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By jac 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) Mitsuru Takahashi (Rank) Pvt. (ASN) 39927787, (Orgn) Company "L", 442d Regimental Combat Team, Infantry, be awarded the (Name of Medal) Silver Star for Gallantry 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, after the capture of Mt. Folgorito, Italy, Company "L" was ordered to advance along a mountain ridge to contact the 100th Btn., which was fighting up along the bases of the ridges leading to Mt. Cerrata. In order to reach Mt. Cerrata from "L" company's positions about Mt. Folgorito, it was necessary to cross an open saddle about 800 yards in length. Although it was known that Mt. Cerrata was occupied by about a company of enemy troops occupying prepared positions which commanded the lower ground of the saddle, a mist so obscured the area that it seemed possible to successfully infiltrate upon and seize the enemy positions. However, when the Bn. S-3 lead a small recon. patrol out into the area, despite the mist, they were detected and fired upon before they had moved 200 yards from the company, the Bn. S-3 being killed. However it was decided to make the attack, despite the fact of the enemy being alerted in this quarter.

The company had moved out some 400 yards overrunning the enemy outpost as it was attempting to displace back, when the mist was suddenly blown completely away, giving the enemy complete observation of the movements of our troops. Immediately, heavy machine gun fire from several positions swept the saddle, pinning the company down. After a few moments, a white phosphorus shell landed on the edge of the saddle, indicating that the enemy had called for and was receiving artillery support. Creeping directly forward under the fire of the M.G.'s, Pvt. Takahashi reached a position where he could fire upon one of the positions. Using two magazines, he killed the gunner and caused the others to flee, leaving the weapon behind. This, in connection with the actions of another man who had neutralized one of the M.G.'s on the flank, caused the system of enemy defense in this sector to collapse, enabling the company to move up and engage the rest of the enemy on

