The 232D Infantry Regiment
42D "Rainbow" Infantry Division

25 November 1944 – 27 May 1945



MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II

THE FINAL RAINBOW INSPECTION

Camp Gruber, OK October 1944

Excerpt from the Memoirs of Major (Ret.) James B. "Jim" McCahey, Aide-de-Camp to MG Harry J. Collins, 42nd Division Commander WWII which have been provided by his wife, Mrs. Mary Lou McCahey

Casualties on the battlefields and the Pacific exceeded expectations. So, trained replacements were needed. Divisions like the 42nd were tapped for these men. In our case, it was frustrating to see these original Rainbowers, full of the Rainbow Spirit and superbly trained, sent to replacement depots. Soon, however, new draftees and volunteers arrived at Gruber and the process began all over again. This time, some of the men were ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) people. The Government had determined that after the war, well-educated people would be needed. Students in college headed for engineering, medicine, or science were permitted to remain in school to complete their training. Now these deferred draftees were brought in and we got more than our share in the Rainbow. Of course, this raised the average intelligence level of the enlisted men substantially and helped to hasten the training programs. They were quick learners.

Because of the limited time we now had to retrain the Division, the General wanted the spirit of the Rainbow brought home to these new men as quickly as possible. A movie was made of the original handing over of the Rainbow Flag ceremony. It also showed some of the battle scenes from WWI, the march down Broadway, and scenes from training the first cadre. It was a silent movie so there had to be a voice over explaining the scenes. Guess who got the assignment!! Many an hour I would sit in the front row of one of the recreation halls doing my stuff with the microphone. The idea was to leave them cheering as the last scene was shown. This seemed to be easy, since the last frames had to do with the Division marching with the bands, flags, and men (and dust). Then came a picture of a huge American Flag unfurling itself in the breeze. I guess it was the marching and the flag that did it.



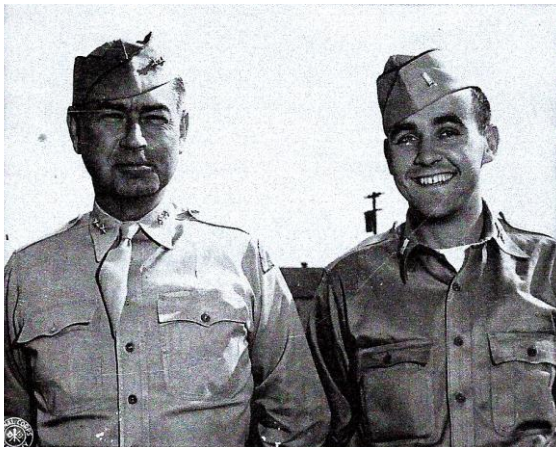
Throughout the hot summer, we trained and trained. Then came the final inspections by the Army Ground Forces headquarters people who were to make the final decision whether or not the Division was ready for combat. The inspection team of about 20 staff people was headed up by a strict disciplinarian named Lieutenant General Ben Lear. This was one tough dude, six feet three inches tall, slender as a reed, and tough. He and his colonels were to arrive at the Muskogee Airport in several Army planes. His orders were that there was to be no show, no senior officers in the welcoming party. He felt every officer should be with the troops carrying out training. So, General Collins sent me out to meet everybody. I arranged nine Army sedans, each with a corporal or sergeant driver shined to the nines. The cars were lined up about fifty yards from where the plane was to stop, each driver with a 20x30 inch sign with names of the three staff members who would ride in that vehicle. Off to the side was a one-ton truck for the baggage and seven men to carry. I was to stand at the base of the unloading platform, greet the General and escort

him to his car. He was to ride with his G-3 (training specialist), me, and the driver. So, there I stood - helmet, dress khaki, boots, shined belt buckle, alone in the heat. Actually, I wasn't quite alone. I had two flag bearers immediately behind me; one holding the Rainbow Division flag, the other a large blood red flag with three large white stars on it. It signified General Lear's rank. Just a little bit of showmanship!

Down the stairs he finally came. I gave him ye olde Rainbow salute, identified myself, and explained that General Collins regretted he could not be present, but that he had to be in the field with the troops. He just looked at me. Then he turned, motioned me to walk with him, and began to move away from the plane, the cars, the flags. He said something to the effect that we had to give the men time to get the baggage unloaded and the officers in their cars. He noticed the lineup, the drivers, the cars, the salutes. He laughed and said, "Just like your boss, aren't you!" But then, "Very good, very very good!" My day was made. While walking, we talked about the camp itself, what he was about to see, the weather, which car he was to ride in. He was very friendly, not a bit what I had been told he would be. In the car we had a complete schedule of the training for that day. He looked at everything and pointed out the things he was personally interested in. Then came the question of whether or not he could look at some items and then travel to see others. They happened to be located some distance apart. I started to say it would take almost an hour to get from one area to the other. He boomed his interruption with some words to the effect that he wasn't asking me the time of day, could he do it…yes or no! Yes, Sir!!!!!

On the post, we drove him to all the areas he wanted to see. We had a three-quarter ton radio command car following, complete with the best military radios of the day. So, if he wanted to see something not on the schedule, we would take off toward the area radioing ahead what was coming.

Meanwhile, the staff members were doing their specialties in the headquarters, the Division staff offices, and out in the field. It was a three-day inspection and nobody slept. Many staff conferences were held, the generals spent much time together late into the night. The last found the generals in Collins' house with me in attendance doing the honors as far as food and drink were concerned. Lear pointed out that thus far his people told him the Division was in great shape, with some minor problems which he knew would be corrected when the final report was delivered. He asked Collins whether or not the Division "would fight?" He said some divisions looked good, but when they entered combat they did less than was expected. Collins replied with some fervor that the Division would indeed fight!



After all this was over, and I delivered the inspection gang to their planes, this time complete with bands, troops lined up for inspection, state flags en masse, etc. General Lear, with a wry smile on his face, walked the length of the units drawn up, saluted the American and Division flags as he passed, paused and looked over the massed state banners, then marched to the foot of the access stairs, turned and saluted. With a "Well done" over his shoulder he entered the plane. His senior staff members followed and they took off. Later, he called

General Collins by radio from the plane and said it was one of the best outfits he had visited since the war began; in spite of the pomp and showmanship!!

We all thought our high marks would result in our being shipped overseas and into the fight. However, we were to be disappointed. The "Bulge" was on and troops were badly needed. So, the three infantry regiments, (222nd , 232nd and 242nd) were shipped at once.

You may remember, on December 16 the Germans mounted an enormous attack with everything going except air support. The area they chose was the Ardennes Forest. Their goal was to penetrate over the Meuse River, then turn west and flank the British and American forces in Belgium. They reasoned, if they could neutralize the Port of Antwerp where most of the Allied supplies were being unloaded, the other forces in Europe would be unable to act and the Allies would sue for peace. Thus began the Battle of the Bulge. At first, the enemy had superb success. A large salient developed in the lines of the Allied forces. Patton's Third Army was to the south of this penetration, and it was decided to turn his enormous rumored force 90 degrees from their then line of march and attack the flank of the German effort in the vicinity of Bastogne. The area where Patton had been was left somewhat open. The three regiments of the 42nd were committed in this "quiet" area. The Assistant Division Commander of the 42nd, Brigadier General Henning Linden, was placed in command (it became known as Task Force Linden), and operated under the overall command of the Commanding General and staff of the experienced 79th Division. The plan was to have the Rainbow "hold" the area until the Bulge had been reduced and the Germans defeated.

After this was accomplished, Hitler decided to try elsewhere and ordered the surviving units to attack right where Linden's troops were deployed. This secondary Bulge effort, later named "Winter Storm", was the last gasp effort of the German Army. Our regiments bore the brunt of the fighting in the coldest winter Europe experienced in years. Towns like Kilstett, Gambsheim, Offendorf, Herrlisheim, Rohrweiler, Hatten, Bitche, and Niederbetschdorf became memorable battle records for the Division. The toll of wounded and dead was substantial. The weather had its effect and scores of men had to be evacuated. As a matter of fact, the entire Seventh Army, which included our regiments, had to retreat for miles. It was obvious the task force setup had to be changed and orders were cut to bring the rest of the 42nd organization over in a hurry.

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The 4-page History of 42d Infantry Division Month of February 1945 submitted to The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C. dated 31 May 1945 – details the intensive training program conducted to provide the maximum training for combat in the time available as the month began.

"The balance of the 42d Division arrived in Marseilles on 18 January, spent nearly three weeks drawing vehicles and equipment, and moved north on 7-8 February, closing into the Vic-sur-Seille assembly area by 10 February, four days after the division was formally reconstituted and released for publicity to the Press…

"For the 42d Infantry Division the month of February saw the deactivation of Task Force Linden, the reunion of all elements of the division and the entry of the Rainbow into combat as a single fighting unit…

"By 28 February the Rainbow Division had completed its eleventh day of combat as a complete unit while the three infantry regiments completed their forty-sixth day of action against the enemy. Along its entire front the division held the initiative and combat efficiency was excellent."

From the historical report by members of the District of Columbia, Washington Chapter of the Rainbow Division Association many years ago -

"There are many dates in that war which mean many things to all of us – dates which we will never forget. However, **March 15, 1945** was the date that the entire Division first began offensive operations against the German War Machine. It was the date that the U.S. Seventh Army began its final drive to crush the detested Nazi Regime. That was the day the Rainbow Division began the long, difficult and heroic journey to later become known as the "Glory Road." It was a day that tested the physical and moral fiber of every Rainbow Soldier. It was a day of trial, a day of proof, and a day of manhood. It was a day of death, and sorrow, and sadness. **March 15, 1945** was a day we were all glad to have behind us, but a day of which

Photo 1 *–Lieutenant General Ben Lear 11 Feb 1943, credited to Missouri State Archives*
NOTE: from his Wikipedia bio – "Lear was administratively retired in May 1943, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 64, but was immediately recalled to active duty to serve on the Personnel Board of the Secretary of War, and promoted to lieutenant general. He became Commanding General of Army Ground Forces on 14 July 1944 when Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair went to Europe eleven days before McNair was killed in Normandy on 25 July 1944.

Photo 2 *-Camp Gruber, OK - Major General Harry J. Collins and his aide-de-camp, Major (then Captain) James B. "Jim" McCahey; from the manuscript of Major McCahey's autobiography provided by his wife, Mrs. Mary Lou McCahey*

every Rainbow soldier can be justifiably proud."

NOTE: from his Wikipedia bio – "Lear was administratively retired in May 1943, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 64, but was immediately recalled to active duty to serve on the Personnel Board of the Secretary of War, and promoted to lieutenant general. He became Commanding General of Army Ground Forces on 14 July 1944 when Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair went to Europe eleven days before McNair was killed in Normandy on 25 July 1944.


42ND
INF. RAINBOW DIV.
ENGLAND
THE ENGLISH CHANNEL
FRANCE
GERMANY
SWITZERLAND
AUSTRIA
ITALY
SPAIN
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
ADRIATIC SEA
VERBOTEN?
NON-FRATERNIZATION LINE
DIVISION CROSSES RHINE
SHAEF HQRS.
RHEIMS
PARIS
WORMS
COMPLETE GERMAN DEBACLE
DAHN
SIEGFRIED LINE
LANDAU
KARLSRUHE
MANNHEIM
RHINE RIVER
MAIN RIVER
KLEINHEUBACH
WÜRZBURG
FESTUNG MARIENBERG
DIVISION CROSSES MAIN RIVER 4 TIMES
SCHWEINFURT
CENTER OF GERMAN BALL BEARING INDUSTRY
BAMBERG
NEUSTADT
FÜRTH
THE HEART OF NAZILAND
NÜRNBERG
WAS IST LOS??
BAVARIA
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT U.S.A.
1ST BN. 242 RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL CITATION FOR ACTION AT HATTEN
SOUR-KRAUT
DONAUWORTH
DANUBE RIVER
RAIN
BEER HALL
DACHAU
ALLES KAPUT!
MUNICH
BÜRGER BRÄU KELLER
WAR ENDS! MAY 8, 1945
PALLING
SALZBURG
HERRNCHIEMSEE
ELEMENTS OF DIVISION ACROSS GERMAN-AUSTRIAN BORDER BEFORE WAR'S END
BERCHTESGADEN HITLER'S HOME
STILL LOOKING!
LECH RIVER
INN RIVER
KITZBÜHEL
INNSBRUCK
BRENNER PASS
MISSION ACOMPLISHED!
WINGEN WIMMENAU
HARDT MTS.
SIEGFRIED LINE
PICTURE OF A JET PLANE
LAST GREAT GERMAN OFFENSIVE STOPPED HERE BY 42ND DIVISION
HATTEN
LA PETITE PIERRE
VOSGES MTS.
HAGENAU
TASK FORCE LINDEN
HOCHFELDEN
VIC-SUR-SEILLE
STRASSBOURG
HAGENAU HATTIE GERMAN R.R. GUN
NANCY
LUNEVILLE
7TH ARMY HQRS.
CIREY
BELFORT
BERN
DIJON
major General commanding 42nd Div
THIS CARTOGRAPH SHOWS THE TRAIL OF THE RAINBOW FROM THE TIME OF ITS LANDING IN FRANCE, THROUGH ITS BATTLES AND VICTORIES OVER THE GERMANS, TO ITS FINAL OCCUPATION IN AUSTRIA.
GENEVA
LYON
RHONE RIVER
TURIN
GENOA
MISSION OF THE RAINBOW: TO CAPTURE ITS OBJECTIVES WITH A MINIMUM COST IN CASUALTIES -
DIVISION LANDS DEC. 9, 1944
MARSEILLE
CP II
MON DIEU!
PYRENES MTS.
FLORENCE
BOLOGNA
SPEZIA
PISA
TRIESTE
WASSER MANN
MACKECHNIE

NARRATIVE of the 232ND INFANTRY REGIMENT, 42ND "RAINBOW" INFANTRY DIVISION WORLD WAR II



Through the Maginot Line, doughs of the 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, head for Germany, only two kilometers past this town.

[combat photos and captions are from the book, 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division History World War II, published in 1946 by the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division]



The 3d Battalion, 232d Infantry, marches past the stone marker in the foreground which is on the border of Nazi Germany.

The NARRATIVE portion of this history was extracted from the monthly Reports of Operations, Headquarters, 232d Inf. Regt. that are on file at the United States National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, MD and cover the time period 25 November 1944 through 27 May 1945. The 232D Division Medal Citations are taken from copies of the original 1945-1946 pages of The General Orders, 42D Division. Only full text Citations are included in this NARRATIVE. There has been no attempt to include all of the many hundreds of Citations for medals awarded to individuals of the Regiment; only those we have found that detail the action for which the medals were awarded, to illuminate the story of the 232D Infantry Regiment during specific times and at specific locations and to tell some of the individual stories of the Regiment; to provide a framework for greater understanding. When possible, citations for units in support of the 232D Infantry Regiment, 42D Division have been included.

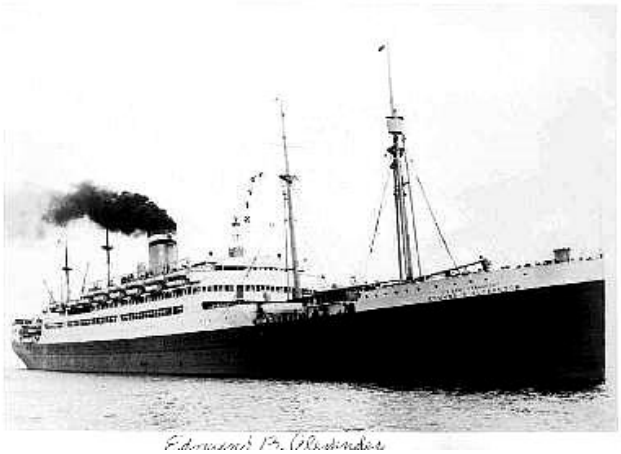
The General Orders citations for those Rainbowmen not listed in this record are listed in the Index to the General Orders /42nd Infantry Division, privately assembled by Mr. Brandon T. Wiegand and now available to view on the <rainbowvets.org> history database: https://rainbowvets.org/wp-content/uploads/Index-to-the-General-Orders-OCR.pdf 232D project research to date: 2009 – 14 November 2026

Photos have been taken from the pictorial and review books for men of the 42D Division who were in training at Camp Gruber, OK during November 1944; other photos have been contributed by the families of the veterans and soldiers. Maps are from the book, ***42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division History World War II***, written and edited by Lt. Hugh C. Daly, 1st printing 1946.

The Battle Deaths of the 42D Infantry "Rainbow" Division are listed in the database updated in 2025 by Jim Fisher, son of Delbert Fisher, H3B/232nd Infantry Regiment. He was assisted in this through the use of the booklet,"*42nd 'Rainbow' Division Battle Deaths, WWII/A listing of those Rainbowmen who made the Supreme Sacrifice*", compiled and printed by the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation (RDVMF), June 2008 (third printing). https://rainbowvets.org/wp-content/uploads/42nd-Rainbow-Division-Battle-Deaths-World-War-II-v2_-June-2025.pdf

232D Infantry Regiment **CASUALTIES (KIA; DOW)**: [see pp 307-314]
The number who died while serving in the 232D Infantry Regiment: 210
Company "A": 22; Company "B": 30; Company "C": 12; Company "D": 6;
Company "E": 14; Company "F": 17; Company "G": 28; Company "H": 1;
Company "I": 23; Company "K": 15; Company "L": 19; Company "M": 7
232-RHQ: 1; 232-H1B: 8; 232-H2B: 1; 232-H3B: 3; Anti-Tank Company: 3

The text in ***bold italics*** is from the document, "Headquarters 42D Infantry Division/Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3:



OPERATIONS OF 42D INFANTRY DIVISION
1 APRIL 1945 -- 30 APRIL 1945

The NARRATIVE

On **25 November 1944** the 232d Infantry of Task Force Linden, comprising 154 Officers and 3,039 Enlisted Men under the command of Colonel ALFRED A. McNAMEE, steamed out of New York Harbor on board the U.S. troopships SS Edmund B. Alexander and SS Bienville as part of a convoy of fourteen ships and escorts.

The two ships docked at Marseilles on **8 December 1944**. The troops aboard the SS Bienville disembarked that same day, marched to a predetermined assembly point three miles northeast of the city, and proceeded from there to CP 2 at Delta Base Staging Area about two miles northwest of Calas. After unloading baggage and equipment from the trucks, the fatigued troops pitched individual shelter tents, and suffered considerably from the cold, snow and mud. During the next two days, until the kitchen equipment was unloaded and put into operation, the troops ate K rations. The 232d Infantry personnel aboard the SS Edmund B. Alexander disembarked on **9 December 1944**, proceeded along the same route, part way on foot and then by motor convoy, joining the regiment in CP 2 bivouac area late that same evening.



No man of the Rainbow Division who passed through CP 2 will ever forget it. It was a rude introduction to Europe and an indication of the miserably cold days and nights which lay ahead. It was a far different world than these men had left only 10 days to two weeks before. Here the war seemed very close. At night there was blackout and occasionally a German plane flew over the area and the anti-aircraft guns of the port defense barked at it. Training continued and now, more than ever, there seemed a purpose in it. [Daly p. 13]

Each day during the ensuing week the troops trained in the hills of CP 2 area, applying and reviewing principles of combat tactics. They stood ordnance inspection of weapons and organizational equipment, and drew new clothing and supplies.

The necessity for blackout precautions and general preparedness against attack from the air was stimulated by the appearance of an enemy reconnaissance plane over the bivouac area at 2130 hours on **12 December**, and was emphasized by its repeated visits on succeeding nights. Immediately the troops spread out their positions, dug foxholes and took other defense precautions.

On or about **15 December 1944** the 232d Infantry received warning orders to move by train and motor convoy to the vicinity of Metz.

At 1100 hours on **19 December 1944** the first train serial departed from CP 2, traveling in a generally north direction. In the afternoon the second train serial followed. A motor serial departed at 0615 hours the next morning, drove north to St. Rambert, bivouacked overnight and then continued north on the following morning, arriving at a bivouac area at Dijon at 1600 hours on **21 December 1944**. The final section of the motor convoy closed Dijon at 2000 hours on the same date.

On **20 December 1944**, while enroute north, Task Force Linden was relieved from assignment with the Third Army and attached to General Patch's Seventh Army.

