

A F F I D A V I T

I, JOE K. SAGAMI, STATES THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF Co. "G", 19TH ING. REGT., 24TH DIVISION, UNITED STATES ARMY FROM FEBRUARY 1951 TO APRIL 1952.

AND THAT MY POSITION AND RANK WAS THAT OF 1ST SGT.; THAT I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE ACTIONS, OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN OF OUR COMPANY. FURTHER THAT ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 15, 1951 ALL OF THE COMPANY OFFICERS WERE EITHER KILLED, WOUNDED OR MISSING IN ACTION LEAVING THE UNIT WITHOUT A COMMISSIONED OFFICER.

AND THAT ON 18 OCTOBER, 1951, M/SGT. WOODROW KEEBLE LED ALL THREE PLATOONS IN SEPARATE ASSAULTS ON THE COMPANY OBJECTIVES. THAT IN SPITE OF ALL ASSAULTS REPULSED HE THEN TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO ELIMINATE THE ENEMY OBSTACLES IN ORDEP TO ATTAIN THE UNIT OBJECTIVE.

THE FOLLOWING IS WHAT TRANSPIRED ON 18 OCTOBER: WE WERE ORDERED TO TAKE THE DOMINANT HILL IN THE Bn. AREA KNOWN AS OBJECTIVE "F". HAVING NO COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, PRESENT FOR DUTY, SGT. KEEBLE VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE THE 1ST PLATOON (HIS) AND TRY TO GAIN THE UNIT OBJECTIVE. AFTER ADVANCING 150 YARDS OR SO THEY WERE REPULSED BECAUSE OF THE NUMEROUS SQUAD TRENCHES AND THREE FOUR MAN PILL BOXES; EACH WITH A MACHINE GUN. SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES HE WITHDREW HIS PLATOON TO REGROUP AND WHILE THE PLATOON WAS REGROUPING HE VOLUNTEERED TO LEAD ANOTHER ASSAULT WITH THE SECOND PLATOON.

DESPITE HEAVY SUPPORT FROM THE UNIT WEAPONS PLATOON, THE BATTALION WEAPONS COMPANY AND THE REGIMENTAL ARTILLERY THE SECOND PLATOON ALSO WAS REPULSED WITH DISATROUS EFFECTS, AGAIN DUE TO THE WELL FORTIFIED AND CONSTRUCTED PILLBOXES CONTAINING THE MACHINE GUNS.

AFTER AN ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL AND MORE WEAPONS SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF MOTARS AND ARTILLERY HE LED THE THIRD PLATOON TOWARDS OUR OBJECTIVE. DESPITE CASUALTIES AMONG THE ENEMY IN THE OPEN TRENCHES THE THREE PILLBOXES AGAIN REPULSED THE UNIT EFFORTS TO GAIN ITS OBJECTIVES.

AFTER WITHDRAWING THE THIRD PLATOON SGT/KEEBLE TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO ELIMINATE THE THREE PILLBOXES. HE WORKED HIS WAY DOWN ABOUT 50 YARDS FROM THE RIDGELINE AND FLANKED THE ENEMYS LEFT PILLBOX; ATTACKING IT WITH GRENADES AND RIFLE FIRE ELIMINATING IT. . . HE THEN RETREATED TO ABOUT THE POINT WHERE THE FIRST PLATOON WAS HOLDING THE UNITS FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AND WORKED DOWN ABOUT FIFTY YARDS FROM THE RIDGELINE AND PROCEEDED TO OUTFLANK THE ENEMIES RIGHT PILLBOX WITH GRENADES ELIMINATING IT. THEN WITHOUT HESITATION HE LOBBED A GRENADE INTO THE BACK ENTRANCE OF THE MIDDLE PILLBOX AND WITH ADDITIONAL RIFLE FIRE ELIMINATED IT . . . HE THEN ORDERED HIS 1ST PLATOON FORWARD TO ELIMINATE WHAT LITTLE RESISTANCE WAS LEFT.

DURING THE ACTION OF THIS DAY SGT. KEEBLE WAS WOUNDED ON AT LEAST FIVE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS BY FRAGMENTATION AND CONCUSSION GRENADES. HIS WOUNDS WERE APPARENT IN THE CHEST, BOTH ARMS, RIGHT CALF, KNEE AND RIGHT THIGH AND LEFT THIGH BECAUSE BLEEDING MADE IT APPARENT. AT NO TIME DID HE ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE EVACUATED DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY. ONLY AFTER THE UNIT WAS IN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS FOR THE NIGHT DID HE ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE EVACUATED.

SGT. KEEBLES SELFLESS DEVOTION TO DUTY AND HIS FELLOW COMRADE IN ARMS ENABLED THE UNIT AND BATTALION TO SEIZE ITS OBJECTIVES WITH THE MINIMUM OF CASUALTIES.

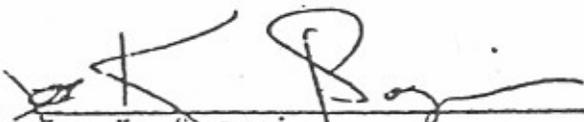
SGT. KEEBLE WAS RECOMMENDED FOR THE HIGHEST HONOR, THAT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR THE LATTER PART OF NOVEMBER 19~~71~~⁵⁷. THE AWARD RECOMMENDATION WAS SENT THROUGH SGT. CANTRELL, THE 2ND BR. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS NON-COM AT REGIMENTAL HQ. & HQ. Co. . THE ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION WAS LOST SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE REGIMENTAL HQ AND DIVISION. A DUPLICATE RECOMMENDATION WAS FORWARDED ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 10, 1951 DURING THE DIVISIONS MOVE TO NORTHERN JAPAN.

UNFORTUNATELY, 8TH ARMY DIRECTIVES MADE THE AWARDING OF THIS MEDAL TO SGT. KEEBLE IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO THE DIVISIONS QUOTAS BEING FILLED AND THE CUT OFF DATE FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HAD PASSED FOR THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

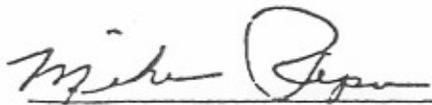
FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES SGT. KEEBLE WAS Co. "G", 19TH INFANTRY REGIMENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 28 THROUGH OCTOBER 28, 1951.

IF ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES DESERVED THIS HIGH AWARD, SGT. KEEBLE MOST CERTAINLY IS DESERVING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR, EVEN AT THIS LATE DATE.

THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.


Joe K. Sagami
(Former Member; Co. "G", 19th Inf. Regt.)

Witness:


Mike Pepin