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E.O. 12065, Section 6-102

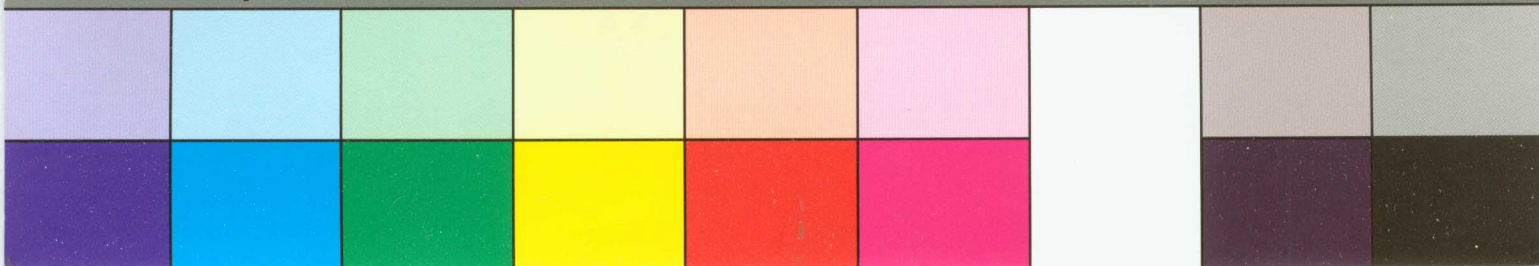
By mt NARS, Date 9-19-06

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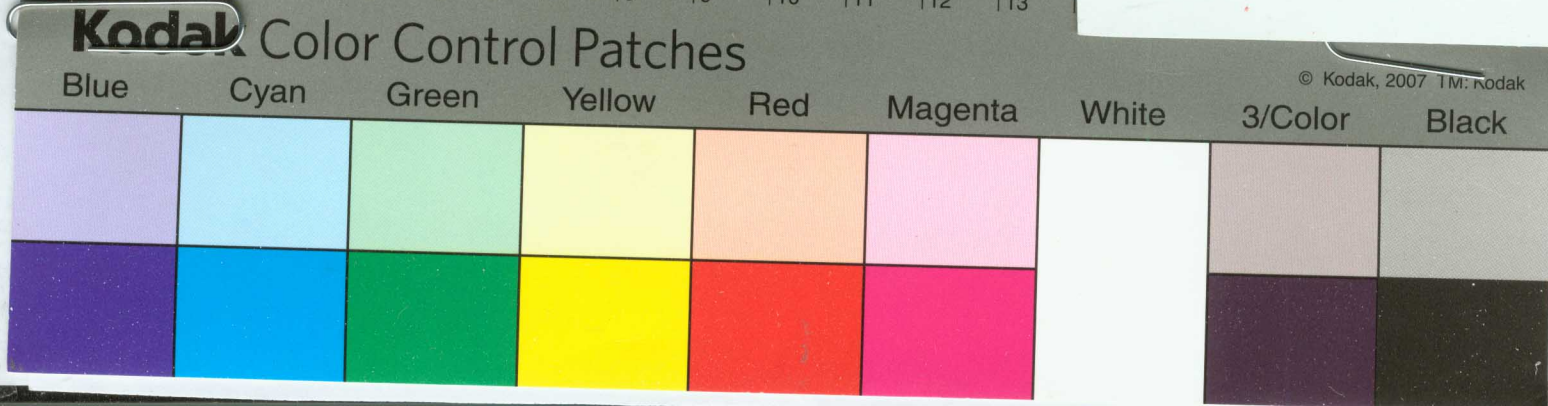
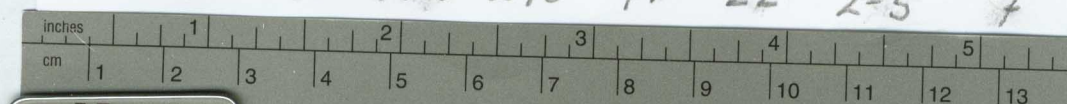
Mt. Serrata in close combat, ultimately capturing the mountain and paving the way for the contact with the 100th Bn.

On 20 April 1945, in the vicinity of Tendola, Italy, the 2nd Platoon of "L" Company was ordered to assist a "K" Company platoon which had run into stiff enemy resistance. From "K" Company CP, the "L" company force had advanced about 700 yards over mountainous terrain, frequently on the forward slope, when an enemy ambush caught the leading squad, of which Pvt. Takahashi was a member. Cutting between the squad and the rest of the platoon, the enemy surrounded the squad and sought to wipe it out. The rest of the platoon which was under heavy machine gun fire from concealed M.G.'s, withdrew momentarily to reorganize. The enemy ambush force, then concentrated their efforts on the cut-off squad which had not had time to find adequate defensive positions. Since, Pvt. Takahashi possessed the only automatic weapon in the squad, other than the Thompson sub-machine gun of the squad leader, the enemy concentrated their fire upon him. He expended several magazines, succeeding in holding them down. But finally he was struck in the chest by a rifle slug. When the enemy saw him collapse over his BAR they began to crawl forward rapidly. But Pvt. Takahashi managed to lift his BAR and empty his magazine at them. Because of his weakness, his fire was inaccurate, but it was sufficient to cause the enemy to abandon their rush. A few moments later when he was reached by a comrade who had crept to him through the mortar fire with which the enemy now sought to dispose of the patrol, although he was coughing blood and was extremely weak, unable to lift his weapon, he was attempting to change magazines. Only unconsciousness due to the extreme loss of blood and shock prevented him from succeeding.

He was successfully evacuated, and a short while later, despite the mortar fire, elements of the rest of the platoon caused the enemy group to withdraw.