Meanwhile, the train convoy in box cars proceeded north through Lyon and Nancy almost to Metz, where it was rerouted back to Bensdorf. From there it proceeded by motor trucks to Morhange, arriving on the night of **21 December 1944**. The motor convoy traveling north from Dijon was rerouted at Nancy, joining the train serial at Morhange on 22 December.

On the same evening the regiment received orders to move on the morning of **23 December 1944** by motor to Strasbourg, where they closed at about 1800. The regiment, less the 2nd Battalion, was billeted at Essen School in Schiltigheim, with the 2nd Battalion in French barracks south of Strasbourg.

THE WATCH ON THE RHINE

The same evening of **23 December 1944** the 232d Infantry received orders from Task Force Linden effective at 0800, 24 December 1944 to move into the area then held by the 143rd Infantry of the 36th Division along the west bank of the Rhine River north of Strasbourg, and to occupy, organize and be prepared to assume responsibility for complete defense of that sector by 2359, 24 December 1944.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to KENNETH H. CARPENTER, 33 732 622, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry, for gallantry in action on 23 December 1944 near Kilstett, France. When our positions around Kilstett, France, were being attacked, Sergeant Carpenter, under heavy enemy fire, personally directed mortar fire, from an exposed position, upon advancing enemy troops. This fire killed many and disorganized the enemy. Shifting his fire, Sergeant Carpenter destroyed two enemy machine guns. When his position was threatened, he personally killed three of the enemy with rifle fire. He then withdrew to another position and directed mortar fire on more of the advancing enemy. This group was totally destroyed. Sergeant Carpenter's courage and outstanding skill contributed greatly to the failure of the enemy attack. Entered military service from Baltimore, Maryland.



The troops departed from the bivouac areas beginning at 0800 hours on **24 December 1944**, moved forward to the Rhine River, and established their positions as ordered. The 1st Battalion took over the defense of the sector from La Wantzenau along the west bank of the Rhine River northeast to Offendorf. The 3rd Battalion sector extended from La Wantzenau south to the canal along the north boundary of Strasbourg. The 2nd Battalion, in Regimental reserve, occupied Hoerdt. The 222nd Infantry occupied a sector on our right including the island east of Strasbourg and a sector south of Strasbourg. Task Force Harris [63rd Division] covered the sector to our north. Cannon Company was put in position at Kilstett and the Anti-Tank Company was held in reserve at Schiltigheim.

While improving and organizing their defensive positions along the entire length of this 10-mile front, the only contact of the regiment with the enemy was sporadic firing across the Rhine River.

At 2400 hours **27 December 1944** the 232d Infantry was relieved from its positions along the Rhine by Task Force Herren [70th Division]. The following new positions were occupied: the 1st Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion of the 222nd Infantry (W042980-W043983); the 2nd Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion of the 242d Infantry in the sector from south end of island south along the Rhine about 2 ½ miles; the 3rd Battalion was held in reserve at Hohwarth. Reconnaissance was made for new location of the Regimental CP, but was not occupied.

While these movements were being effected and on the morning of the **28th of December**, orders were received to have the 2nd Battalion occupy the island in front of Strasbourg with one company, in addition to its sector south of Strasbourg; the 3rd Battalion to occupy and extend its original position north of Strasbourg to Kilstett. The 1st Battalion was ordered to occupy the sector from the southern edge of Kilstett north to Offendorf (exclusive).

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD W. MALTRY, 35 517 112, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 28 December 1944, near Stockfeld, France. While Private Maltry was preparing to load troops on his truck, near the Rhine River, an enemy machine gun opened fire on the men and vehicle from across the river. Although the troops immediately sought cover, Private Maltry returned fire with the machine gun and silenced the enemy weapon. His prompt and courageous action prevented loss of life and equipment and enabled the mission to be completed. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

At the close of 1944 the 232d Infantry was organizing new and reinforcing old defensive positions along the entire length of this 15-mile front, while maintaining its watch on the Rhine.



A familiar sight – soldiers moving to the front and civilians hurrying to the rear. The men are from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 232D Infantry

On **1 January 1945** the 232d Infantry occupied front line positions along the west bank of the Rhine extending from Offendorf south to Strasbourg, with TF Herren on the left and the 222d Infantry on the right. The First Battalion, 232d Infantry, with its CP at Gambsheim, held the sector extending from Offendorf south to the southern edge of Kilstett. The Third Battalion occupied front line positions from Kilstett exclusive to north of Strasbourg and had its CP at La Wantzenau. The front line battalions were engaged in active reconnaissance. The Third Battalion was making plans to extend its southern flank to relieve Company A, 222d Infantry, which at that time extended slightly north of Strasbourg. Elements of Company E, 232d Infantry, were attached to Headquarters TF Linden as security platoon. Elements of Company G were occupying and defending key bridges west of Schiltigheim, while the remainder of the Second Battalion were in reserve at Hoerdt. The Regimental CP moved from Schiltigheim to Reichstett.

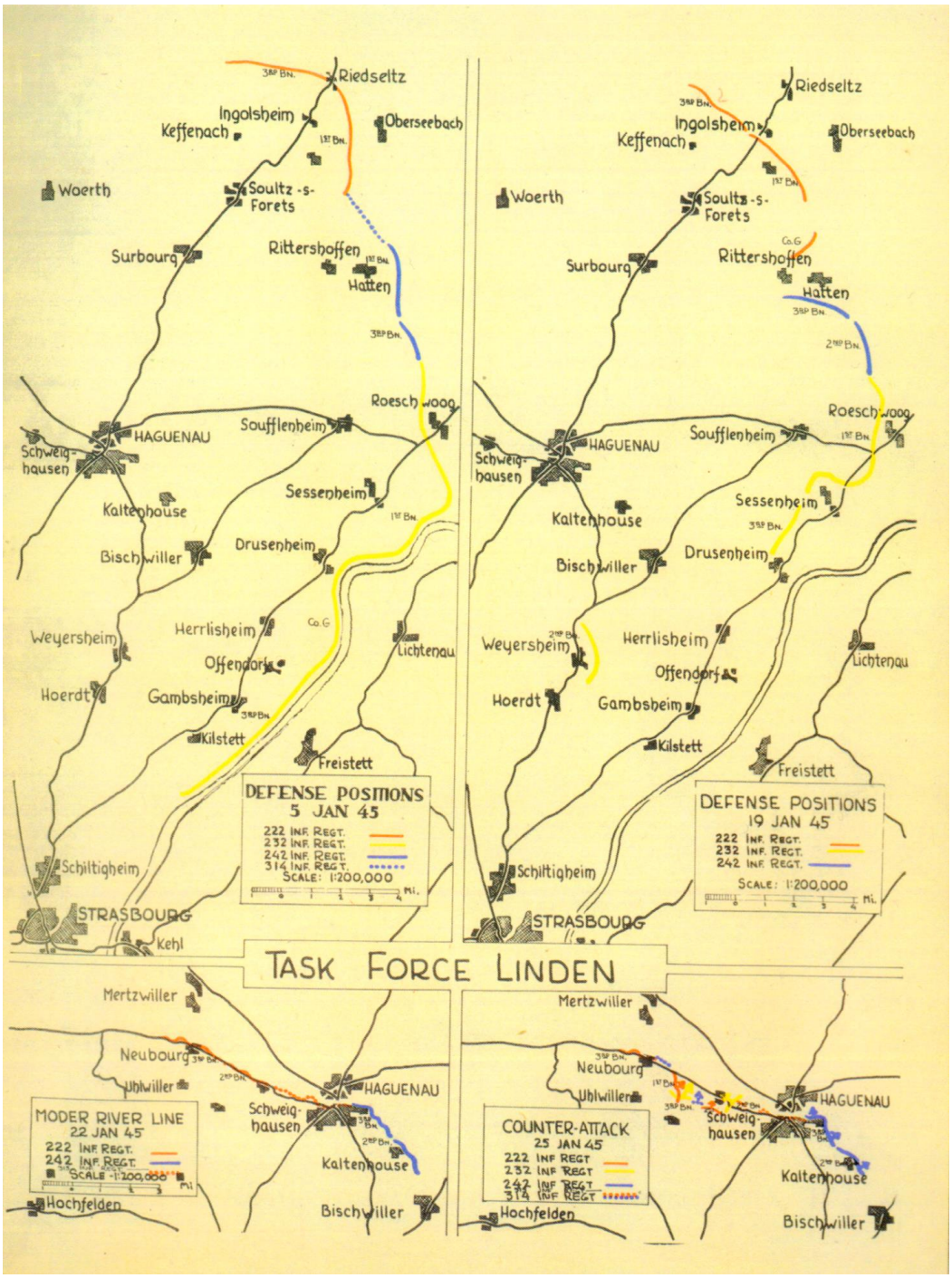
On **2 January 1945** the Third Battalion completed its relief of Company A, 222d Infantry, thereby extending its right flank south along the Rhine to the island which is east of Strasbourg. On **3 January 1945** the Second Battalion was ordered to move south of Strasbourg to relieve the 222d Infantry in the sector from the north end of the island south along the Rhine to Plobsheim, with the CP at Neuhof and with Company G defending the island position in front of Strasbourg. The Second Battalion was attached at that time to the 222d Infantry for tactical command only. TF Herren then relieved the First Battalion, 232d

Infantry, which reverted to regimental reserve at Reichstett. The Third Battalion extended their left boundary to the southern edge of Offendorf.

On **4 January 1945** the First Battalion moved from position in regimental reserve to relieve elements of TF Herren on the left, taking over the sector from Rohrwiller north along the Rhine to Forstfeld, establishing the CP at Schirrhoffen. Company G was relieved from their position on the island and moved north to occupy the gap between the First and Third Battalions, including the towns of Offendorf, Herrlisheim, and Rohrwiller. Attached to the 232d Infantry for operations only, the First Battalion, 222d Infantry, moved to Hoerdt as regimental reserve. Cannon Company moved from Ft. Rapp to La Wantzenau to support the regimental area by fire. The Anti-Tank Company with its CP at Reichstett had its guns so placed as to protect the Regimental CP and to give depth to the front line battalions.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD E. CROWLEY, 6 544 794, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 January 1945 near Stattmatten, France. When two wounded men had been left behind during a withdrawal from Stattmatten, France, Sergeant Crowley volunteered to accompany a party organized to find the missing men. Learning from a rifleman the location of the two men, he crossed an open field under heavy sniper fire in order to locate their exact position. Sergeant Crowley then returned to friendly lines where he secured a jeep and a medical aid man, who assisted him in the treatment and evacuation of the two wounded men. By his extreme courage and devotion to duty, Sergeant Crowley was directly responsible for saving the two men from possible death or capture.
Entered military service from San Francisco, California.

At this time the 232d Infantry occupied approximately 33 miles of the Rhine River bank from the First French Army on the right at Plobsheim to the 79th Division boundary on the left at Forstfeld.



GAMBSHEIM

At approximately 0745 hours on **5 January** an enemy force of unknown sizes attacked both Gambsheim and Kilstett. The Regimental Commander established a forward Command Post, which constituted a part of TF "B" at La Wantzenau, while the CP at Weyersheim, which constituted a part of TF "A", was also under his direct command for further operations. The immediate problem was to assemble

the troops, which were on the move from the recently-occupied 33-mile front and thus in no position to be committed to battle, to withstand any attacks by an enemy break-through across the Rhine, and to prevent the establishment of an enemy bridgehead.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEO WARD, 14 068 473, Private, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action 4 January 1945 to 5 January 1945, near La Wantzenau, France. Private Ward was serving as assistant driver on a 2 1/2 –ton truck transporting rations to the front line over an unfamiliar road in blackout, when heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire was encountered. Refusing to be diverted from this mission, Private Ward and the driver continued on and, upon arriving at their destination, worked for almost six hours, under intermittent artillery fire, to unload and distribute their cargo to the troops. Private Ward's devotion to duty contributed materially to the morale and combat efficiency of his unit. Entered military service from Durham, North Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES L. THORNE, 20 742 022, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4-5 January 1945, near LaWantzenau, France. While transporting ammunition to a front-line Battalion in blackout over unfamiliar roads, Corporal Thorne encountered intense enemy artillery and mortar fire, but ignoring the danger involved, continued on his assigned mission. At his destination, he worked for six hours, under intermittent artillery fire to unload and distribute the vitally needed cargo. By his courage and determination in the face of enemy fire, Corporal Thorne contributed to the accomplishment of his Regiment's mission. Entered military service from Forrest City, Arkansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FLETCHER D. LOWE, 34 842 463, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 at Gambsheim, France. On 5 January 1945 Corporal Lowe was given the mission of evacuating supplies and ammunition from the town of Gambsheim, France, in the face of a determined enemy attack. Disregarding intense enemy artillery, mortar, and direct tank fire, he continued on his mission until all of the vital supplies had been evacuated to the newly established supply base. Through his courage and unswerving devotion to duty, Corporal Lowe saved the needed supplies and ammunition from capture by the enemy. Entered military service from Columbus, South Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LOUIS TIORAN, 01 320 982, Captain (then First Lieutenant), Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Kilstett, France. When his Company Commander was mortally wounded, Lieutenant Tioran, Executive Officer, immediately assumed command of the Company and organized the defense of Kilstett. Continuously exposing himself to hostile artillery and mortar fire, he moved his heavy machine gun and mortar sections into position, deployed riflemen, and directed artillery fire upon the advancing enemy. Lieutenant Tioran's courage and leadership were effective contributions toward repulse of the enemy attack.
Entered military service from Pontiac, Michigan.



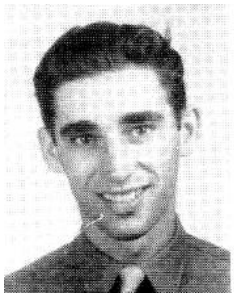
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN W. KILLOREN, 01 058 043, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. During the enemy attack on Kilstett, France, Lieutenant Killoren, weapons platoon leader, exposed himself to intense artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire in order to lead a machine gun section forward to deliver supporting fire for elements of his company who were helplessly pinned down. He then advanced over two hundred yards of open terrain in the face of the withering fire, contacted his mortar section, and directed their fire on the enemy forces. As a result of his outstanding courage, initiative, and unswerving devotion to duty, the enemy attack on his company's positions was completely disorganized and repulsed. Entered military service from Appleton, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT A. RHODES, 36 826 414, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. During the action at Gambsheim, strong enemy attacks forced the second battalion to withdraw from their positions. Sergeant Rhodes organized a small group of volunteers to act as rear guard for the withdrawing battalion. Without regard for his personal safety, he exposed himself to the intense artillery mortar and machine gun fire in order to deploy his men and direct their fire on the enemy. Not until the withdrawing elements had reached their new positions, did Sergeant Rhodes successfully withdraw his group of men. His courageous and skillful leadership played a major role in the withdrawal of his battalion. Entered military service from Madison, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PHILIP E. DIGIORGIO, 33 785 655, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Gambsheim, France. During the action around Gambsheim, France, when enemy machine guns opened up on his company's right flank, Private DiGiorgio immediately led his light machine gun squad into action. Ammunition was rapidly becoming expended, so he advanced across fifty yards of open terrain in the face of murderous machine gun fire to secure and deliver the critically needed ammunition to his gun crew. By his outstanding courage and aggressive determination, Private DiGiorgio's machine gun squad was able to pin the enemy gun crews down, relieving the pressure from his company's right flank.
Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to PAUL J. SHARICH, 37 303 019, Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action 5 January 1945, near Strasbourg, France. During the fierce fighting around Strasbourg, France, when the enemy attempted to recross the Rhine River, Company I's ammunition supply was running dangerously low. Volunteering to secure an additional supply, Sergeant Sharich made his way through a vicious hail of enemy machine gun and artillery fire to the ammunition supply point, returning with a full load. As he was crossing a small stream, the enemy zeroed their machine guns in on him, and he was fatally wounded. Sergeant Sharich's gallant and heroic attempt to bring the vitally needed ammunition to his comrades reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Name and address of nearest relative: Mr. George Sharich (Father), 3013 3rd Avenue, Hibbing, Minnesota.
Entered military service from Hibbing, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEONARD E. CREO, 12 123 727, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, at Strasbourg, France. When the enemy made a determined attempt to cross the Rhine River at Strasbourg, France, Private Creo operated his light machine gun singlehandedly, constantly changing his position to escape the intense mortar and artillery fire. Alternately operating his machine gun and automatic rifle from completely exposed positions in the face of murderous machine gun and artillery fire, he repeatedly repelled enemy landings. As the enemy forces withdrew under cover of heavy artillery fire, he was seriously wounded by shell fragments. Private Creo's indomitable courage and aggressiveness played a major role in repulsing the attacking forces. Entered military service from Hollis, Long Island, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to WILEY J. SWAFFORD, 38 666 060, Private, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Strasbourg, France. During the fierce fighting around Strasbourg, France, when the enemy attempted to recross the Rhine River, Company I's ammunition supply became critically low. Private Swafford unhesitatingly set out through intense concentrations of enemy artillery fire to obtain the vitally needed supplies. Returning with a full load of ammunition, he fearlessly braved the increasingly intense fire until he was mortally wounded by shell fragments. Private Swafford's indomitable courage and unswerving devotion to duty were an inspiration to his comrades and reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Flossie Swafford (Mother), Route 3, Alma, Arkansas. Entered military service from Alma, Arkansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN K. TROUT, 02 010 642, 2d Lieutenant, (Then Technical Sergeant), Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Chateau Robertsau, France. When the enemy was attempting a crossing of the Rhine River near Chateau Robertsau, Sergeant Trout set up his platoon in positions along the river bank in the face of intense mortar, artillery, machine gun, and rifle fire. While directing his platoon's fire, he suffered serious leg wounds and was knocked unconscious by an artillery shell. Regaining consciousness he went back over five hundred yards of open terrain to secure medical aid for two wounded men. Not until after he had successfully directed his platoon in repelling the enemy river crossing, did Sergeant Trout permit himself to be evacuated. Entered military service from Forest City, North Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to RICHARD W. TWOMBLY, 0 549 791, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry, for heroic service in action on 6 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. Leading a combat patrol of Company K near Kilstett, France, Lieutenant Twombly, as platoon leader of the third platoon, was given the mission of locating the strength and disposition of enemy forces. While proceeding across an embankment his patrol was pinned down by enemy small arms and mortar fire. In an attempt to maintain his precarious position and to gain a better understanding of the situation, he fearlessly exposed himself until fatally wounded by an enemy grenade thrown at close range. Lieutenant Twombly's outstanding courage and determination contributed immeasurably to the success of his mission. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. C.M. Twombly (Mother), 121 W. 72nd Street, New York City, New York. Entered military service from New York City, New York.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to FLOYD W. GILSON, 36 109 373, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. While leading his platoon against several enemy machine gun positions near Kilstett, France, Sergeant Gilson was severely wounded in the face during an intense concentration of mortar and artillery fire. Disregarding his wound, he continued to brave the murderous fire in order to reorganize his platoon for a withdrawal and to assist the medical aid men in caring for the other wounded. By his outstanding courage and selfless determination, Sergeant Gilson enabled his men to withdraw to safety with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DENNIS F. SULLIVAN, 32 862 761, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near La Wanzeneau, France. When his four-man patrol was ambushed by enemy snipers, Sergeant Sullivan was wounded in the chest and his comrade hit in the leg. Disregarding his own wound, Sergeant Sullivan administered first aid to the injured soldier and carried him back into friendly territory where medical aid was available. Sergeant Sullivan's extreme courage and disregard for himself saved the wounded man from possible death or capture.
Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.

The CP and the Battalion Headquarters Company were at La Wantzenau, less the first squad of the Anti-Tank Platoon which was in Gambsheim. Company I CP was at the Chateau de la Robertseau with troops deployed generally along the dike in the woods northeast and southeast of La Wantzenau. Company L CP with Company Headquarters and the first and second rifle platoons were at Gambsheim. Company M CP was at La Wantzenau with one section of 81 mm mortars and one section of heavy machine guns at Kilstett; one section of mortars emplaced along the railroad between Kilstett and La Wantzenau, one section of 81 mm mortars and one section of heavy machine guns at Ft. Ney.

