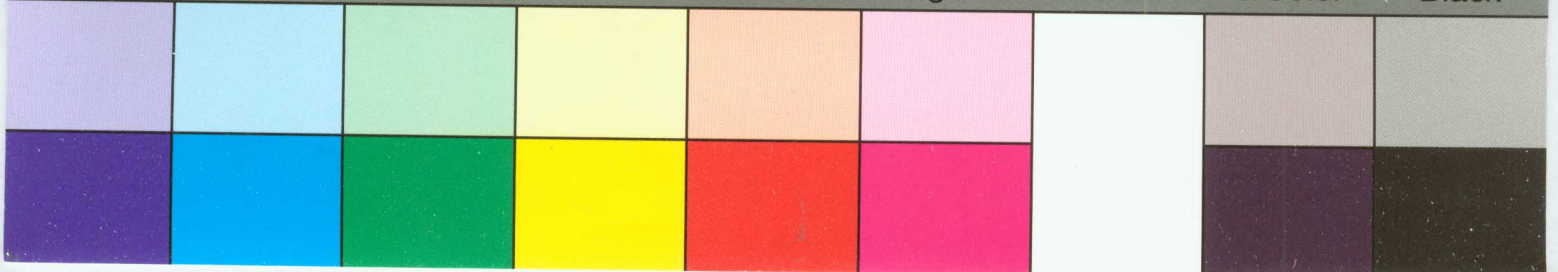
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Blue Cyan Green Yellow Red Magenta White 3/Color Black

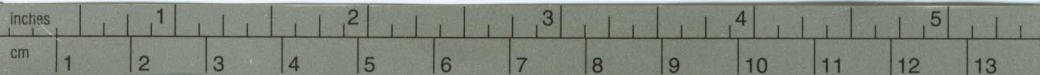


the wound, which was through the chest, could scarcely move. When, a few moments later, the enemy began to subject the area to mortar fire, Pfc Nagata, knowing that the man needed expert medical attention at once, carried the man several hundred yards to a place where an aid man could safely treat and evacuate him. As consequence, the wound which involved the man's lung, did not prove fatal.

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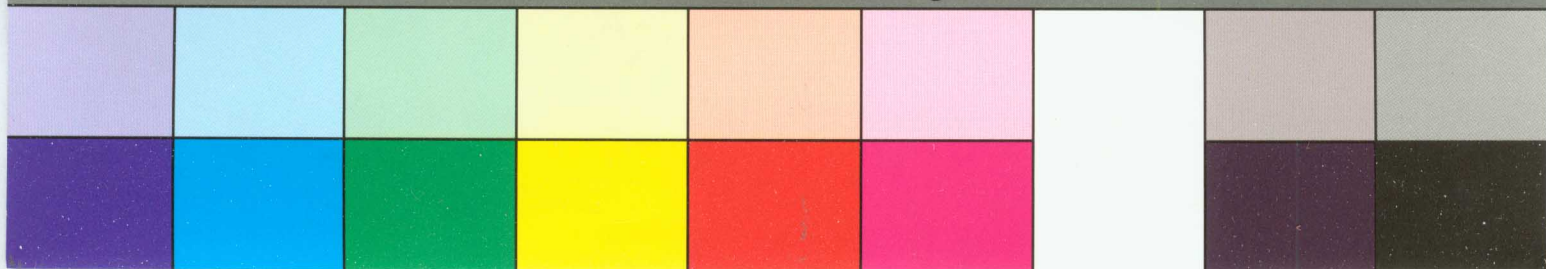
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By joc Date 19 Oct 45

3. a. Character of terrain: Mountainous
b. Hostile observation: Good
c. Visibility Good Time of Day: Later afternoon
d. Morale of our troops: Good Of the enemy Good
e. Casualties sustained: 4 WIA, 1 KIA
f. Character of enemy fire: Heavy mortar and small arms fire
g. Effects or results of deed in question: Killing one and capturing two of the enemy, saving comrades life

4. I (have) (~~have not~~) personal knowledge of the action described. (Cross out inapplicable word or words.) If initiating officer has no personal knowledge of action, inclose at least two statements of enlisted men sworn to in the presence of an officer or certificates of officer:

5. a. Rank and organization at time of incident Pfc
Company L, 442nd Infantry Regiment
b. Rank and organization at present time: Pfc
Company L, 442nd Infantry Regiment

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

7. Previous awards: None

8. Proposed Citation: (Name) Rihachi R. Nagata (Rank) Pfc
(ASN) 30103443, Infantry, (Company) L 442d Regimental
Combat Team, for Heroic achievement in action
(to be filled by Regtl Hqs)

On (Date) 6 and 20 April 1945 (Location) Vicinity of Mt. Cerrata, Tendola
Brief summary of incident:

When his platoon's advance was held up, Pfc Nagata crawled under hostile fire to within 50 yards of the enemy position and fired rifle grenades neutralizing the position, enabling the platoon to resume its advance. Two weeks later, while giving flank protection to his withdrawing platoon, he exposed himself to mortar and small-arms fire to go to the aid of a wounded companion. Pfc Nagata's intelligent sense of combat and his gallant devotion to a helpless comrade under fire are in the finest traditions of the U.S. Army and are deserving of recognition

Entered military service from (City) Hilo (State) Hawaii, T.H.

Home town: (City) Hilo Hawaii (State) Hwa ii

Next of Kin: Mika Nagata, Mother

(Relationship) (Street)
109 Maunoloa Street, Hilo, T.H.
(Address) (City) (State)

Name
(Initiating Officer)

Rank

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per authority TAG.

Cmdg or Officer Designation

By joc Date 19 Oct 45

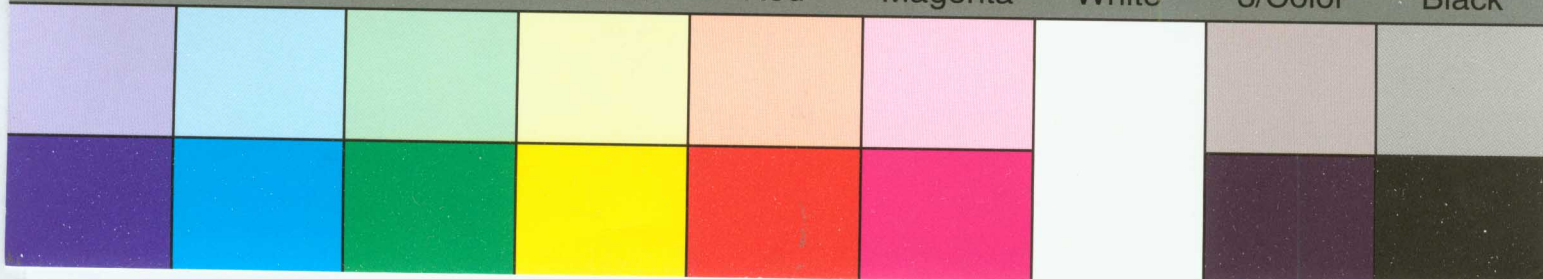
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