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By *MM* NARS, Date *9-19-08*





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By *jae* Date *19 Oct 45*

3. a. Character of terrain: Mountainous  
 b. Hostile observation: Good  
 c. Visibility: Good Time of day: afternoon  
 d. Morale of our troops: Good Of the enemy: Good  
 e. Casualties sustained: 1 KIA, 3 wounded  
 f. Character of enemy fire: Artillery, mortar, MG, and sniper fire  
 g. Effects or results of deed in question: knocked out enemy outpost, killing 1 and forcing 5 others to leave. Held right flank until ~~was~~ wounded during enemy counter-attack.
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 officers.
5. a. Rank and organization at time of incident: Pfc.  
 b. Rank and organization at present time: Pfc.  
Company L, 442nd Infantry ROT
6. The entire subsequent service of the individual recommended has been honorable.
7. Previous awards: None
8. Proposed Citation: (Name) TAKAHASHI, MITSUN (Rank) Pfc.  
 (ASN) 30827782, Infantry, (Company) Company L 442d Regimental  
 Combat Team, for Gallantry in action (To be filled out by Regtl Hqs)  
 On (Date) 6 April and 20 April (Location) Mt. Taborito and Tendola, Italy  
 Brief summary of incident: 1945

On 6 April 1945 when his platoon was pinned down by an enemy M.G., advanced despite the fire and knocked out the position. On 20 April 1945, near Tendola, Italy, during an ambush, he defeated an enemy attempt to ~~ambush~~ flank his platoon, continuing to hold off the enemy, although wounded in the chest, until loss of blood rendered him unconscious. Pfc. Takahashi's heroism is in the finest traditions of the United States Army and is deserving of recognition.

Entered military service from (City) Salt Lake City (State) Utah  
 Home town: (City) Salt Lake City (State) Utah  
 Next of kin: Mrs. N. Takahashi (Relationship) Mother (Street) 5-1-F

(Address) Hunt (City) Idaho (State) Idaho

Name Eugene D. Harrison  
 (Initiating Officer)  
EUGENE D. HARRISON  
 Rank Capt. Inf.  
 Commanding

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Cmdg or Official Designation

By *jae* Date *19 Oct 45*

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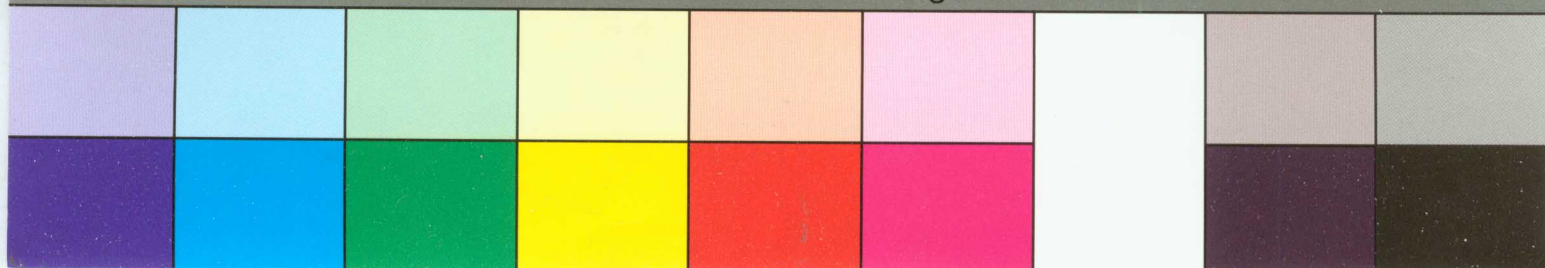
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BY *Jan 1945* Date *1945*  
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COMPANY "L" 3rd BN, 1st Ind. 442d RCT, APO # 464, U.S. ARMY, 27 May 1945  
(Date)

TO: Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team.

Approved.

*Eugene D. Harrison*

EUGENE D. HARRISON

Capt. Inf.

Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 3rd BATTALION, 442D RCT, APO # 464, U.S. ARMY, 16 July 1945  
(Date)

TO: Commanding Officer, 442d Regimental Combat Team.

Approved.

*Ralph J. Graham*

RALPH J. GRAHAM

Major, Infantry

Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, APO #464, U.S. ARMY, 21 Aug 45  
(Date)

TO: Commanding General, 5th Army,  
APO #464, U. S. ARMY

*Approved*

V. R. MILLER,  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

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