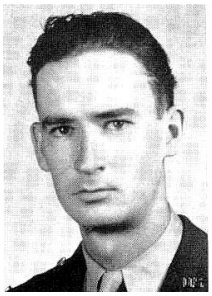


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALFRED C. ROMERO, 38 488 185, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4-5 January 1945, near La Wantzenau, France. Private Romero, driving a heavy truck with rations for the front lines over an unfamiliar road in blackout, encountered heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire but refused to be diverted from his mission. Upon arrival at his destination, Private Romero and his assistant worked for almost six hours under intermittent artillery fire to unload and distribute their cargo to the troops. Private Romero's devotion to duty contributed materially to the morale and combat efficiency of his unit. Entered military service from Franklin, Louisiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR M. EDWARDS, 0 369 337, Major, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in action. During the period 5-7 January, 1945 at Kilstett, France, when a sudden attack of the enemy caused numerous casualties, Major Edwards, Regimental Surgeon, tirelessly and unceasingly, in extreme cold, with no rest and little food for almost 72 hours, and without the normal assistance necessary, directed the

evacuation of the seriously wounded cases requiring immediate medical care. His energetic action and quick decisions were instrumental in saving a great many lives. Entered military service from Bornico, Louisiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LAWRENCE R. RODGERS, 01 775 395, Captain, Medical Detachment, 2d Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for Meritorious Achievement in connection with action against an enemy of the United States from 5 January 1945 to 8 May 1945, in France and Germany.
Entered military service from Amarillo, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BERNARD J. MARKOSKI, 02 049 635, 2d Lieutenant, Medical Administrative Corps, 2d Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, near Weyersheim, France. During the action in the vicinity of Weyersheim, France, Lieutenant Markoski supervised the evacuation of wounded in the flat open ground to an advance collecting point. Constantly exposing himself to heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire, he directed litter squads and searched the unprotected terrain beyond the advance collecting point for wounded. By his courage, diligence, and devotion to his fellow men, Lieutenant Markoski was instrumental in promptly locating and evacuating a large number of wounded, resulting in the saving of many lives. Entered military service from Peoria, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT L. WACHTLER, 32 929 488, Private First Class, Medical Department, Company K, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. Private Wachtler was serving as aid man with the 4th Platoon, Company K, 232d Infantry during its attack over open terrain against a strong enemy position when a bursting 88 mm. shell struck him over the left eye, and wounded his Platoon Sergeant in the face. Disregarding his own injury and the continuing artillery barrage, Private Wachtler administered aid to the Platoon Sergeant and continued forward with his platoon. When the advance was halted by the intensity of the enemy artillery and machine gun fire, Private Wachtler, alone of all the aid men in the sector, continued to move about over the exposed ground giving aid to the wounded. His outstanding courage and unselfish devotion to his fellow men reflect distinct credit upon himself and are worthy of the highest praise.
Entered military service from Passaic, New Jersey.

Patrols at the south end of Kilstett saw their flares tripped along the levee paralleling the Rhine. The mortars opened fire immediately, covering a large sector of the levee. The enemy had apparently cut off Gambsheim and were attempting to surround Kilstett. At 0900 a barrage was laid just to the right of positions held by Company L. Kilstett appeared to be a dead target for enemy artillery, with German shells covering the entire sector. Shortly afterwards orders came to shift strength to the northeast end of Kilstett, leaving one mortar, the light machine guns, and some riflemen to prevent enemy infiltration from the east.



The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to VIRGINIUS F. SEBRELL, 13 117 667, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 January 1945 at Kilstett, France. While carrying information of vital importance from his platoon to his company under intense enemy fire, Private Sebrell was severely wounded. In spite of his wounds from which he later died, Private Sebrell struggled on for more than 600 yards to the company Command Post, where he delivered the message and then collapsed. His heroic self-sacrifice and unfailing devotion to duty reflect distinct credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States and are worthy of the highest praise. Name and address of nearest relative – Mrs. Elsie L. Sebrell (Mother) 1021 North Street, Portsmouth, Virginia.
Entered military service from Richmond, Virginia.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to FRANCIS J. MCMAHON, 01 308 069, Captain, (then 1st Lt.), Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action, on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. Wounded while deploying his machine guns, Lieutenant McMahon refused evacuation and continued placing his weapon and encouraging his men. Still without medical treatment, Lieutenant McMahon led his company in direct support of one of the rifle companies, constantly checking on his platoons while under direct enemy fire. By his courage and selfless determination, Lieutenant McMahon enabled his company to support the battalion during an extremely critical period.
Entered military service from Sunnyside, Long Island, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RALPH LOGGINS, 36 688 300, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. While directing fire on enemy installations, Sergeant Loggins' mortar section came under intense German artillery fire and two of the mortar squad were severely wounded. Sergeant Loggins then personally manned one of the 81 mm mortars and continued to direct the fire of his section in support of rifle troops, while maintaining control of his section. His heroic action and determination of purpose, undoubtedly contributed greatly to repulsing the enemy attack. Entered military service from Greeneville, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN E. MAJOR, 58 654 284, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5-6 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. In the face of intense enemy artillery, mortar, small arms and sniper fire, Private Major, Platoon Messenger, delivered orders from section to section of machine guns and under rigid front line blackout conditions guided machine gun squads accurately into positions which had been pointed out to him in daylight, then proceeded to guide ammunition bearers to dumps for much needed supplies. His untiring efforts and efficiency in combat were of outstanding assistance in repulsing enemy attacks.
Entered military service from Cheval, Louisiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEROY F. REYNOLDS, 33 837 359, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, at Kilstett, France. While serving as a member of an 81 mm mortar crew, Private Reynolds made two trips across 500 yards of flat, open terrain under heavy enemy mortar and 88 mm artillery barrages, checked a wire line from the company mortar positions to the mortar observation post and restored the communications that had been disrupted by enemy fire. His action made possible the correction and

adjustment of fire into the neighboring town in support of our rifle troops contributing to the repulse of a strong enemy counterattack. Entered military service from New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to IGNACIO R. VAZQUEZ, 38 557 184, Corporal, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, in Kilstett, France. During the action at Kilstett, France, Corporal Vazquez, Instrument Corporal in an 81 mm mortar platoon, stationed himself near mortars and computed fire data under intense enemy artillery and mortar fire, keeping the guns firing at the attacking enemy. On another occasion Corporal Vazquez reconnoitered forward, under enemy observation and sniper fire, for new mortar positions. During this reconnaissance enemy artillery fire was so great that he could advance but a few feet at a time before taking cover. Corporal Vazquez's courageous action enabled the mortars to continue firing under extremely difficult conditions. Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAOLO GARGANO, 42 030 124, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Kilstett, France. Although suffering from serious wounds from shell fragments, Private Gargano remained at his mortar and continued to fire for four hours without medical treatment during a determined enemy attack. By his heroic actions under fire, Private Gargano made possible the laying of essential supporting fire on the enemy positions, and assisted materially in halting the enemy attack. Entered military service from Bronx, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLAYTON F. HAINES, 33 761 872, Corporal, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. When a quarter-ton vehicle and trailer, loaded with ammunition for a forward heavy machine gun squad, was hit by enemy shrapnel, Corporal Haines crawled from his foxhole to make repairs on the vehicle. Under intense hostile artillery and mortar fire, he completed the repairs on the vehicle and sent it on its mission. His courageous act enabled the forward machine gun squad to maintain its fire against the enemy and materially aided our offensive in his sector. Entered military service from Woodward, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STANLEY HASTERLO, JR., 37 482 616, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. In order to supply his platoon with vitally-needed ammunition, Private Hasterlo drove a loaded one-quarter ton vehicle under heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire from the ammunition supply point to his platoon. Exposing himself to enemy fire, he repeatedly crossed open terrain to deliver important messages between the Company Command Post and his platoon. Private Hasterlo's courageous actions and devotion to duty contributed to the success of his platoon in its defense against a superior enemy force. Entered military service from Omaha, Nebraska.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DANTE AVIGNONE, 42 114 319, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 5 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, upon observing a wounded man lying in an exposed position, Private Avignone worked his way to the wounded soldier under intensive enemy fire and helped remove him to a place of safety. Entered military service from West Orange, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD R. STEADMAN, 38 404 405, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Kilstett, France. During the action at Kilstett, Sergeant Steadman voluntarily went forward to act as observer for his mortar section. While laying wire to his observation post, he was suddenly exposed to a concentration of artillery and mortar fire, but he continued forward alone and established his observation post. Many times his communications were severed by enemy fire, but he unhesitatingly went out each time to repair the wire. Sergeant Steadman's courageous actions throughout the entire engagement enabled his mortar section to place vitally needed fire on the attacking enemy forces. Entered military service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWIN J. STANLEY, 0 555 582, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in action. During the period 5 to 7 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, Lieutenant Stanley skillfully reconnoitered for machine gun positions in the face of heavy enemy machine gun and artillery fire. On one reconnaissance he spent almost two hours under enemy mortar and sniper fire in order to obtain information concerning the location of enemy positions. His leadership and devotion to duty materially assisted our troops in the accomplishment of their mission.
Entered military service from Seminolo, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MICHAEL J. BOLDIZAR, 32 057 972, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action during the period 5 January to 7 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. As messenger for the Reconnaissance Officer of his Company, Private Boldizar made frequent trips under heavy enemy mortar, artillery, and machine gun fire, carrying important messages to the platoon leaders and enabling them to maneuver their platoons successfully and without casualties. On several occasions he drove under hostile fire to assist in making repairs to telephone lines severed by tanks and enemy artillery fire. His courageous acts contributed greatly to the maintenance of essential communications. Entered military service from Elizabeth, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK RODRIGUEZ, 36 983 283, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. Throughout the engagement on 5 and 6 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, as messenger for his company commander, Private Rodriguez made continuous trips under heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire between platoon and company command posts. His courageous acts contributed greatly to the maintenance of contact at a time when all other means of communication had been severed. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELMER J. BONITI, 35 376 714, Corporal, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 at Kilstett, France. During the enemy attack at Kilstett, France on 6 January 1945, Corporal Boniti maintained effective liaison between his Heavy Machine-Gun Platoon and the supported riflemen, enabling his Platoon Leader to employ his machine-gun sections so as to maintain maximum effective fire power. When an enemy tank attack was formed in his sector, Corporal Boniti moved rocket launchers and ammunition from one section to another. Carrying a rocket launcher and two bags filled to capacity with ammunition across open ground under intense enemy machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, Corporal Boniti brought them from a rear distribution point to his platoon.

Entered military service from Weirton, West Virginia.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWIN W. COLE, 31 454 095, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, at Kilstett, France. Private Cole drove his vehicle, a quarter-ton truck and trailer loaded with 81mm mortar ammunition through an intense enemy concentration of 88mm artillery fire and delivered essential ammunition to his mortar platoon. Through his action the platoon repulsed the enemy attacks effectively and supported the riflemen in their defense. Private Cole's courage and unfaltering devotion to duty reflects the highest standards of the 42d Infantry Division.
Entered military service from Stamford, Connecticut.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ZACK E. TATE, 38 564 500, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. When his heavy machine gun section came under intense enemy machine gun and artillery fire while crossing an open field, casualties mounted rapidly and reconnoitered a route to a covered position. Returning to his men, he led them in a successful withdrawal from their exposed position. By his courageous action, Sergeant Tate prevented further casualties not only to the men of his section but to the rifle troops which he was supporting.
Entered military service from Coleman, Oklahoma.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MARION L. MADDEN, 18 249 518, Private, Infantry, Headquarters, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action. On 5 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, while serving as company aid man with a heavy machine gun platoon, Private Madden observed three wounded men from another company lying in an open field 130 yards to his front. Crawling out in the face of heavy enemy 88mm machine gun and small arms fire, he administered first aid to each of them. In spite of intense enemy fire, Private Madden remained in the exposed position with the wounded men for over two hours until darkness set in, when he assisted in their evacuation.
Entered military service from Little Rock, Arkansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM C. HOCH, 37 575 078, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France. During the enemy attack on Gambsheim, Sergeant Hoch volunteered as the rear guard for the withdrawal of his 81mm mortar squad from the town. Although exposed to intense enemy mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire, Sergeant Hoch courageously fired his rifle at the rapidly advancing enemy forces, delaying them sufficiently to allow his section to withdraw successfully and without casualties.
Entered military service from Duluth, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EARL A. LOVERKAMP, 36 765 863, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 at Gambsheim France. During a determined enemy attack on Gambsheim, Sergeant Loverkamp, while under intense artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, directed close-range mortar fire on the oncoming enemy forces. When the enemy had completely overrun our forces in the town, he led his men in a successful withdrawal across three thousand yards of open terrain without a casualty. Sergeant Loverkamp's outstanding courage and

exceptional leadership contributed materially to eventually successful defense of the sector. Entered military service from Metropolis, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HUGH B. FRASER, 0 556 406, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 5 January 1945, Lieutenant Fraser was commanding a section of mortars near Gambsheim, France when his position was surrounded by enemy forces. Exposing himself to heavy enemy artillery, mortar and automatic weapons fire, he adjusted his own mortars on an enemy machine gun. When communications to the company his section was supporting were broken, he and his section sergeant made their way through the enemy held town of Gambsheim to the company command post. Discovering that the resistance of that company had ceased, they started back to the section when the sergeant was cut off by an enemy machine gun. With the aid of two other men, Lieutenant Fraser covered the sergeant's escape and then led his section back to safety without casualty. In spite of the overwhelming odds facing him, Lieutenant Fraser's courageous leadership was responsible for the safe withdrawal of his entire section. Entered military service from Gallup, New Mexico.

At 1000 hours the artillery again opened up on Company L's new positions. The one mortar and the light machine guns opened up in turn on a tower thought to be an enemy artillery OP. Immediately a red flare went up and the artillery ceased firing.

During this time the following troops had been alerted and assembled in the vicinity of La Wantzenau: 18 EM from Third Battalion Headquarters Company, two squads of riflemen from a platoon of Company K located at Ft. Ney, four medium tanks from the 791st Tank Battalion, which reported from the vicinity of Hoerdt. This force moved to Kilstett under the Third Battalion Commander, and set up a perimeter defense with the third rifle platoon of Company L. At 1045 word was received by radio at the Battalion CP at La Wantzenau that headquarters and two rifle platoons of Company L and one machine gun section and one mortar section of Company M and the first squad of the Anti-Tank platoon of Headquarters Third Battalion, who were in defense of Gambsheim, had surrendered. It was then known that the main enemy force was north and northeast of Kilstett.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT W. SIMON, 36 674 838, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. While following a defective wire line, Private Simon and three wiremen were held up by sniper and mortar fire. Private Simon deliberately exposed himself to draw enemy fire, allowing the other men to escape and continue their mission. Private Simon's courage was directly responsible for the safe withdrawal of his comrades and the completion of his mission. Entered military service from Summit, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALFRED A. MCNAMEE, 011 236, Colonel, Infantry, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious achievement in action. During the attack of the enemy at Gambsheim, France on 5 January 1945, Colonel McNamee was in command of his regiment, two battalions of which, with certain attached troops, were occupying a front of approximately 32 miles and the third battalion of which was being relieved by the French. After organizing the elements of several regiments and attached troops into a task force with which he successfully stopped the enemy attack at Gambsheim, and acting upon verbal instructions, details of which did not reach him until later, Colonel McNamee organized the withdrawal of the troops under his command from positions in contact with the enemy on two fronts with a minimum of loss. His aggressive leadership, forcefulness, and untiring devotion to duty inspired his men to accomplish their missions against overwhelming odds. Entered military service from Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDMUND K. ELLIS, 0 222 959, Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry, Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious achievement in action. During the action at Gambsheim, France, 5 to 7 January 1945, Lieutenant Colonel Ellis was placed in command of several companies from two different regiments which he competently led into Gambsheim under heavy enemy artillery and machine gun fire, directing the fight from house to house. Later, under orders, he organized a well-ordered withdrawal from Gambsheim, being one of the last to leave. His leadership of this small force against overwhelming odds served as an inspiration to his men. Entered military service from Grand Haven, Michigan.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROBERT D. HARRIS, 15 303 873, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 6 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, when the platoon to which he was attached as a medical aid man was forced to withdraw from its position, Technician Harris rendered first aid to the wounded under intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire and evacuated them to the safety of cover.
Entered military service from Hammond, Indiana.

Inasmuch as Gambsheim was now under enemy control, the Regimental Commander had the immediate task to assemble sufficient troops at Kilstett to prevent further enemy penetration, and then counterattack to drive the Germans back across the Rhine from Gambsheim.

Reinforcements for Kilstett were drawn immediately from Companies I and B, a platoon from Company B moving up along the east side of the town and a Company I squad, on the west. At 1330 on orders from Battalion Headquarters, a skirmish line was formed by the third platoon of Company L facing northeast, the mortars to the left rear, and the light machine guns on the right, with two squads from Company B and one section of heavy section of heavy machine guns from Company M coming up on the right flank. One squad from Company I was on the left with about 180 French troops bringing up the left flank along the main road to Gambsheim. Plans were then complete for the attack on Gambsheim that afternoon.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIS B. INMAN, 36 673 217, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 near Kilstett, France. When communication lines between his mortar section and rifle troops were disrupted by enemy fire, Private Inman, a mortar gunner, left his emplacement and, under heavy hostile artillery fire, repaired the damaged wires. His courageous act and unswerving devotion to duty enabled his squad to continue effective support to the troops in the forward areas.
Entered military service from Nooga, Illinois.

The OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the SILVER STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD CRANE, 01 015 492, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, Company A, 781st Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 6 January 1945 near Gambsheim, France. Lieutenant Crane was the commanding officer of a platoon of tanks during an attack across the flat open terrain between Kilstett and Gambsheim in support of Company L, 232d Infantry. After advancing approximately 1500 yards, the infantry elements of the attacking group had been reduced by casualties to only six. Although the tank column had lost radio contact with the supported infantry, Lieutenant Crane, decided to continue the assault with the tanks and the six remaining infantrymen. Attacking in the face of intense enemy artillery, anti-tank and automatic weapons fire, the tanks and the six infantrymen knocked out an enemy pillbox, captured and released fourteen friendly troops who had been trapped by the enemy. Lieutenant Crane's courageous leadership in continuing the attack was a major factor in containing the enemy bridgehead in the vicinity of Gambsheim. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARROLL G. PRIEM, 01 798701, 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry, (Company L) 232nd Infantry, (42nd Division) , United States Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with the enemy on 6 January 1945 (near Gambsheim), in France. Under heavy small arms, artillery and mortar fire, Lieutenant PRIEM led six enlisted men to the most advanced point of a tank-infantry attack, and against a strong and well-organized enemy position. His action assisted greatly in effecting the rescue of eleven men who had been surrounded in a pill box for two days and in the capture of thirty-eight of the enemy. The outstanding courage and exemplary conduct displayed by Lieutenant PRIEM reflect great credit on the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from (St. Paul, MN)

NOTE: The above Bronze Star Medal award for 2LT PRIEM and the following five BSM awards for the same action appear in the General Orders #42 of the Headquarters 79th Infantry Division, dated 21 March 1945. The information within the parentheses missing from the GO has been supplied from records of their 42nd Division service.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to NORMAN OPP, 17 012 786, Technical Sergeant (Company L) 232nd Infantry, (42nd Division) United States Army, for heroic achievement in action against the enemy on 6 January 1945 (near Gambsheim) in France. Sergeant OPP was one of six men who advanced with an officer to the farthest point of a tank-infantry attack against a strong and well-organized enemy position. His action greatly assisted in effecting the rescue of eleven men who had been surrounded in a pill box for two days and in the capture of thirty-eight of the enemy. The outstanding courage and exemplary conduct displayed by Sergeant OPP on this occasion reflect great credit on the armed forces of the United States.
Entered military service from North (Eureka, South Dakota) Dakota. **NOTE:** T/SGT OPP was subsequently awarded a Battlefield Commission and the First Oak Leaf Cluster to this BSM.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MIKE N. DIGIACOMO, 35 029 531, Staff Sergeant, (Company L), 232nd Infantry, (42nd Division) United States Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with the enemy on 6 January 1945, (near Gambsheim) in France. Sergeant DiGiacomo was one of six men who advanced with an officer to the farthest point of a tank-infantry attack against a strong and well-organized enemy position. His action greatly assisted in effecting the rescue of eleven men who had been surrounded in a pill box for two days and the capture of thirty-eight of the enemy. The outstanding courage and exemplary conduct displayed by Sergeant DiGiacomo on this occasion reflect great credit on the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from (Ashtabula) Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GLEN O. GOLDSBOROUGH, 35 081 091, Private First Class, (Company L), 232nd Infantry, (42nd Division) United States Army, for heroic achievement in action against the enemy on 6 January 1945 (near Gambsheim) in France. Private Goldsborough was one of six men who advanced with an officer to the farthest point of a tank-infantry attack against a strong and well-organized enemy position. His action greatly assisted in effecting the rescue of eleven men who had been surrounded in a pill box for two days and the capture of thirty-eight of the enemy. The outstanding courage and exemplary conduct displayed by Private Goldsborough on this occasion reflect great credit on the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from (Evertsville) West Virginia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR A. POUCHER, 37 634 959, Private First Class, (Company L), 232nd Infantry, (42nd Division) United States Army, for heroic achievement in action against the enemy on 6 January 1945 (near Gambsheim) in France. Private Poucher was one of six men who advanced with an officer to the farthest point of a tank-infantry attack against a strong and well-organized enemy position. His action greatly assisted in effecting the rescue of eleven men who had been surrounded in a pill box for two days and the capture of thirty-eight of the enemy. The outstanding courage and exemplary conduct displayed by Private Goldsborough on this occasion reflect great credit on the armed forces of the United States. (Entered military service from Denver, Colorado).



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLARD BOYCE, 35 087 085, Private, (Company L), 232nd Infantry, (42nd Division) United States Army, for heroic achievement in action against the enemy on 6 January 1945 (near Gambsheim) in France. Private Boyce was one of six men who advanced with an officer to the farthest point of a tank-infantry attack against a strong and well-organized enemy position. His action greatly assisted in effecting the rescue of eleven men who had been surrounded in a pill box for two days and the capture of thirty-eight of the enemy. The outstanding courage and exemplary conduct displayed by Private Boyce on this occasion reflect great credit on the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from (Fairmont) West Virginia.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to OLIVER D. CHRISTENSEN, 02 006 915, Second Lieutenant, (then Technical Sergeant), Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France. During the counterattack on the enemy bridgehead at Gambsheim, Sergeant Christensen was severely wounded by artillery fire while leading his platoon across open ground. Refusing medical aid until the wounded among his men were treated, Sergeant Christensen then consented to have his wound dressed. Although he

could not walk because of his injury, he remained on the field for four hours crawling from one position to the other to direct his platoon's movement and fire, and refusing evacuation until darkness. His gallantry and devotion to duty was an inspiration to his men. Entered military service from Monroe, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES F. NEVINS, 31 239 810, Private first Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Kilstett, France. When he noticed a wounded man lying exposed to enemy mortar and artillery fire, Private Nevins left his covered position and advanced to the man's assistance. With complete disregard for his own safety, he administered first aid and carried the man to cover. By his prompt and courageous action, Private Nevins saved the life of his comrade.
Entered military service from Lynn, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDMUND A. NAQUIN, 38 488 167, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5-6 January 1945 at Kilstett France. During the fierce fighting to halt a determined enemy attack on Kilstett Sergeant Naquin assumed command of a heavy machine gun platoon when his platoon leader and platoon sergeant had become casualties. Upon learning that a rifle company of reinforcements was heading into the enemy lines, he left his position of cover, and fearlessly moved across 1,000 yards of open terrain under intense fire to contact the rifle company and guide them back to our lines. Sergeant Naquin's indomitable courage and initiative saved vital reinforcements from almost certain annihilation.
Entered military service from Alexandria, Louisiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD E. WYMAN, 37 538 956, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 6 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, while serving as mail clerk and messenger for his company, Corporal Wyman was directed to deliver a message to the leader of a heavy machine gun platoon. Although his company was pinned down by intense enemy fire, Corporal Wyman unhesitatingly made his way across an open field in the face of artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. Just before reaching his objective he was wounded by rifle fire but, in spite of his wound, continued on his mission and delivered the message.
Entered military service from Leavenworth, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALVA A. GILLESPIE, 35 200 633, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. During an attack across an open field totally devoid of any cover, on 5 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, while serving as medical aid man, Private Gillespie administered first aid to the wounded in the face of an enemy artillery and machine gun barrage. Traveling across the field many times to reach the wounded, he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire in order to reach the men requiring immediate treatment.
Entered military service from Huntington, West Virginia.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROBERT B. EATON, 39 467 653, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Detachment, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 5 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, Technician Eaton ran forward through intense enemy artillery fire, administered first aid to a wounded soldier who was lying behind an isolated building which was being subjected to an enemy concentration, and carried the wounded man to safety.

Entered military service from Spokane, Washington.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to IRVING LEVINE, 32 991 836, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 5 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, Private Levine administered first aid and directed the evacuation of the wounded to safety in the face of heavy enemy fire, as a result of which the lives of many wounded soldiers were saved.
Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to HENRY K. ROARK, Second Lieutenant, 0-555586, Infantry, [Company F, 2nd Battalion], 232nd Infantry [42nd Division], United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy on 5 January 1945 in France. Leading his rifle platoon in an attack against fierce enemy machine gun fire, Lieutenant ROARK advanced with his platoon until further advance was impossible. He then went forward alone in a courageous attempt to knock out the enemy gun and in so doing was wounded by several bursts of the machine gun. The gallant leadership and dauntless courage displayed by Lieutenant ROARK reflect highest credit on himself and the armed forces of the United States.
This citation is found on 79th Division General Order# 27, 1945
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists 2LT ROARK as killed in action on 01/06/45]



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT MIZZI, 32 820 791, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. During the determined enemy attempt to break through our lines at Kilstett, France, Private Mizzi proceeded 100 yards under an intense concentration of enemy artillery and mortar fire to attempt to repair one of his platoon's machine guns. Braving the murderous fire, he reached the gun emplacement and assisted the gunner in correcting the stoppage. Then, under increasingly intense fire, he remained at the gun position supplying ammunition to the gunner until the enemy force had been driven back. Private Mizzi's courageous action and selfless determination enabled his Company to withdraw successfully to new positions.
Entered military service from Bronz, New York.

An open field, some 1500 yards long, was to be crossed in this attack at 1440 hours. The attack was cancelled to wait for Companies H and F, who had been attached to the Third Battalion and had left La Wantzenau at 1300. Orders were to retake Gambsheim before dark, so that despite the fact that Companies H and F had not arrived, the attack was launched at 1515. Immediately dense enemy artillery and small arms fire was placed by the enemy on the attacking forces. The left half of the third platoon of Company L with the mortars following, moved north about 1000 yards and then veered northeast, since their right flank had become exposed. The right half of the third platoon then moved forward with the light machine guns through a draw in order to keep the attacking line. The French Troops on the left withdrew. Enemy artillery barrages were heavy and continuous until dark, when orders reached Company L to withdraw. By then it had moved over 1300 yards across the field in a sweeping drive, the mortars and light machine guns being unable to give supporting fire due to the open terrain. The

withdrawal was made at approximately 1800 hours under cover of darkness. A squad from Company B was the last to withdraw while some elements remained at their forward position to cover the evacuation of the wounded. The enemy bridgehead was checked from further expansion, and the salient was driven back in the center. By 1830 the field was cleared and defensive positions were again established around Kilstett. Reinforcements consisting of Company F, 232d Infantry and Company F, 222d Infantry arrived after dark. Another platoon of medium tanks from the 791st Tank Battalion arrived at approximately 1630 and went into a defensive position at Kilstett for the night.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES N. JEAN, 0 22 632, Major (then Captain), Infantry, Headquarters 2nd Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 at Gambsheim, France. While serving as Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, Captain Jean was making a forward displacement of his Battalion Command Post into the town of Gambsheim, France, on 6 January 1945, when the enemy counterattacked with a greatly superior force, completely surrounding him and three enlisted men and cutting them off from contact with our troops. Concealing themselves in an open shed, Captain Jean and the men remained in freezing temperature under heavy American artillery fire until dark. Traveling through enemy territory, crossing icy streams, and avoiding enemy patrols, Captain Jean led the three men back to our lines, where, although badly frozen, they immediately returned to duty. The courageous leadership, daring initiative, and unfailing devotion to duty of Captain Jean were largely responsible for the safe return of the other three men and reflect distinct credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM G. MITSCH, 01 288 276, Captain, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. During the engagement between Kilstett and Gambsheim, France, from 5 to 7 January 1945, Captain Mitsch repeatedly led his company in the attack on the town under intense enemy artillery, machine gun and small arms fire. Upon being ordered to withdraw to prevent being cut off from other forces, Captain Mitsch led his men back through a heavy artillery barrage to the new position.
Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.

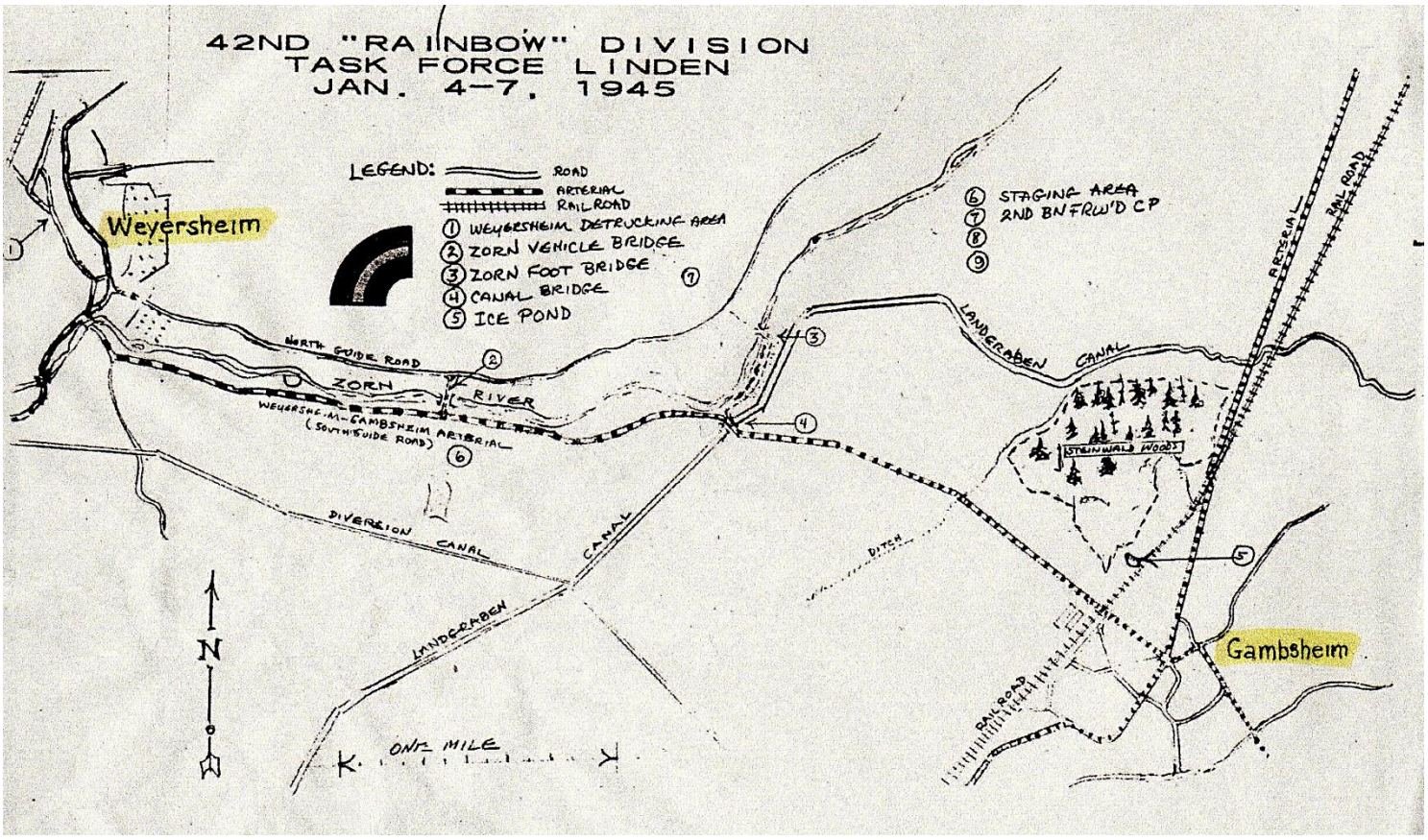


The SILVER STAR is awarded to DEAN L. CRANER, 36 971 286, Private, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. As a member of a platoon attacking across open terrain, Private Craner was pinned down by fire from an enemy machine gun. Shortly thereafter the entire company was held up by a heavy concentration of artillery. Facing the terrific hostile fire, and with utter disregard for his own safety, Private Craner moved to a position from which he killed the enemy machine gunner with rifle fire and prevented others from operating the weapon. As a result of his courageous act, one of the enemy was killed, twenty were taken prisoners and his company was enabled to move out of the artillery concentration and continue on to its objective. Entered military service from Plainwell, Michigan.

During the night the Company of French troops was withdrawn by the Regimental Commander and given the mission of guarding communication lines between Kilstett and La Wantzenau. The enemy harassed the town of Kilstett with

mortar and artillery fire throughout the night. Friendly patrols were active, and reported the enemy to be digging in south and east of Gambsheim to the dike.

SECOND BATTALION ACTION – WEYERSHEIM



Map – from the collection of Tom and Mayland Crosson, for Company G, 242nd Infantry Regiment

Meanwhile, on **5 January** TF "A", front line troops at Weyersheim, under the command of Lt. Col. ZELLER, consisted of Second Battalion Headquarters Company and Company E, 232d Infantry, and Company B, 222d Infantry under the command of Lt. Col. ELLIS, and the Second Battalion, 242d Infantry under the command of Maj. REYNOLDS, and five medium tanks (attached). The attack on Gambsheim astride the Weyersheim-Gambsheim road, jumped off at 1545. Company B, 232d Infantry, advanced against sporadic resistance and through intermittent artillery, small arms and mortar fire. When the entire company was pinned down by accurate fire from the flank, the 60 mm mortars succeeded in knocking out two enemy machine guns. With the fall of darkness the attached tanks had disappeared going towards Gambsheim. Company E, 222d Infantry could barely be seen about 2000 yards to the rear, and patrols failed to regain

contact with the 242d Infantry on the left. TF "A" then withdrew to the canal-Zorn River line for reorganization, which, because of the darkness, was slow but effective. The Second Battalion Commander returned to the CP at Weyersheim to renew contact. There Lt. Col. COLEMAN, who had assumed command, was ordered to TF Linden Headquarters and Lt. Col ZELLER reassumed command. The attack was then ordered renewed by the Regimental Commander that night, the objective being to reach the railroad at the edge of Gambsheim at 0800 on 6 January. While recrossing the bridge over the canal in double file columns, the troops were not subjected to fire, other than a machine gun, which was soon cleaned out. Under the command of Lt. Col. ZELLER, the attack jumped off from the bridge at 0230. There was fire from the woods as soon as movement started. The enemy had dug in, and had cover overhead and good emplacements. While the 242d Infantry elements on the left were charging the woods, shooting from the hip, the 232d Infantry troops started slipping to the south to keep away from the woods. The advance was maintained with little occasion for firing. At this time on the south, Company E, 222d Infantry was in the lead with Company E, 232d Infantry following. The column of companies arrived at the railroad at the edge of Gambsheim at 0900. Protective fire of the enemy came down on the Weyersheim side of the tracks. When Company E, 222d Infantry was held up there, Company E, 232d Infantry came up. The troops entered the town and cleared the main part of Gambsheim by a systematic searching of houses. From 0900 to 1130, in house to house fighting, the troops encountered machine gun opposition. Then an enemy counter-attack consisting of five tanks, supported by infantry, was sighted coming from the woods at the riverside. A semicircular defense in front of the east edge of Gambsheim was established, but could not withstand the assault because of lack of bazooka ammunition and rifle grenades.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FREDERICK W. COLEMAN, III, 019 216, Lieutenant Colonel, GSC (Inf), Headquarters, 42d Infantry Division, for meritorious service in action during the period 16 December to 6 February 1945. As G-3 of Task Force Linden, Lieutenant Colonel Coleman, by his indefatigable energy, tactical sense, and professional ability, was able to coordinate the actions of all subordinate units which were committed on wide fronts, greatly contributing to the accomplishments of the missions assigned. When as enemy attack threatened our position in the vicinity of Gambsheim on 5 January 1945, Lieutenant Colonel Coleman organized four companies from three infantry regiments and successfully launched an attack on the enemy against heavy small arms and artillery fire, as a result of which the enemy bridgehead was stopped at the canal. Entered United States Military Academy from Carmel, California.



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR to Lieutenant Colonel (Infantry) WILLIAM B. ZELLER (ASN: 0-220215), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, 42d Infantry Division. On 5 January 1945, Lieutenant Colonel Zeller personally took command of a fighting force which was organized from a nucleus of seventy men from an Engineer Battalion and led it in an attack on the enemy at Gambsheim, France. When the force was held up by heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire,

Lieutenant Colonel Zeller led a small detachment of men and two tanks to envelop the enemy's left flank in an effort to drive him out of Gambsheim. The detachment successfully entered the town but because of heavy enemy fire the tanks were compelled to withdraw leaving him without support. Lieutenant Colonel Zeller was reported missing in action.
General Orders: Headquarters, 42d Infantry Division, General Orders No. 5 (February 24, 1945)

Lieutenant Colonel (Infantry) William B. Zeller (ASN: 0-220215), United States Army, was captured by the Germans on 5 January 1945 and was interned as a Prisoner of War at Stalag 5A until his release at the end of the war.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM A. GRUNWALD, 36 655 316, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. When his company was held up by intense machine gun and rifle fire, Private Grunwald noticed one of the men had been seriously wounded. Unmindful of the danger he advanced across fifty yards of open terrain in the face of heavy enemy fire and carried the wounded soldier to a position of cover. Private Grunwald's outstanding bravery was an inspiration to his fellow soldiers and upheld the highest traditions of the service. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to EVERETT H. BUCKLEY, 6 572 930, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 January 1945 at Gambsheim, France. When his battalion was forced to withdraw to new defensive positions, Sergeant Buckley voluntarily organized a delaying force of seven men. Disregarding his personal safety, he moved into an exposed position in the face of intense machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire and fired rifle grenades directly into the advancing enemy. When the last elements of the battalion had safely withdrawn, Sergeant Buckley left his position, and then further risked his life to bring a wounded comrade to safety across the same dangerous terrain under withering fire. Sergeant Buckley's extreme courage and devotion to duty were important factors in the efficient withdrawal of his battalion with a minimum of casualties.
Entered military service from Orland, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CALVIN B. PEARSOL, 14 171 202, Corporal, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. While the rifle squad of which Corporal Pearsol was a member was guarding an important bridge near Gambsheim, France, it was suddenly subjected to intense fire from enemy positions to the right flank. Immediately leaving the protection of his foxhole, Corporal Pearsol ran fearlessly to an exposed position from which he engaged the enemy with his rifle, completely disregarding the murderous fire directed at him. He succeeded in pinning the enemy down until his squad could advance and assist him in driving the enemy back with numerous casualties. Corporal Pearsol's exceptional courage and aggressive determination contributed materially to holding the vital bridge against the determined enemy attempt to regain it. Entered military service from Valpariso, Florida.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN P. PACZKOWSKI, 42 100 281, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry, for meritorious achievement in action, on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. While defending a bridge near Gambsheim, Private Paczkowski's squad was attacked by enemy infantrymen. Taken by surprise, they found themselves exposed to the intense fire of the

assaulting enemy force. Private Paczkowski then stood up in full view of the enemy, and while a hail of bullets struck all around him, he poured a heavy volume of fire from his automatic rifle at the oncoming enemy, forcing them to halt and take cover until his squad could take firing positions. As a direct result of his courageous action, the attack was repulsed and fifteen casualties inflicted on the enemy. Entered military service from Bayonee, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES O. THEISEN, 12 227 325, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. When his Battalion's position at Gambsheim became untenable and it was decided to withdraw to new defensive positions, Private Theisen voluntarily remained at the edge of town to cover the withdrawal. Exposed to intense machine gun and rifle fire, he continued to lay down a steady base of fire with his mortar until all elements of the Battalion had withdrawn out of range. Private Theisen's outstanding courage played a major role in the successful withdrawal of his Battalion with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from New York, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BERNARD J. JAKOBE JR., 37 537 181, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Gambsheim, France. When advance rifle troops were pinned down by intense machine gun and mortar fire in the attack on Gambsheim, Sergeant Jakobe exposed himself to the enemy fire to direct and adjust the fire of his mortar section on the enemy positions. He continued to remain in an exposed position until he had silenced several of the enemy machine gun nests. Sergeant Jakobe's courageous action enabled the rifle troops to withdraw from the heavy fire with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Kansas City, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to NORMAN E. SOMMERS, 12 092 790, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Gambsheim, France. While advancing toward the town, the platoon to which Private Sommers was attached was held up by enemy machine gun and small arms fire. Leaving his covered position, he advanced to an entirely exposed location and placed effective fire on the enemy, pinning them down and neutralizing their fire. Private Sommers' courage and devotion to duty was instrumental in enabling the riflemen to advance and rout the enemy from their positions. Entered military service from Paterson, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD E. JULIAN, 35 694 263, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Gambsheim, France. While Private Julian was advancing across an open field with his light machine gun squad, they were suddenly met by an intense hail of enemy machine gun fire. One of the riflemen was seriously wounded, and, due to the heavy fire, it was impossible for aid men to go to his assistance. Private Julian then fearlessly took his squad into an exposed position, and placed accurate fire on the enemy, completely silencing their fire. Private Julian's courage and selfless determination enabled aid men to reach the wounded man in time to save his life. Entered military service from Louisville, Kentucky.

A withdrawal was effected to the east edge of the woods, and then to the canal for reorganization. Lt. Col. ZELLER, commanding TF "A", was captured during the operation. TF "A" was then ordered by the Regimental Commander to defend and hold the line west of the canal south of the Weyersheim-Gambsheim road, and to establish an outpost to prevent enemy infiltrations around the north flank.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JONATHAN RUDD, 01 081 625, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. Assuming command of his company on 5 January 1945 when his company commander became a casualty, Lieutenant Rudd, without regard for his personal safety, exposed himself to enemy fire from all directions while leading his company, and was wounded by enemy fire. His company was forced to withdraw, but because of his wounds he could not be taken with them and was reported missing in action. The name and address of nearest relative – Mrs. Janet D. Rudd (Wife), (125-07) 103rd Avenue, Richmond Hill, Long Island, New York, New York. Entered service from Brooklyn, New York. **[In the database, "42ND Rainbow Division Battle Deaths WWII is listed as having been killed in action on 01/06/45.]**



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT T. DIXON, 024 035, Captain, Infantry, Headquarters 2nd Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 at Gambsheim, France. As Battalion S-3 during the attack on Gambsheim, France, Captain Dixon procured the necessary information and, anticipating each move of his battalion, prepared alternate plans for immediate execution. While pinned to the floor of the railway station by the cross-fire of enemy machine guns directed at the windows, he planned the advances through the streets of the town and, under equally hazardous conditions, prepared the plans for the withdrawal. When the Battalion S-2 was lost in action, Captain Dixon upon his own initiative assumed the duties of S-2 as well as his own, directing under enemy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire the location of observation posts from which routes of withdrawal could be determined. His accurate anticipation of required movements and his cool judgment and precise planning greatly assisted the Battalion Commander in meeting every emergency and greatly contributed to the successful defense conducted by his battalion. Entered military service from Owensboro, Kentucky.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PHOM BOWIE, 6 951 842, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232D Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 near Gambsheim, France. While remaining behind to help cover his battalion's withdrawal, Sergeant Bowie was subjected to heavy machine gun and sniper fire. He fired continuously at hostile machine gun positions, keeping their crews pinned down with rifle fire until xxx last elements had withdrawn. He then fell back to the new positions, aiding and evacuating a wounded comrade en route. Sergeant Bowie's courageous actions assisted materially in enabling the battalion to withdraw with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from San Juan, Texas.

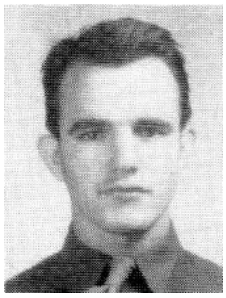


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THOMAS L. WHITAKER, JR., 38 497 321, Private, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 6 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, when the platoon with which he was serving as aid man was pinned down by intense enemy mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire which caused numerous casualties, Private

Whitaker crawled forward over open terrain, and in the face of heavy enemy fire administered first aid to the wounded and evacuated them to places of safety.
Entered military service from Alexandria, Louisiana.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to GEORGE I. BULLENE, 37 539 671, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 6 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, while serving as medical aid man, Private Bullene went forward in the face of heavy enemy machine gun fire to administer first aid to a wounded squad leader and, after treating the wounds, brought him back to safety by crawling with the wounded man on his shoulders.
Entered military service from Wichita, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BEN J. MAYS, 39 698 987, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 near Gambsheim, France. While his battalion was withdrawing under intense artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire, Private Mays, without regard for his own safety, remained behind until the last, covering the withdrawal. Although facing intense enemy fire, he delivered a heavy volume of rifle fire in return, keeping the enemy pinned down. When the battalion had formed new defensive positions, he then withdrew, carrying a wounded comrade to safety. Private Mays' courageous action contributed materially to the successful withdrawal of his Battalion. Entered military service from Porterville, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT E. BJELLAND, 0 555 222, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. After a strong enemy counterattack had forced our troops to withdraw from Gambsheim, Lieutenant Bjelland learned that thirty-three men of his company had been left behind in the city. Without regard for his safety, he and his platoon sergeant moved out through intense artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire back into the town. He located the missing men and led them in a successful withdrawal from their precarious position. Lieutenant Bjelland's outstanding courage and ability saved many of his fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Millbrook, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MAX A. NIELSEN, 19 010 450, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. After a strong enemy counterattack had forced our troops to withdraw from Gambsheim, Sergeant Nielsen learned that thirty-three men of his company had been left behind in the city. Without regard for his safety, he and his platoon leader moved out through intense artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire back into the town. He located the missing men and led them in a successful withdrawal from their precarious position. Sergeant Nielsen's outstanding courage and ability saved many of his fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Salt Lake City, Utah.

At TF "B" the scheme of the maneuver was to be a coordinated attack, with tanks closely followed by the Infantry, from the line held northeast of Kilstett, towards the woods directly east of Gambsheim, attacking northeast, then swinging east to the Rhine River. At 0600, **6 January** Company F, 232d Infantry on the

right flank, was reinforced with the light machine guns from Company L and attachments from Companies B and K. Company F, 222d Infantry was on the left flank with the third platoon of Company L, supported by a machine gun platoon of Company H, 232nd Infantry, with six tanks forming the spearhead for the second attack on Gambsheim to be made in conjunction with the attack to be launched on Gambsheim from Weyersheim by TF "A". The mortar platoons supported the attack from positions south of Kilstett.

The Regimental Commander, having been notified of the arrival of TF "A" at the railroad tracks, ordered the attack from Kilstett. Immediately heavy concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire were placed on the advancing troops. Company F, 232d Infantry, attacking on the right, made good progress, capturing a number of prisoners. Company F, 222d Infantry advanced on the left about 400 yards, but dropped back to their original positions upon receiving artillery and automatic fire.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MARVIN L. MILLER, 38 564 457, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Kilstett, France. Upon learning that a soldier had been hit by enemy shrapnel, Private Miller, Company Aid Man, immediately left his covered position and moved boldly out upon the field of battle. Under intense enemy fire he administered first aid to the wounded man and then evacuated him to the Battalion Aid Station. As a result of Private Miller's courage and devotion to duty, this man's life was saved. Entered military service from Nardin, Oklahoma.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARL A. GREEN, 38 563 601, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January and 7 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. During the action around Kilstett, Private Green, operating the last quarter-ton truck in his detachment, was evacuating wounded from the area to the forward aid station. He repeatedly ignored his own safety to drive his vehicle into areas covered by intense enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire to pick up wounded soldiers. By his outstanding courage, initiative, and devotion to duty, Private Green was able to evacuate six wounded men from the battlefield to the aid station where they received prompt medical attention. Entered military service from Norman, Oklahoma.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to EDWARD A. THIELEN, 38 074 365, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 January 1945 at Gambsheim, France. Upon sighting an enemy tank approaching his squad's position, Sergeant Theilen stepped into full view of the tank's gunners and fired anti-tank grenades point-blank, killing an unknown number of the enemy and causing the tank to alter its course. Facing the direct fire of the tank's weapons, he remained in his position and covered the complete withdrawal of his squad. Sergeant Thielen's heroic action saved many of his men from death or capture and was a vital contribution to the successful repulse of the enemy attack. Entered military service from Taft, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD G. GREENE, 37 684 211, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. Upon learning that the wire to the artillery observation post had been severed by artillery fire, Private Greene advanced unhesitatingly under intense artillery and mortar fire to repair the break. Despite increasing hostile fire he crawled the length of the wire, locating the break and repairing the line. By his outstanding courage, Private Greene made it possible for artillery fire to be placed accurately on enemy positions, breaking up an attack which followed soon afterward. Entered military service from Montezuma, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELMER HORSKY, 35 235 623, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Company 232nd Infantry for meritorious achievement in action on 6 January 1945 near Gambsheim, France. As a member of a wire crew, Corporal Horsky performed his duties in a courageous and superior manner by working ceaselessly throughout the night under intermittent artillery and mortar fire laying wire from the Regimental Command Post to his second battalion. Corporal Horsky's initiative and unswerving devotion to duty was of the utmost importance to the Regimental Commander in effectively controlling his defending battalion. Entered military service from Steubenville, Ohio.

Two sections of heavy machine guns from Company H, 232d Infantry, one on either flank, followed the attack but had to withdraw after they had been pinned down by enemy fire. The mortar section supported the attack by fire, but because of very poor visibility, had to cease firing for fear of placing fire on the advancing friendly troops.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JEAN P.A.J. GUILLEMETTE, 31 400 405, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 January 1945 near Kilstett, France. A company runner, Private Guillemette was dispatched to bring a heavy machine gun section to its firing position. When the section was held up by heavy enemy automatic weapons fire, he reported this fact to his platoon leader, who instructed him to order the section to withdraw. Private Guillemette again braved the intense fire to carry his message back to the section. By his devotion to duty and indomitable determination, the withdrawal was successfully executed and heavy losses averted. Entered military service from Sanford, Maine



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RALPH F. CONNELL, 38 654 260, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. During the fierce fighting around Gambsheim, France, Private Connell fearlessly braved intense concentrations of artillery, mortar, and sniper fire in order to carry ammunition to the gun positions of his mortar squad. Although pinned down five consecutive times, he never faltered but continued to distribute the vitally needed ammunition. By his indomitable courage and aggressive determination, Private Connell contributed immeasurably to the successful defense of the sector against fanatically attacking enemy forces. Entered military service from New Orleans, Louisiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK P. EAGLEHOUSE, JR., 33 294 634, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. During the nights of 5 and 6 January 1945 while acting as driver for his company commander, Private Eaglehouse made frequent trips in his 1/4/ ton truck between Kilstett and La Wantzenau, France, under enemy mortar and artillery fire, fragments from which hit his vehicle on several occasions. When the radiator was pierced and two tires were punctured during one barrage, Private Eaglehouse repaired the damage under fire, keeping his vehicle in service throughout the action. Entered military service from Latrobe, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM W. LYNCH, 35 139 652, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 5 and 6 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, Sergeant Lynch established an observation Post in a building which was under enemy mortar and artillery fire in order to direct accurate and effective mortar fire on enemy positions, remaining in the building until after it had received several direct hits from enemy fire. Entered military service from Indianapolis, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE M. MENAS, 36 826 971, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action during the period 5-7 January 1945, at Kilstett, France. Acting as a machine gun platoon messenger, Private Menas made continuous trips under constant enemy mortar and artillery fire between the machine guns and his Platoon Headquarters bringing information and carrying food and ammunition. When an enemy tank attack was imminent, he crossed open terrain covered by enemy machine gun fire to warn his platoon, taking them a number of anti-tank rockets. By his courageous acts Private Menas kept his platoon supplied with food and ammunition and enabled it to maintain contact with the other units throughout the action.
Entered military service from Sheboygan, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM W. HOWARD, 35 806 366, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action from 7 January to 8 January 1945, in Gambsheim, France. Sergeant Howard exercised repeated excellence in the performance of his duties as 81 mm mortar squad leader under constant and heavy enemy fire. After his mortar had been knocked out by enemy artillery, Sergeant Howard acted as first scout and led a reconnaissance conducted by the Assistant Division Commander in front of an attacking rifle company. On numerous other occasions he had shown exemplary leadership and superior skill in the direction of mortar fire on the enemy.
Entered military service from Cincinnati, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES HUMMERT, 36 858 964, Private, Medical Detachment, 2nd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 6 January 1945, at Kilstett, France, while acting as medical aid man, Private Hummert crawled from fox hole to fox hole in the face of heavy enemy machine gun fire to render first aid to the wounded of his platoon. In spite of a shrapnel wound in his hand, he left the cover of his fox hole during an enemy artillery and mortar barrage to protect with his body a stunned soldier lying in an exposed position on the field. Entered military service from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin..



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RALPH A. ALLAIRE, 42 017 494, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 5 January 1945, at Weyersheim, France, when his platoon was being held up by enemy sniper and machine pistol fire, Private Allaire covered the movement of his platoon across an open area by firing his BAR continuously until the platoon was safely across, after which he himself crossed the area without benefit of covering fire. Entered military service from Jersey City, New Jersey.

The third platoon of the Anti-Tank Company added depth to the defenses of Kilstett, didn't fire, but were subjected to spasmodic mortar and artillery fire. The Cannon Company blew up the enemy OP in Gambsheim, neutralized machine gun nests, and was in general support of the attack.

The third platoon of Company L, plus two riflemen from Company F, 232d Infantry, moved forward with three tanks some 2000 yards to a pillbox, capturing 49 prisoners along the way and freeing 11 men who had been holding out in the pillbox within the German lines.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR W. VERVAET, 01 326 785, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 at Gambsheim, France. During the attack on enemy positions near Gambsheim, France, Lieutenant Vervaet exposed himself for two hours to intense machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, directing his platoon until he was wounded in the leg by shell fragments. Despite his painful wound, he continued to lead his men into the town. Later he was wounded twice more and rendered incapable of further action. Lieutenant Vervaet's extreme courage and selfless determination played a major role in the capture of the town. Entered military service from Oakland, New Jersey.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANTHONY C. MARCHEGIANO, 33 793 585, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. When the enemy launched an intense attack upon the positions of the Second Battalion near Gambsheim, France, Private Marchegiano, with three other men, set up an antitank gun to defend the battalion's unprotected right flank. Under increasingly heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire, he tenaciously led his crew in holding the position until the attack was defeated. By his indomitable courage and unflinching determination, Private Marchegiano contributed immeasurably to the combat success of his battalion at Gambsheim. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MICHAEL G. DILORENZO, 31 385 773, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. Upon learning that there were numerous casualties on an open field near Gambsheim, Sergeant DiLorenzo voluntarily organized and led three litter squads across the open field under intense enemy machine gun fire. For several hours he remained exposed to continuous heavy artillery, machine gun, and sniper fire until all of the casualties had been successfully evacuated. By his outstanding courage and zealous determination, Sergeant DiLorenzo saved many of the wounded from death or further injury. Entered military service from Providence, Rhode Island.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GARNETT JONES, 36 684 390, Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. During the attack against Gambsheim, France, Sergeant Jones continually exposed himself to intense enemy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire while leading his heavy machine gun squad in support of rifle troops advancing against the town. Setting up his machine gun in a completely exposed position, he sent the remainder of the squad to cover and manned the gun alone. When the rifle troops were forced to withdraw in the face of overwhelming enemy strength and firepower, he provided covering fire until they were out of range of enemy action. Sergeant Jones' display of outstanding courage and leadership was an inspiration to his comrades and contributed immeasurable to the success of the operations in this sector. Entered military service from Springfield, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT C. HEASLEY, 33 715 164, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France. During the attack on Gambsheim, a radio message was received reporting that one platoon was surrounded in the town and unable to withdraw. Private Heasley, a quarter-ton-truck driver, voluntarily drove his vehicle into the town under heavy mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire, located the stranded men, and made repeated trips back and forth into town until he had evacuated the entire platoon. Private Heasley's remarkable courage and devotion to his fellow soldiers was directly responsible for saving the platoon from certain death or capture. Entered military service from Butler, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANTHONY T. CARELLA, 31 466 659, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. During the fierce fighting for Kilstett, Private Carella voluntarily accompanied two wiremen on a mission to repair communications lines from the Battalion to the Regimental Command Post. Despite constant and intense enemy artillery and mortar fire, he worked tirelessly for six hours until communications were again intact. Private Carella's courageous action and aggressive determination contributed materially to reestablishing vital communications.
Entered military service from Bridgeport, Connecticut.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ERNEST W. MCKISSACK, 38 669 009, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, near La Wantzenau, France. When enemy artillery fire knocked out the pillbox which Private McKissack and another soldier were guarding, several of the occupants were wounded. After sending his comrade to a secure medical aid, Private McKissack observed a twelve-man enemy patrol approaching his position. Esposing himself to direct observation, he opened fire on the enemy with his automatic rifle, forcing them to withdraw after killing and wounding six of them. Private McKissack's bold and courageous action maintained the security of the position until help arrived for the wounded men. Entered military service from Little Rock, Arkansas.

Attempts to reduce the enemy bridgehead at Gambsheim proving unsuccessful, a withdrawal was ordered to the former defense positions at Kilstett. TF "B" was ordered to extend the line to the east of Kilstett to fill the gap between the right

flank and the dike, and to patrol the area northwest of Kilstett to prevent an enemy infiltration around the west flank. Shortly before midnight word was received that the Third Algerian Infantry Division was to pass through the lines and attack Gambsheim the following morning, **7 January**. TF "B" was ordered to support this attack by fire.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to STARR W. JONES, 01 285 249, Captain, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 6 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, Captain Jones led a reinforced platoon of his company in a night attack against a superior enemy force over a marshy and wooded terrain traversed by many streams and canals. As a result of his leadership his platoon captured an enemy pillbox, put an enemy machine gun and mortar position out of action, inflicted several casualties, captured nine prisoners, and drove the enemy from the sector. Entered military service from Patterson, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARL L. MILLER, 0 389 485, 1ST Lieutenant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 6 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, Lieutenant Miller assisted Captain Starr W. Jones in leading a reinforced platoon of his company in a night attack against a superior enemy force, over a marshy and wooded terrain traversed by many streams and canals. Aided by his leadership the platoon captured an enemy pillbox, put an enemy machine gun and mortar position out of action, inflicted several casualties, captured nine prisoners, and drove the enemy from the sector. Entered military service from Ashland, Kentucky.

At daybreak **7 January**, the enemy was sighted across the field where the attacks had been launched on the two preceding days. 60 mm mortar fire was laid on their positions, approximately 1100 yards to the northwest, for 45 minutes, pinning the enemy to the ground. Retaliation came back shortly from enemy artillery, although no counter-attacks were attempted by the Germans that day.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT W. JONES, 36 983 084, Private First Class (then Private), Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action 5 January to 7 January 1945 near Kilstett, France. As runner for the Company Commander during the action around Kilstett, France, Private Jones repeatedly exposed himself to intense concentrations of enemy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire to deliver vital messages. When his company was relieved, he made numerous trips through intense darkness guiding our troops safely through the night under enemy mortar and artillery fire. Private Jones' untiring devotion and his courageous performance of his numerous duties aided materially in the successful defense of the Kilstett sector against numerically superior attacking forces. Entered military service from Danville, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DEAN S. SHORT, 37 666 107, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Second Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. During the enemy counter-attack at Gambsheim, Anti-Tank Company was ordered to place a gun along the canal to deliver supporting fire to an exposed flank. While the crew was digging the gun position under heavy mortar fire, Private Short saw one of the

men hit by a fragment and fall into the freezing water. He unhesitatingly exposed himself to the heavy barrage, and with the aid of a pole pulled the man ashore and back to cover. Private Short's heroic devotion to his wounded comrade in the face of the hostile fire threatening his own life, was a credit to the high traditions of the Armed Forces. Entered military service from Toledo, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAUL W. LABELLA, 32 511 410, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 7 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. During the fierce fighting for Gambsheim, Sergeant LaBella's company was forced to withdraw from the town in the face of a superior enemy force. Taking up a position in a building on line with the enemy advance, he braved intense enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire in an attempt to hold up the enemy advance with his rifle and grenades. Although wounded by a shell fragment, he refused to leave his position until his entire company had reached new defensive positions. Sergeant LaBella's courageous and self-sacrificing action contributed materially to the successful withdrawal of his company with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Port Chester, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ORVILLE G. ANDERSON, 35 839 521, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 7 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. During the fierce fighting for Gambsheim, France, Private Anderson advanced across two hundred yards of open terrain to aid his platoon medical aid man, who was pinned down by machine gun fire while attempting to give first aid to a wounded enemy soldier. Exposed himself to the intense machine gun and small arms fire, he directed a heavy volume of fire at the enemy positions with his rifle, silencing the enemy and allowing the soldier to seek safety. Private Anderson's heroic action undoubtedly saved his comrade from certain death or injury.
Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT G. LACHANCE, 31 303 290, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. Private LaChance, acting as French interpreter for the third Battalion, was sent to contact the French forces in Kilstett with information of the disposition of the Battalion. Approaching the town, he was fired upon by enemy machine gun and rifle fire. Driving his vehicle unhesitatingly through the fire, he drove into the embattled city, placed his vehicle under cover, and proceeded on foot under intense artillery and mortar fire to the French headquarters, where he gave the strategic disposition of the battalion to the French commander. Private LaChance's courageous and daring action contributed materially to the close coordination between the two friendly armies. Entered military service from Taunton, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD B. JONES, 33 450 925, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On the night of 7 January 1945, when Kilstett was being attacked by tanks and there were no available prime movers, Private Jones voluntarily hauled a 57mm anti-tank gun from La Wantzenau to Kilstett, France, driving without lights under harassing enemy artillery and mortar fire along a road filled with moving French tanks, helped place the gun into position and, returning to La Wantzenau, brought another 57mm gun to Kilstett over the same road.
Entered military service from Washington D.C.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to VERNON G. KEIL, 19 134 511, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On the night of 7 January 1945, when Kilstett was being attacked by tanks and there were no available prime movers, Private Keil voluntarily hauled a 57mm anti-tank gun from La Wantzenau to Kilstett, France, driving without lights under harassing enemy artillery and mortar fire along a road filled with moving Frnech tanks, helped place the gun into position and, returning to La Wantzenau, brought another 57mm gun to Kilstett over the same road.
Entered military service from Riverside, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MARK G. HAMPTON, 0 546 863, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 January 1945, near Weyersheim, France. When his platoon was fired upon by artillery, mortars, and machine guns, Lieutenant Hampton fearlessly exposed himself to intense enemy fire in seeking and obtaining four tanks to support his platoon. Despite his continued exposure to the enemy, he deployed his men into better defensive positions. By his courage and skillful leadership, Lieutenant Hampton made an effective contribution to halting a determined enemy drive.
Entered military service from Atlanta, Georgia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD G. LADLEE, 6 712 049, Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in action. During the period 5-7 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, as battalion wire chief, Sergeant Ladlee personally directed and led his wire section in the laying and repairing of telephone lines between the battalion CP and front line companies under heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, as a result of which vital communications were maintained.
Entered military service from Rochester, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GWALTNEY McCOLLUM, 0 389 031, Captain, Infantry, 3rd Battalion, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 5-7 January 1945 at Gambsheim, France. When his battalion lost contact with the company on its right flank during the battle of Kilstett and Gambsheim on 5 January 1945, Captain McCollum exposed himself to continuous artillery, mortar and machine gun fire in order to establish contact and to reorganize the company. As a result of his courageous action, his Battalion Commander was kept fully informed of the situation on the Battalion's right flank, insuring the "jump-off" of the attack at the proper time. Entered military service from Greensboro, Alabama.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES A. ROCKWOOD, 0 515 276, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in action. From 5 to 7 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France, as I & R Platoon Leader, Lieutenant Rockwood led many patrols under heavy mortar, artillery, and small arms fire to gain information about the enemy, which proved of great value to his regimental commander in making decisions as to the disposition of his troops. Going without sleep and with very little food, he also served in many other capacities and made frequent trips to the front lines to bring back enemy prisoners. Entered military service from Indianapolis, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THEODORE H. BERGERON, 01 513 955, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in action. From 5 to 7 January 1945, near Kilstett and Weyersheim, France, Lieutenant Bergeron, Regimental Communications Officer, supervised the laying and repairing of wire lines in order to maintain contact on a wide front in which control was exceedingly difficult. Working tirelessly day and night for almost seventy-two hours in extreme cold, under enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, he contributed largely to the maintenance of contact vital to the successful containing of the enemy bridgehead south and west of Gambsheim. Entered military service from Asbury Park, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to OLIN S. FRANKLIN, W2 119 431, Warrant Officer (Junior Grade), Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in action. From 5 to 7 January 1945, near Kilstett and Weyersheim, France, Warrant Officer Franklin, Assistant Regimental Communications Officer, supervised the laying and repairing of wire lines in order to maintain contact on a wide front in which control was exceedingly difficult. Working tirelessly day and night for almost seventy-two hours in extreme cold, under enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, he contributed largely to the maintenance of contact vital to the successful containing of the enemy bridgehead south and west of Gambsheim. Entered military service from Lubbock, Texas.

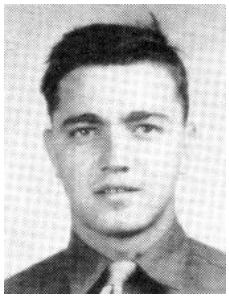


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK D. TAYLOR, 0 531 739, 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry, Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in action. During the period 5-7 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, as battalion communications officer, Lieutenant Taylor was required to install and repair communications between the battalion CP, the forward CPs, and the regimental rear CP. Working ceaselessly and untiringly under heavy enemy artillery, machine gun, and small arms fire, he succeeded in maintaining vital communications for his battalion. Entered military service from Las Cruces, New Mexico.

[The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists Lt. Taylor as having DOW on 04/24/45].



The SILVER STAR is awarded to RICHARD M. BARRETT, 37 515 084, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. During the period from 5 January through 7 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, Private Barrett and other members of the wire section installed and repaired telephone circuits between the Battalion Observation Post, Battalion Command Post and front line companies in the face of heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. On one occasion Private Barrett and other members of his crew entered the Battalion Observation Post, while under enemy fire and repaired the wire circuit. As a result of their acts vital communications were maintained. Entered military service from Skidmore, Missouri.

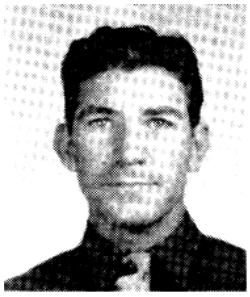


The SILVER STAR is awarded to MICHAEL R. OLEKSYN, 36 897 586, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. During the period from 5 January through 7 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, Private Oleksyn and other members of the wire section installed and repaired telephone circuits between the Battalion Observation Post, Battalion Command Post and front line companies in the face of heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. On one occasion Private Oleksyn and other members of his crew

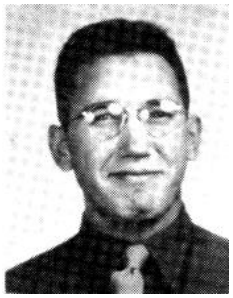
entered the Battalion Observation Post while under enemy fire and repaired the wire circuit. As a result of their acts vital communications were maintained. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROBERT M. BARRETT, 37 515 119, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. During the period from 5 January through 7 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, Private Barrett and other members of the wire section installed and repaired telephone circuits between the Battalion Observation Post, Battalion Command Post and front line companies in the face of heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. On one occasion Private Barrett and other members of his crew entered the Battalion Observation Post while under enemy fire and repaired the wire circuit. As a result of their acts vital communications were maintained. Entered military service from Skidmore, Missouri.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ALEXANDER R. MCKEE, 39 078 457, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Hq Company, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. During the period from 5 January through 7 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, Technician Fifth Grade McKee and other members of the wire section installed and repaired telephone circuits between the Battalion Observation Post, Battalion Command Post and front line companies in the face of heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. On one occasion Technician McKee and other members of his crew entered the Battalion Observation Post while under enemy fire and repaired the wire circuit. As a result of their acts vital communications were maintained. Entered military service from Sacremento, California.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to EARL G. WINKEL, 16 092 928, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. During the period from 5 January thru 7 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, Private Winkel and other members of the wire section installed and repaired telephone circuits between the Battalion Observation Post while under enemy fire and repaired the wire circuit. As a result of their acts vital communications were maintained. Entered military service from Green Bay, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE A. CRAMER, 16 174 425, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry for meritorious achievement in action on 7 January 1945 near LaWantzenau, France. When the combat patrol in which he was an assistant mortar gunner was held up by heavy enemy resistance, Private Cramer advanced seventy-five yards under fire to reach a position from which his mortar could fire upon the enemy. Although the weather was below freezing he removed his gloves in order to prepare the ammunition for firing as rapidly as possible. By his skill and devotion to duty his mortar squad was able to bring rapid and effective fire upon the enemy, forcing them to withdraw and enabling the patrol to establish a perimeter defense. Entered military service from Palatine, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JACK G. REFLING, 16 153 004, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry, for meritorious achievement in action, on 7 January 1945, near LaWantzenau, France. As a 60mm mortar gunner, Private Refling performed his duty outstandingly while under enemy artillery and small arms fire. When ordered to place fire on the enemy, Private Refling

moved to a position without defilade and brought heavy fire on the enemy position. Private Refling's calmness and courage under fire, and his skill as a gunner contributed materially to the withdrawal of the enemy. Entered military service from Menominee, Michigan.

At 1430 the French attack jumped off and reached the outskirts of Gambsheim, but they were forced to withdraw after suffering considerable losses. With the French retiring to Kilstett for the night, a coordinated defense of the town was set up. TF "B" manned its defenses until 2300, when orders came from the Reginental Commander to withdraw to La Wantzenau during the night and to be prepared to move at daylight the following morning. The withdrawal was made in orderly fashion. The entire Task Force closed on La Wantzenau by 0300 hours on **8 January**. Company I was ordered into a defensive position on the left of La Wantzenau, making contact to the right with Company K, which was in position to the north of the town.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to RICHARD O. SHADE, 35 088 993, Private, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 January 1945, at Kilstett, France. During the fierce fighting at Kilstett, France, Private Shade was sent to deliver a vital message from the Battalion Command Post to the command post of Company I. Making his way through an intense hail of enemy artillery fire, he successfully delivered the message and returned, although wounded by shell fragments upon the return trip. Receiving treatment for the wound, he took up a guard post by the command post under an intense artillery concentration, remaining in position until he was mortally wounded by shrapnel. Private Shade's unswerving courage and determination reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Pauline E. Valt (Mother), 2012 Henry Street, Middletown, Ohio. Entered military service from Middletown, Ohio.
The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists Richard O. Shade as having died of wounds on 04/05/45



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD P. MCGARRY, 02 006 919, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Headquarters 2d Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action, on 8 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. Ordered to lay an anti-tank mine field, Lieutenant McGarry led his men under direct enemy observation and mortar fire to a road block near the town of Gambsheim. Although subjected to intense machine gun fire when an enemy flare disclosed his position, he continued to direct the work until the mines were laid, after which he led his men back to safety. Lieutenant McGarry's extreme courage and leadership contributed materially to blocking a dangerous route of advance for enemy forces. Entered military service from New York, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES E. CONWAY, 32 996 714, Sergeant (then Technician Third Grade), Infantry, Headquarters 2nd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action, on 8 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. When it became necessary to lay an anti-tank mine field in front of our defensive positions, Corporal Conway immediately volunteered for the task. After assisting his comrades in laying the field under heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire, he then moved to an exposed position from which he covered the withdrawal of the detail. Corporal Conway's extreme courage and devotion to

duty under fire played a major role in the successful completion of the mission and the safe withdrawal of the other men. Entered military service from Westchester, New York.

The French took over the sector north of Strasbourg to Kilstett, and all the troops except the Second Battalion, 232d Infantry at Weyersheim, [less Co. G], were ordered to rejoin their parent organizations. The Third Battalion moved north to join the First Battalion of the 232d Infantry and established its headquarters at Schirrhoffen. The regiment occupied a CP at Camp d'Oberhoffen.

FIRST BATTALION ACTION --- STATTMATTEN

During the action around Gambsheim the First Battalion, 232d Infantry came in contact with the enemy at 0630 on **5 January**, when Company B opened fire on a small patrol, which attacked its position at Sessenheim. At Herrlisheim and Offendorf Company G was surrounded, but eighty men broke out. That evening the enemy came into Stattmatten, surrounded the north side of the town and also penetrated Auenheim. Company A at Drusenheim received heavy shelling. Company B was ordered to the vicinity of Drusenheim, but could not leave its original position at Sessenheim, being pinned down by machine gun fire from Stattmatten.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to BRICE C.W. CUSTER, 0 247 445, Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry, Headquarters First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 January 1945 near Stadtmatten, France. Answering radio call for assistance from two platoons of his Battalion which were completely surrounded by the enemy, Colonel Custer organized a small force of three light tanks, two armored cars and twenty infantrymen. Personally leading the attack against much superior enemy force and in the face of German automatic weapons, small arms and rocket launcher fire, Colonel Custer so employed his small force that the enemy was completely routed, the two platoons rescued and the town of Stadtmatten retaken. Approximately forty of the enemy were killed and 100 taken prisoner. The conspicuous gallantry and leadership displayed by Colonel Custer exemplify the finest traditions of the service.
Entered military service from Monroe, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SIMEON K. LIEBER, 01 043 702, Captain (then First Lieutenant), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, from 5 January 1945 to 16 January 1945, inclusive, in Drusenheim, France. When his company was defending Drusenheim against a superior enemy force, Lieutenant Lieber, company executive officer, rode a leading tank into the town and from his position on the vehicle located targets and directed fire which destroyed a number of enemy guns. On other occasions during the battle for the town, Lieutenant Lieber took ammunition into the town and served as liaison officer with higher headquarters. His courage and devotion to duty contributed effectively to the defense of the town and the crossing of the Moder River which followed. Entered military service from Auburn, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROY W. SHAFER, 35 203 064, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 near Drusenheim, France. When the electrical detonator wire running to a charge on a vital bridge was destroyed by shelling, Private Shafer

advanced and repaired it under intense small arms and mortar fire. Then, with his automatic rifle, he broke up a determined enemy attack on the bridge in an attempt to make a crossing. Private Shafer's extreme courage and disregard for personal safety were directly responsible for denying the enemy entrance through our lines. Entered military service from Huntington, West Virginia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWIN L. TUDOR, 38 532 919, Private, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 5 January 1945, at Offendorf, France, when the platoon to which he was attached as aid man was pinned down by heavy enemy machine gun fire, Private Tudor crawled into the open field in the face of heavy enemy fire to administer first aid to several wounded soldiers of the platoon. After treating their wounds, he crossed the open area five times in the face of an intense machine gun barrage until he succeeded in dragging his wounded patients to cover.
Entered military service from Dallas, Texas.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JOHN PRZYSUCHA, 02 006 227, Second Lieutenant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 January 1945 in Stattmatten, France. While Sergeant Przysucha and several of his men were fighting off an attacking force of enemy soldiers from a house in Stattmatten, France, an enemy hand grenade was hurled into the room. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Przysucha immediately rushed to the grenade, picked it up, and threw it out the window only an instant before it exploded. Sergeant Przysucha's gallant courage and prompt action in an emergency saved the three men with him from certain death or injury.
Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANDREW BALSTER, 20 127 791, First Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 near Stattmatten, Germany. Discovering that a greatly superior enemy force had separated two platoons of his company and captured the unit ammunition dump, Sergeant Balster organized the few available men for defense. Cautioning his men to conserve their ammunition, he held the enemy off until the following afternoon, when he was relieved by a successful counterattack. His courage and devotion to duty insured the success of the counterattack, in which forty enemy were killed and over a hundred taken prisoner.
Entered military service from Waterbury, Connecticut.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to HAROLD H. HOUSER, 01 293 775, Captain, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5-6 January 1945, at Stattmatten, France. Defending Stattmatten with two platoons, Captain Houser held off an enemy force of approximately 200 during eight hours of continuous combat, fearlessly moving from position to position inspiring his men to fight against overwhelming odds. Finally, finding his unit surrounded, Captain Houser broke through the German ring, and gathered together a force of tanks, armored cars and infantry. With this force he drove off the enemy, recaptured the town and effected the rescue of his troops. Entered military service from Fort Wayne, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALVAN E. SQUIRES, 01 326 347, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 5 January 1945, at Stattmatten, France, when his weapons platoon was pinned down by fire from two enemy machine guns preparatory to an assault on his position,

Lieutenant Squires moved back under terrific enemy automatic weapons fire and brought up a 60mm mortar. Taking a position in front of the mortar 100 yards from the enemy and constantly exposing himself to overwhelming assault fire, he directed the mortar fire upon the enemy positions, as a result of which the assault by a superior force was repulsed. Entered military service from West Plains, Missouri.



The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to WILLIAM J. CLARKE, JR., 01 043 896, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry regiment, for gallantry in action. On the evening of 5 January 1945, Lieutenant Clarke displayed unusual valor and leadership when he utterly disregarded his personal safety in the face of terrific enemy automatic and mortar fire to install the weapons of his platoon in effective positions and to direct their fire to stem the enemy's attack on Stattmatten. While personally engaging the enemy, Lieutenant Clarke was hit by machine gun fire and died instantly, but his courageous leadership inspired the men of his platoon so as to contribute heavily to the successful repulse of the enemy. Name and address of nearest relative – Mrs. Elizabeth A. Clarke (wife), 1646 Ogden Drive, Los Angeles, California.
Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.



The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to RICHARD D. WHITE, 37 696 793, Private, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 5 January 1945, at Stattmatten, France, Private White accompanied Second Lieutenant Champion on a mission to blow up a bridge which was a direct approach to his company's position. Advancing under heavy fire and in full view of the enemy with utter disregard for his personal safety, Private White assisted Lieutenant Champion in setting the explosives in place. When the first attempt did not succeed in blowing up the bridge, Private White again went forward and under heavy enemy fire assisted Lieutenant Champion in replacing the explosives which blew up the bridge. Later that day Private White was mortally wounded while courageously fighting with his platoon to disperse an enemy assault on Stattmatten. Name and address of nearest relative – Mrs. Lucille M. White, (wife), Main Street, Monticello, Iowa.
Entered military service from Cedar Falls, Iowa.

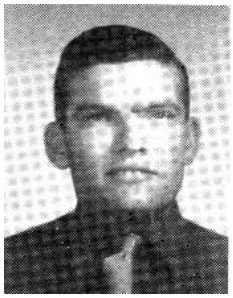


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD KINSKY, 6 859 417, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 5 January 1945, at Stattmatten, France, while in command of a machine gun section, one gun of which had been put out of action, Sergeant Kinsky maintained his position with the remaining gun in the face of superior enemy forces until ordered to bring the gun to the company CP. In attempting to comply with the order, his crew was intercepted by the enemy and he was wounded. Entered military service from Carlsbad, New Mexico.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to LEE SILVER, 01 640 007, Captain (then 1st Lieutenant), Infantry, Company G, 232d Infantry, for gallantry in action on 5 January 1945, at Herrlicheim, France. When a superior enemy force cut off his Company from contact with the remainder of the Regiment, Lieutenant Silver made his way through intense enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire to his Regimental Commander in order to bring him a message of vital importance. Unable to return to his Company because the enemy had completely surrounded the town in which it was situated, Lieutenant Silver made several trips alone under heavy fire into enemy territory and obtained essential information for his Commanding Officer. His outstanding courage

and unfailing devotion to duty reflect distinct credit upon the armed services of the United States and are worthy of the highest praise. Entered military service from Miami Beach, Florida.
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths database lists CPT Silver as killed in action on 02/23/45].



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RAY E. NEAL, 38 397 127, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, near Drusenheim, France. In the face of a strong enemy attack, Private Neal, remained at his post as assistant gunner of an 81 mm mortar for over one hour and would not leave his weapon until informed that his mission was completed. Later the same day when communications were cut by enemy artillery, Private Neal voluntarily left his covered position, entered the beaten zone, and repaired the line. His devotion to duty and coolness under fire aided greatly in repelling the hostile attack. Entered military service from Torchland, Oklahoma.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to EDWARD W. CLARK, 0 377 883, Captain, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 January 1945, at Stadtmatten, France. Captain Clark volunteered to accompany a force organized to rescue two platoons which were surrounded by the enemy. When one of the supporting tanks was knocked out by an enemy rocket launcher and the troops were pinned down by heavy sniper fire, Captain Clark braved the German barrage and led a detachment of infantry to the enemy positions, wiped them out, and enabled the attack to continue. By his courageous leadership and daring initiative, the two platoons were rescued, the town of Stadtmatten was recaptured, forty enemy were killed, and more than one hundred taken prisoner.
Entered military service from Anniston, Alabama.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SANFORD TABOR, 35 913 929, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Drusenheim, France. When Drusenheim was attacked by a large force of Germans, Sergeant Tabor withheld the fire of his mortars until the enemy had advanced well toward his lines. His opening rounds caught the enemy completely by surprise, killing [illegible] of them and causing the entire enemy force to withdraw. Later in the day the enemy again attacked, this time using an artillery preparation. The artillery fire cut Sergeant Tabor's telephone line to his mortars and he moved out into the open under fire to repair the line. His leadership and accurate fire direction was largely responsible for repelling those attacks. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM L. STONEBRAKER, 01 045 963, First Lieutenant, Infantry Company G, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action near Herrlisheim, France, on 5 January 1945. When his platoon was surrounded at night by enemy patrols, Lieutenant Stonebraker exposed himself to intense machine gun and small arms fire to reconnoiter a route of escape for his men. Then, returning to his platoon, he led his men through continuous heavy fire to safety. Lieutenant Stonebraker's outstanding courage and leadership played a major role in saving the entire platoon from death or capture.
Entered military service from West Decatur, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLIFFORD D. MURR, 35 168 114, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 near Stattmatten, France. While delivering rations to troops in the town, Sergeant Murr was exposed to heavy

artillery fire against a background of burning buildings. In addition, it was necessary for him to travel through a sector of town still held by the enemy nevertheless, he unhesitatingly drove his 2 ½ - ton truck directly through the bursting shells and delivered the vitally needed supplies to his company. Sergeant Murr's courage and devotion to duty were important factors in maintaining the high morale of the line troops. Entered military service from Lafayette, Indiana.

The next morning, on **6 January**, Company B in an Infantry and tank attack on Stattmatten, routed the enemy and took prisoners, regaining control of the town. An attack by the 314th Infantry relieved the pressure on Company A in Drusenheim. Company C attacked Auenheim, routed the enemy and occupied the town.



The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to EDWARD R. KARDONG, Staff Sergeant, 39 212 722, Company C, 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry ,42nd Division, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy on 6 January 1945 in France. In the face of heavy small arms fire from well entrenched enemy positions Sergeant Kardong repeatedly led his platoon across open ground in order to take enemy positions. Behind his gallant leadership the platoon succeeded in routing approximately 100 of the enemy. Sergeant Kardong remained in front, rallying and leading his men forward until he was mortally wounded by enemy gun fire. His valiant leadership and fearless devotion to duty reflect highest credit on himself and the armed forces of the United States. *The pictorial and review book for the 232nd Regiment, 42nd Division for men in training at Camp Gruber, OK in the fall of 1944 lists his hometown as Kirkland, Washington*.
This citation is found on 79th Division General Order # 27, 1945



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE C. THOMPSON, 33 363 896, Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 6 January 1945, at Stattmatten, France, when he and his platoon sergeant were wounded by enemy rifle fire and grenade fragments, Sergeant Thompson disregarded his own wounds and carried his platoon sergeant out of the town to a haystack where they covered themselves with hay until the town was retaken the following day. Entered military service from Butler, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD E. CROWLEY, 6 544 794 Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 7 January 1945 near Dengolsheim, France. As reconnaissance sergeant, Sergeant Crowley entered Dengolsheim and discovered six of the enemy emplacing a machine gun in a dug-in position. Sergeant Crowley immediately opened fire with the machine gun mounted on his vehicle. When the gun jammed he threw two grenades into the enemy position, killing three and forcing the others to flee. Sergeant Crowley then observed elements of the enemy force attempting to outflank his company's position by moving down a draw to the left of the city. Exposing himself to intense sniper fire, he then crawled to an abandoned 60mm mortar position and firing the mortar without a base plate, he placed accurate mortar fire in the draw, forcing the enemy to flee. Sergeant Crowley then joined tanks and infantry, in an attack on the city, where he killed one more of the enemy and captured two prisoners. Sergeant Crowley's resourcefulness and courageous action made an effective contribution to the success of his company in combat. Entered military service from San Francisco, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAUL E. DEARDORFF, 33 939 879, Private First Class (then Private), Infantry, Company G, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement on 6 January 1945 near Kilstett, France. Upon observing enemy digging in approximately seven hundred yards to the front of his observation post, Private Deardorff called for artillery and mortar fire to be placed on the positions. Despite the heavy fire placed on his locality, he remained at his post delivering such accurate information that the enemy were forced to abandon their positions. Private Deardorff's courage and perseverance in the face of enemy fire was a contributing factor in the battalion's successful defense against the enemy attack which followed. Entered military service from New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

On **9 and 10 January**, the front line battalions were engaged in preparing and organizing new defensive positions and in extensive patrol activities. At 0800 on 10 January, Company C sent a combat patrol to attack Auenheim and Runtzenheim. Taking the enemy by surprise, the patrol encountered little opposition, and completed occupation of the two towns by 1205 that day. Companies I, C, and B were placed under the tactical command of the First Battalion Commander, 232d Infantry. The Second Battalion was under the tactical control of Task Force Linden. A Regimental Reserve at Camp d'Oberhoffen was constituted by eleven tanks of the 781st Tank Battalion, and the remainder of Company L. One platoon, of the 827th Tank Destroyers, and three tanks were in direct support of the First and Third Battalions, and the 232d Field Artillery Battalion, in direct support of the regiment. The train bivouac moved to Hochstett. All prepared bridges in Soufflenheim were under twenty-four hour guard. During this period the regiment established road blocks and aggressively patrolled the sector, which was bounded on the left by the 242d Infantry, and on the right by the 314th Infantry.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN E. DEVOLDRE, Technical Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 January 1945, at Sessenheim, France. After leading his mortar squad across an open area under intense enemy machine gun, small arms, and artillery fire, Sergeant DeVoldre learned that one of his men had been hit and was lying wounded in an area covered by the withering barrage. Disregarding his own safety, he exposed himself to the deadly fire until he located the injured soldier. Immediately administering first aid, he then carried the wounded man to safety. By his outstanding courage and determined devotion to duty, Sergeant DeVoldre saved a wounded comrade from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Rochester, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LAWRENCE W. SCHEDE, 32 027 598, First Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 January 1945, near Weyersheim, France. When the communication lines between the platoons of the heavy weapons company had been cut by enemy fire, Sergeant Schede, as reconnaissance sergeant, left his observation post and, despite German mortar and artillery fire, crossed 175 yards of flat terrain to re-establish communications. After completing repairs and adjusting the telephone of one platoon, Sergeant Schede returned under hostile fire

to his observation post. Through his heroic act his platoons were able to place fire on enemy gun installations which were harassing his battalion.
Entered military service from Potsdam, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to CHARLES A. BAKER, 38 656 582, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 January 1945, near Leutenheim, France. Observing an enemy motorized patrol approaching his sentry post on the outskirts of Leutenheim, France, Private Baker opened fire with his rifle. The enemy group immediately returned his fire, subjecting his position to an intense and murderous hail of machine gun and small arms fire. After heroically facing the fire for several minutes, he was fatally wounded by the increasingly heavy barrage. Private Baker's courageous and gallant sacrifice held the enemy advance until his platoon could set up defensive positions to repel the patrol. Name and address of nearest relative: Mr. Isaac C. Baker (Father), General Delivery, West Monroe, Louisiana. Entered military service from West Monroe, Louisiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to JOHN D. FREDERICKS III, 19 132 453, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 20 January 1945, near Kauffenheim, France. While Private Fredericks was on outpost guard near Kauffenheim, France, two enemy soldiers disguised as civilians approached his post. Observing his position, the enemy opened fire on him with rifles, which he returned immediately. Fearlessly exposing himself to the heavy fire, he succeeded in killing the two enemy, receiving a fatal wound shortly before the last German fell. Private Fredericks' alertness and courageous action undoubtedly saved his comrades from suffering casualties at the hands of the infiltrating enemy. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Elizabeth W. Fredericks (Mother), Box 189, Portola Road, Woodside, California. Entered military service from Woodside, Calif.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ARTHUR D. KESSLER, 35 140 332, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 January 1945, near Leutenheim, France. When a ten-man enemy patrol attacked the positions of Private Kessler's machine gun squad, he immediately went to his gun through the bitter cold although only partially clothed. Picking it up, he stood in a completely exposed position and directed a deadly stream of fire at the onrushing enemy forces. Completely disregarding the murderous fire striking all about him, he continued to fire the gun from the hip, single-handedly repulsing the attack and killing or wounding the entire enemy patrol. Private Kessler's exceptional courage and aggressiveness completely frustrated the enemy attack without casualty to our forces. Entered military service from Indianapolis, Indiana.
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists PFC Kessler as killed in action on 02/23/45].



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRED M. MILLIRON, 38 696 153, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company E, 232nd infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 January 1945 near Gambsheim, France. When his combat patrol withdrew from under a concentration of enemy mortar fire near Gambsheim, Private Milliron noticed that one of the men had been left behind. He left his position of cover and ran across fifty yards of open terrain under the heavy fire to lead the man to safety. Private Milliron's courageous action undoubtedly saved this soldier from possible death or capture.

Entered military service from Muskogee, Oklahoma.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH D. FRENCH, 33 698 822, Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the action near Sessenheim, France, Sergeant French and an officer advanced forward of our lines to recover a damaged vehicle from a mine field. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he jumped from his vehicle, ran to the wrecked jeep, and attached a rope to it. He then returned through the intense fire, mounted his truck and drove it away, towing the jeep to safety. Sergeant French's courageous action prevented a critically-needed vehicle from falling into the hands of the enemy. Entered military service from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MARSDEN M. SEIFERTH, 02 010 647, Second Lieutenant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 12 January 1945, at Koenigsbruck, France. Although exposed to heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Seiferth and another soldier crawled across open terrain to erect a barbed wire fence for security against infiltrating enemy night patrols. Observing the approach of several enemy planes, he crossed the open field again to alert his anti-tank gun crew who were thereby enabled to take shelter from the strafing aircraft. Sergeant Seiferth's prompt and courageous action undoubtedly saved his gun crew from sustaining serious casualties. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MILO L. KILLIAN 39 906 499, Corporal, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action, on 12 January 1945 West of Lutenheim, France. When four enemy armored cars fired on the road block he was defending, Corporal Killian ran through the enemy fire to a friendly mortar position. He then directed mortar fire on the cars, disabling one and forcing the others to retire. By his courageous and prompt action, Corporal Killian prevented the enemy from obtaining information of friendly dispositions. Entered military service from Salt Lake City, Utah.

At 1600 on **14 January**, the first platoon, Company A, supported by the remainder of Company L and elements of Company D, occupied Roeschwoog without opposition. This platoon was attached to Company C, while the remainder of Company L returned to Camp d'Oberhoffen as Regimental Reserve. Company I moved its outposts into Kauffenheim and Leutenheim.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GENE J. DE LA GORGENDIERE, 31 467 550, Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 14 January 1945, at Runtzenheim, France. When his machine gun squad was isolated in its positions near Runtzenheim, France, Sergeant De La Gorgendiere unhesitatingly volunteered to attempt to establish contact with them from a rifle company in the town. Crossing a heavily mined field under intense artillery and mortar fire, he came upon two enemy mortar observers. Killing the enemy soldiers before they could fire a shot, he continued on his mission, re-establishing contact with his unit. By his outstanding skill and courageous aggressiveness, Sergeant De La Gorgendiere played a major role in the successful conclusion of the day's engagement. Entered military service from Worcester, Massachusetts.



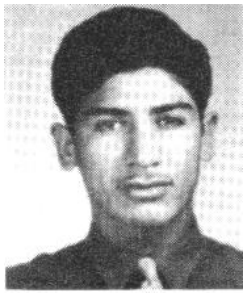
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JIM EVANS, 34 338 236, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement on 14 January 1945 near Drusenheim, France. During the attack on Drusenheim, the enemy threw a numerically superior force into the sector occupied by the first squad of Company A. When the position became untenable in the face of tremendous enemy machine gun and rifle fire, Private Evans voluntarily remained behind in an exposed position to deliver covering fire with his rifle. He continued to deliver accurate fire despite the hail of lead directed at his position, refusing to withdraw until his comrades had reached new defensive positions. Private Evans' outstanding courage and selfless determination played a major role in the successful defense of the sector. Entered military service from Dutton, Alabama.

[The Rainbow Battle Deaths database lists PFC Evans died of wounds on 07/16/45]



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JEAN H. HYAMS, 39 013 605, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945 near Leutenheim, France. While delivering food to the forward elements of his company, Corporal Hyams' vehicle was hit by an enemy artillery shell, and he was knocked unconscious and wounded in the forehead by shrapnel. Upon regaining consciousness, though in a weakened condition, he proceeded on his mission with his crippled vehicle. After completing his mission, he evacuated a casualty to the aid station and had his own wounds dressed, but refused to be evacuated to the hospital, returning to his company to continue his duties as driver. Corporal Hyams' extreme courage and determination were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Rainbow. Entered military service from Oakland, California.

Released from attachment to the 314th Infantry on **15 January**, Company A moved from Drusenheim to Soufflenheim under the control of the First Battalion Commander, with the mission of relieving Company I, which was to revert to Regimental Reserve. Company K outposts in the Sessenheim woods were harassed by small enemy patrols, but there were no casualties on either side.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MANUEL M. CHAIGRES, 39 696 308, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During a determined enemy attack on Sessenheim, Private Chaigres observed small arms fire coming from a nearby house. Unhesitatingly he exposed himself to the intense hostile fire to maneuver to the rear of the house where he and another man entered and killed and wounded six of the enemy. Private Chaigres' extremely courageous action under fire played an important role in the successful repulsing of a superior enemy attacking force. Entered military service from Monterey, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM E. MULVEY, 31 201 193, Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 15 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During a determined enemy attack on Sessenheim, Sergeant Mulvey observed small arms fire coming from a nearby house. Without hesitation, he exposed himself to the intense hostile fire to maneuver to the rear of the house. He then entered the house and, with another man, killed or wounded six of the enemy. Sergeant Mulvey's extremely courageous action under fire played an important role in the successful repulsing of a superior enemy attacking force. Entered military service from Boston, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SYLVESTER J. METZNER, 36 280 261, Private First Class, Infantry Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During a determined enemy attack on Sessenheim, the house in which Private Metzner had his position was set afire by shells from a self-propelled gun. Observing enemy snipers firing on our troops from a barn as they withdrew from the house, he maneuvered to the side of the barn and killed the snipers. By his aggressive and courageous action, Private Metzner saved the lives of many of his comrades. Entered military service from Lena, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ERNIE B. GIERMAN, 36 039 502, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 15 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. Carrying important maps and overlays to a friendly unit, Corporal Gierman was forced to travel a road being heavily shelled by enemy fire. He maneuvered his jeep over the shell torn road under intense artillery and mortar fire, delivered the important documents, and returned over the same route. By his courage and devotion to duty, Corporal Gierman enabled his Regimental Commander to obtain valuable information. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MICHAEL G. MILLER, 33 136 167, Technical Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, H1B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During an intense enemy attack on Sessenheim, when his company's position seemed untenable and there was no communication with Battalion Headquarters, Sergeant Miller made his way across an open field swept with machine gun fire to report the situation and arrange for help for the besieged troops. Sergeant Miller's courageous and self-sacrificing act was a critical factor in the successful defense of the sector. Entered military service from Scranton, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK J. VERSAGI, 35 913 520, Sergeant, Infantry, H1B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the fierce fighting for Sessenheim, an enemy tank directed heavy fire into Sergeant Versagi's position killing and wounding two of his comrades. Despite the cannon fire from the tank which had set the building afire, he administered first aid to the wounded man and assisted him out of the building to a position of safety. Sergeant Versagi's courageous and self-sacrificing action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Division and resulted in saving the life of a wounded man. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PATRICK J. MEANY, 37 668 525, Private First Class, Infantry, H1B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During a fierce enemy attack on Sessenheim, Private Meany observed a machine gun position in a nearby house harassing our troops. He shot open the door and threw hand grenades into the basement where the gunners had fled, killing three of them. He then returned to the upper floor and destroyed the machine gun. Private Meany's courageous and aggressive action eliminated a dangerous enemy obstacle to the subsequent advance of our troops. Entered military service from Waterloo, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM P. PERRY, 36 834 073, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. During the fighting around Soufflenheim, France, when eight members of his anti-tank gun squad were wounded by enemy artillery and mortar fire, Sergeant Perry distinguished himself by his outstanding devotion to his fellow soldiers. Exposing himself for eight consecutive hours to the intense concentrations, he remained on guard alone by his gun position until replacements could be sent up. By his indomitable courage and unswerving determination, Sergeant Perry played a major role in the successful defense of the sector.
Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD A. KIRK, 16 169 565, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company A, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945 near Drusenheim, France. During the enemy attack on Drusenheim one of our machine guns was silenced when the gunner was wounded by enemy fire. Private Kirk advanced across forty yards of open terrain in the face of intense enemy fire to man the gun. Immediately putting it into action, he laid down such accurate fire that the enemy attack was repulsed. Private Kirk's prompt and courageous action enabled his platoon to withdraw to better defensive positions from which they were able to hold off the enemy. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



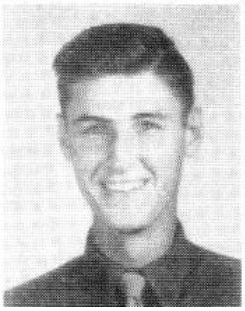
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES F. NUGENT, 13 022 101, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 January 1945, near Gambsheim, France. While leading his squad in an attack on Gambsheim, France, Sergeant Nugent came under intense machine gun and small arms fire. Taking an automatic rifle from one of his men, he crawled through the withering fire to a position from which he could successfully fire on the enemy positions. He lay in an exposed location and directed a heavy volume of fire at the enemy, killing two, which permitted his squad to withdraw. He then directed mortar fire on the enemy emplacements until they were completely neutralized. Sergeant Nugent's outstanding courage and unswerving determination enabled his squad to continue its successful attack. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DEES W. EASTERLING, 34 871 290, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945, near Roschwoog, France. When three companies of enemy troops launched a determined attack against Sergeant Easterling's outpost, he moved a heavy machine gun to an exposed position and ordered the remainder of his men to withdraw. Fearlessly disregarding the vicious enemy small arms and machine gun fire directed at him, he continued to fire his weapon at the onrushing forces until all of his men had successfully effected a withdrawal. By his indomitable courage and unswerving determination in the face of overwhelming odds, Sergeant Easterling enabled the men under his command to escape from their precarious position with only one casualty.
Entered military service from Laurel, Mississippi.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to BEVERLY M. GRIFFIN, 33 451 060, Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 January 1945, near Runtzenheim, France. Sergeant Griffin, leader of a heavy machine gun squad, was defending a pillbox in the Maginot Line when a German patrol was observed approaching the position on a side from which it was not possible to fire. Sergeant Griffin immediately volunteered to leave the pillbox and set up his machine gun on the top, in full view of the enemy. While setting up the gun he was the target for enemy fire, but he persisted in his efforts and soon brought rapid and accurate fire on the attacking Germans. By his courage and devotion to duty he repulsed the enemy attack, killing four men and forcing the remaining sixteen to surrender.
Entered military service from Chevy Chase, Maryland.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to RICHARD W. HUNSINGER, 16 123 532, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945, near Leutenheim, France. As a member of a patrol sent deep into enemy territory, Private Hunsinger displayed exceptional courage and determination near Leutenheim, France. When the patrol had reached its objective and accomplished its mission, he and another soldier started to return to our lines with information gained by the group. As he proceeded through the enemy territory, concealed enemy opened fire with machine guns and small arms. Unhesitatingly continuing despite the murderous fire, he was fatally wounded before he could reach a covered position, Private Hunsinger's heroic sacrifice reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Name and address of nearest relative: Mr. Clyde Hunsinger (Father), Grantsburg, Wisconsin.
Entered military service from Grantsburg, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to GLENN N. SJOGREN, 39 476 187, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 January 1945, near Leutenheim, France. As a member of a patrol sent deep into enemy territory, Private Sjogren displayed exceptional courage and determination near Leutenheim, France. When the patrol had reached its objective and accomplished its mission, he and another soldier started to return to our lines with information gained by the group. As he proceeded through enemy territory, concealed enemy opened fire with machine guns and small arms. Unhesitatingly continuing despite the murderous fire, he was fatally wounded before he could reach a covered position. Private Sjogren's heroic sacrifice reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Name and address of nearest relative: Hazel Sjogren (Mother), 823 S. Prospect Street, Tacoma, Washington. Entered military service from Tacoma, Washington.

At approximately 0840 on **16 January**, Company B outposts in Dalhunden were threatened by a small enemy patrol. Elements of Company B started an attack to relieve its outposts and eliminate the enemy, but were pinned down by small arms and automatic fire. Attacking elements of tanks, one platoon of Company A, the remainder of Company L, and elements of Company B succeeded in clearing Dengolsheim of the enemy, and took prisoners. Two strong outposts were established at Dengolsheim, and the outposts at Stattmatten were considerably strengthened. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon started its function as a unit on this date on missions as directed by Task Force Linden. Shortly before

midnight the enemy returned in force to Roeschwoog. Elements of the First Battalion withdrew to Leutenheim.



General Orders # 183, 1945, 42DIV
BRONZE STAR MEDAL AWARD for Meritorious Achievement in Action
JOHN S. STANTON JR., 32 725 535, Corporal, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, on 16 January 1945, in Germany.
Entered military service from Albion, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DANIEL T. DYAL JR., 34 263 255, Private First Class, Infantry, H1B-232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During a determined enemy attack on Sessenheim, Private Dyal observed enemy troops transporting ammunition from a dugout into a nearby house. He opened fire on them with his rifle, disregarding the intense enemy fire raking the area and killed and wounded several of the enemy. Private Dyal's alert and courageous action cut off the German position from their ammunition supply, thus neutralizing the position. Entered military service from Brunswick, Georgia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to VINCENT F. SMOTRYS, 02 006 906, Second Lieutenant, (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945 at Roschwoog, France. Attacked by a superior enemy force while on outpost two miles forward of the Main Line of Resistance, the platoon of which Sergeant Smotrys was platoon guide was forced to withdraw. The only available route was discovered by the enemy and brought under heavy fire. Sergeant Smotrys led five men safely through this danger, himself carrying a sixth man who was wounded. When they reached friendly positions, Sergeant Smotrys entered his own minefield and under hostile fire, smashed down a barbed wire barrier to make a path for his men. Through his courage and leadership six soldiers were saved from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD H. HOUSER, 01 293 775, Captain, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the determined fighting around Sessenheim, France, attacking enemy forces surrounded the Company B Command Post where Captain Houser and seventeen men were stationed. Ordering the men to leave by a concealed route, Captain Houser remained behind alone and fought back the enemy forces who were rapidly closing in on the Command Post. He killed two with his rifle as they attempted to come through the door. Later when enemy tanks arrived and directed fire against the building, he successfully made his escape, located his men, and led them from their precarious position without casualty. Entered military service from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

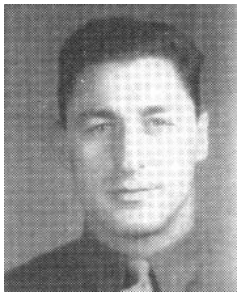


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LAWRENCE W. BELDEN, 31 461 265, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, near Roschwoog, France. Private Belden was a member of a heavy machine gun section that was attached to a platoon of riflemen when the enemy launched a strong night attack against their positions. After repeatedly crossing a street swept by German small arms fire to

keep two machine guns supplied with ammunition, he took a position where he could cover the crew of one of the guns while they went out of action and withdrew. Fighting off the enemy with his carbine and hand grenades, he remained at his post delivering covering fire until he was ordered to fall back. By his courage and determination, Private Belden contributed to the success of a difficult operation with minimum casualties. Entered military service from Suffield, Connecticut.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD C. HICKEY, 38 420 997, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, near Aunheim, France. When thirty enemy armed with automatic weapons were observed on the right flank of his company zone, Sergeant Hickey, Mortar Squad Leader, was given the mission of deploying his squad in support of that flank. With complete disregard for his own safety, in the face of heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Hickey deployed his squad into protected positions while he remained exposed, observing and correcting his fire until it forced the enemy into disorganized retreat. By his courage and determination, Sergeant Hickey relieved a dangerous threat to the Company flank and broke up an enemy attack. Entered military service from Beaumont, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RALPH A. STEINKE, 16 002 043, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, at Roschwoog, France. When a superior enemy force attacked Roschwoog, France, Sergeant Steinke continuously exposed himself to intense enemy fire to direct the fire of his heavy machine gun squad. He kept his gun in action after the riflemen had withdrawn, and, when his position was about to be overrun by the enemy, he led his own squad and the other squad of the section to safety. By his aggressive action and coolness under fire, Sergeant Steinke enabled the rifle troops to effect an orderly withdrawal and led his own men back with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HENRY L. LASSETER, 34 392 221, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 16 January 1945, near Roschwoog, France. When a strong enemy attack forced a withdrawal, Private Lasseter, a heavy machine gunner, remained in an exposed position to cover the movement with the fire of his weapon. He refused to withdraw himself until ordered to do so when it became evident that the superior enemy force was about to overrun his position. By his courage and devotion to duty, Private Lasseter enabled a difficult withdrawal to be carried out with minimum casualties.
Entered military service from Lake Wales, Florida.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MELVIN L. CORBETT, 33 730 001, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, at Runtzenheim, France. When heavy artillery fire at Runtzenheim, France, inflicted heavy casualties upon his company, Corporal Corbett, with utter disregard for his own safety, made his way forward through the withering barrage to administer first aid to the wounded. Despite constant artillery and mortar fire falling all around him, he never faltered in the performance of his duties until all the wounded soldiers had been evacuated to the rear for further medical treatment. Through his indomitable courage and heroic devotion to duty, Corporal Corbett saved his wounded comrades from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Hancock, Maryland.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THOMAS E. STEIN, JR., 6 906 242, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. While Private Stein and another man were on guard around the house where his platoon was sleeping, he observed an enemy patrol approaching their position. His comrade attracted the attention of the enemy by firing his rifle, while Private Stein found an advantageous firing position from which he killed several of the enemy, forcing the rest to retreat. His courageous action and alertness saved many of his fellow soldiers from possible death or injury.
Entered military service from New York, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THEODORE F. WIRSING, 33 571 463, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. While Private Wirsing and another man were on guard around the house in which his platoon was sleeping, he observed an enemy patrol approaching their position. He remained in an exposed position and fired his rifle at the enemy, while his comrade sought an advantageous position from which to fire into the patrol's flank. Private Wirsing's courageous action under fire played a major role in the repulsing of the infiltrating enemy force.
Entered military service from Conference, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE C. WEIGELE, 32 196 207, Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Infantry Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During an enemy attack on Sessenheim, when communications had been destroyed, Private Weigele left his covered position to attempt to make contact with an adjoining platoon of Company A. Crossing over one hundred yards of fire-swept terrain, he established contact which resulted in the two platoons joining forces against the attacking enemy. Private Weigele's courageous and aggressive action under fire was an important factor in the successful defense of this sector. Entered military service from New York, N.Y.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK PREBECK, 37 315 943, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 16 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. When his platoon was ordered to withdraw to new defensive positions, Private Prebeck remained behind to cover the withdrawal. Observing the location of a hostile machine gun firing on the men, he exposed himself to the direct fire and advanced on the enemy gun, silencing it with his rifle. Private Prebeck's outstanding courage under fire saved the lives of many of his comrades. Entered military service from Minneapolis, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PATRICK V. TUCCILLO, 42 003 535, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, at Roeschwoog, France. When the enemy attacked his platoon's outpost line near Roeschwoog, France, with great force, Sergeant Tuccillo was severely wounded. Refusing medical aid, he led the fierce fighting until ordered to withdraw. Finding the main route of withdrawal blocked by the enemy, he guided his platoon over a previously reconnoitered auxiliary route, thus enabling his men to reach the safety of friendly lines. Through his aggressive leadership and selfless determination, Sergeant Tuccillo led his platoon in a successful retrograde movement with a minimum of casualties.

Entered military service from Hoboken, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ISIDORE H. GETELES, 32 411 173, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, in Sessenheim, France. As messenger for a six-man combat patrol with the mission of locating and destroying an enemy outpost along the Sessenheim – Dalhunden Road, Private Geteles, moving out with the patrol leader to scout and reconnoiter, heard an enemy rifle shot and saw his Sergeant fall in the snow in a shower of phosphorous created as the bullet struck a grenade he was carrying on his combat jacket lapel. Private Geteles rushed to the side of his fallen patrol leader, extinguished the phosphorous flames with snow and assisted him to the Battalion Aid Station. After having his own hands bandaged, Private Geteles returned to the scene of action and rejoined his patrol.
Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.

On the morning of **17 January**, the enemy surrounded Company K outposts and attacked Dengolsheim and Stattmatten in force. The outposts at Kauffenheim received mortar and small arms fire from the flanks. Companies I and C were subjected to mortar and artillery fire from Forstfeld and Soufflenheim. The entire Company B element was surrounded by a steady stream of German reinforcements. Company K counterattacked with armored reinforcements. The main forces at Stattmatten withdrew into Sessenheim. The Cannon Company supporting Companies I, B, and C, did most of the heavy weapons firing, the field artillery lacking ammunition. The Cannon Company knocked out several enemy OP's, artillery and mortar positions, ammunition dumps, and shot up a number of German patrols.

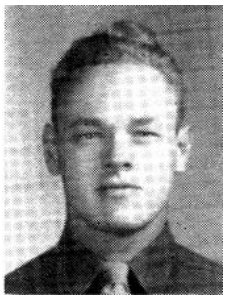
The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROBERT F. KELLY, 20 200 753, Staff Sergeant, Armored Force, Company A. 781st Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. When the enemy launched a strong counter-attack across a small river, heavily supported by small arms, mortar and artillery fire, and the infantry unit he was supporting withdrew from its positions, Sergeant Kelly ordered his tank section to hold fast. Together with another tank and a machine gun squad, he repulsed the assault and drove the enemy back across the river. Refusing to withdraw his tanks until their last rounds of ammunition had been exhausted, he kept them firing until they had killed or wounded over three hundred Germans. Entered military service from New York, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RUDOLF W. HEIM, 7 031 665, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the withdrawal from Sessenheim, France, Private Heim and several men remained behind under heavy enemy fire to aid a wounded soldier. Improvising a litter from a blanket, he aided in carrying the man over three thousand yards of open terrain constantly exposed to intense mortar and artillery fire. By his courage and disregard for personal safety, Private Heim materially contributed to saving the injured man's life.
Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM J. CUNNINGHAM, 32 952 932, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the withdrawal from Sessenheim, France, Sergeant Cunningham and several men remained behind under heavy enemy fire to aid a wounded soldier. Improvising a litter from a blanket, he aided in carrying the man over three thousand yards of open terrain constantly exposed to intense mortar and artillery fire. By his courage and disregard for personal safety, Sergeant Cunningham materially contributed to saving the injured man's life. Entered military service from Camden, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN H. THOMPSON, 36 672 546, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the withdrawal from Sessenheim, France, Private Thompson and several men remained behind under heavy enemy fire to aid a wounded soldier. Improvising a litter from a blanket, he aided in carrying the man over three thousand yards of open terrain constantly exposed to intense mortar and artillery fire. By his courage and disregard for personal safety, Private Thompson materially contributed to saving the injured man's life. Entered military service from Gurnee, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to VICTOR O. PETERSON, JR., 37 705 351, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. When a call was made for men to accompany the Regimental Surgeon to aid troops fighting without medical care, Private Peterson volunteered. Proceeding four kilometers over flat, open terrain, under artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, he assisted the Surgeon in the care and evacuation of twelve wounded men. Private Peterson's courage and devotion to duty saved the lives of many wounded men. Entered military service from Denver, Colorado.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WESLEY D. MYERS, 37 673 677, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 at Weyersheim, France. During the fierce fighting for Weyersheim, France, Corporal Myers, Second Battalion ammunition truck driver, was ordered to proceed into the town to deliver vitally needed ammunition to the hard-pressed troops. Driving along a heavily-mined road leading into the town, he was subjected to intense and direct enemy artillery and mortar fire. Despite the fact that shells were bursting all around his truck and that a vehicle twenty-five yards in front of him was demolished, he unhesitatingly continued on, unloaded his truck under heavy artillery and mortar fire, and returned over the same route to his company. Through his indomitable courage and devotion to duty, Corporal Myers contributed immeasurably to the successful attack. Entered military service from Estherville, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELMER V. JOHNSON, 39 408 133, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, at Weyersheim, France. During the fierce fighting for Weyersheim, France, Private Johnson, Second Battalion ammunition truck driver, was ordered to proceed into the town to deliver vitally needed ammunition to the hard-pressed troops. Driving along a heavily-mined road leading into the town, he was subjected to intense and observed enemy artillery and

mortar fire. Despite the fact that shells were bursting all around his truck and that a vehicle twenty-five yards to his front was demolished, he unhesitatingly continued on, unloaded his truck under heavy artillery and mortar fire, and returned over the same route to his company. Through his indomitable courage and devotion to duty, Private Johnson contributed materially to the successful attack. Entered military service from Modesto, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES C. RAINES, 35 203 335, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company A, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the withdrawal from Sessenheim, France, Private Raines and several men remained behind under heavy enemy fire to aid a wounded soldier. Improvising a litter from a blanket, he helped to carry the man over three thousand yards of open terrain constantly exposed to intense mortar and artillery fire. By his courage and disregard for personal safety, Private Raines materially contributed to saving the injured man's life. Entered military service from Charleston, West Virginia.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to GEORGE C. WEIMER, 13 201 383, Staff Sergeant (then Private), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. When the rifle platoon of which Private Weimer was a member launched a tank supported attack against the town of Sessenheim, France, it was repulsed by intense enemy panzerfaust, machine gun, and small arms fire. Noticing a man lying wounded and exposed to the deadly barrage, Private Weimer unhesitatingly advanced to attempt to rescue the casualty. Fearlessly braving the murderous machine gun cross-fire, he reached the man's side and quickly applied a tourniquet to his severely bleeding leg. He then carried him back to a position of safety across the same fire-swept terrain. Private Weimer's exceptional courage and selfless determination undoubtedly saved his wounded comrade from suffering further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LORIMER J. ROMAGUERA, 38 495 509, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. When four men of the platoon to which he was attached as Aid Man, were wounded, Private Romaguera went to their assistance under hostile fire. He administered medical aid to the men and remained with them until he could arrange for their evacuation. As a result of his courageous act, the injured were prevented from being captured by the enemy, when they later overran the area. Entered military service from New Orleans, Louisiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELSWORTH A. ROSENBERG, 42 018 991, Sergeant (then Private), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. When the enemy penetrated his platoon's positions after three days of almost continuous attack, Private Rosenberg left his foxhole and notified the platoon leader. He then returned and assisted in fighting off the enemy until the platoon could be withdrawn to new positions where the attack was halted. By his courage and initiative Private Rosenberg enabled his platoon to halt an enemy attack and avoid possible heavy casualties. Entered military service from Lyndhurst, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLAUDE E. DAVIS, 17 152 170, Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. When his platoon received a violent German counter-attack while carrying out an order to withdraw, Private Davis crawled from his foxhole to divert the hostile fire and permit his platoon to move out. He killed an enemy machine gunner and silenced the gun, enabling his platoon to take up new positions. By his prompt and courageous act, Private Davis prevented his platoon from suffering heavy casualties in a difficult operation. Entered military service from Des Moines, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THOMAS A. HURST, 6 242 470, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the attack on the city, Corporal Hurst worked ceaselessly under intense mortar, artillery, and small arms fire to assist in the establishment of a collecting point from which to evacuate casualties. During this action he suffered a wound in the leg, but he refused evacuation until medical attention had been provided for his wounded comrades. Corporal Hurst's courage and disregard for himself contributed materially to the prompt treatment and evacuation of numerous casualties that day. Entered military service from Galveston, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GENE C. SIMONSON, 39 293 661, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. As a litter bearer, Corporal Simonson volunteered to accompany the Regimental Surgeon into Sessenheim to evacuate twelve severely wounded men. Proceeding over open terrain for a distance of four kilometers, under direct enemy observation and heavy fire to reach the town, Corporal Simonson assisted the surgeon in the care and evacuation of the wounded men. During his work he was constantly under artillery and mortar fire, and was frequently subjected to concentrations from machine guns and snipers. By his courage and devotion to duty, Corporal Simonson assisted in saving twelve fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALBERT A. MAINO, 31 389 152, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the enemy attack on Company K's positions near Sessenheim, France, Private Maino made three trips across open terrain under an intense concentration of enemy artillery and mortar fire in order to keep his platoon supplied with ammunition. At times when all other men were under cover, he fearlessly braved the vicious fire to obtain and distribute the ammunition to the foxholes. As a result of Private Maino's courageous action, his platoon was able to repulse the determined enemy attack. Entered military service from Worcester, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to CHARLES M. WEED, 32 843 061, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. While Private Weed was on outpost guard in a pillbox near Sessenheim, France, the enemy subjected the area to an intense concentration of mortar and artillery fire, followed by a strong attacking force. Observing through an embrasure, he adjusted

and directed friendly artillery fire on the onrushing troops, completely disregarding the intense hail of small arms and machine gun fire directed at the opening. As he observed the enemy forces scattering and retreating, an artillery shell hit near his face, mortally wounding him. Private Weed's outstanding courage and selfless determination were an inspiration to his comrades and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Bessie Weed (Mother), 1024 North Union Street Olean, New York. Entered military service from Olean, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MAX H. COLLINS, 36 982 045, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the enemy attack on Sessenheim, Private Collins' squad was running critically low on ammunition. With utter disregard for his personal safety, he left his position of cover in the face of intense machine gun and sniper fire and crept and crawled several hundred yards to the ammunition supply point. He then returned over the same hazardous route, dodging enemy patrols, with a heavy load of ammunition. Private Collins' outstanding courage under fire played a major role in the successful defense of the sector against fanatical enemy counterattacks. Entered military service from Flint, Michigan.



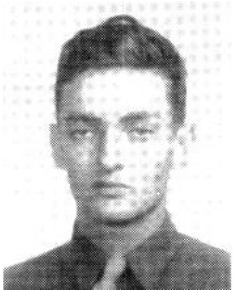
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOEL L. COFFEY, 34 775 446, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. When the enemy attempted to overrun his Observation Post, Sergeant Coffey, Acting Platoon Sergeant, fought them off until his ammunition was nearly exhausted. Then with complete disregard for his own safety, he ran out across 300 yards of open terrain, swept by German automatic weapons fire, and returned with sufficient ammunition to stave off a hostile flanking movement. Sergeant Coffey then held his position until he and his men were relieved. His courage and devotion to duty enabled an important observation post to be maintained. Entered military service from Laxon, North Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANGELO BISONE, 36 979 179, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. Observing an enemy counterattack approaching his position, Private Bisone alerted his squad, attached a grenade launcher to his rifle and began firing rapidly into the enemy. Under his determined fire, which he maintained in spite of several automatic weapons concentrated upon him the counterattack was driven off. By his courage and devotion to duty, Private Bisone prevented a possible breach in the Company's position.
Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MILTON R. BOWMAN, 35 413 161, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January near Sessenheim, France. Private Bowman volunteered to ride a tank into Sessenheim to assist a company which was under heavy enemy attack. During the vicious street fighting that ensued, an enemy machine gun in a cellar caused numerous casualties. Private Bowman advanced in the face of direct fire, threw two grenades into the cellar and silenced the gun. After the town had been cleared, Private Bowman returned through heavy artillery fire to resume his place in his mortar squad.
Entered military service from Zanesville, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to TOMMY D. HEELAN, 37 482 408, Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the counterattack by our forces on the town of Sessenheim, France, Sergeant Heelan volunteered to lead a small combat patrol in bypassing the enemy and setting up positions on the opposite side of the town. Upon reaching their objective, the members of the patrol were subjected to intense machine gun and small arms fire coming from a barn to their front. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Heelan singlehandedly stormed the hostile position, killing four enemy soldiers with his submachine gun. Through his indomitable courage and selfless determination, Sergeant Heelan contributed immeasurably to the successful defense of Alsace. Entered military service from Valentime, Nebraska.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ORVILLE SHEW, 35 640 194, Sergeant (then Corporal), Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. When elements of Corporal Shew's platoon became isolated in a forward pillbox by intense enemy artillery, mortar, and tank fire, he volunteered to carry ammunition and rations to their positions. Making several trips in complete darkness, across heavily mined fields, and under concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire, he maintained their supply of rations and other vital items. By his outstanding courage and aggressive determination, Corporal Shew enabled his comrades to hold their position. Entered military service from Anawalt, West Virginia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN K. TEMPLE, 32 910 028, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. Private Temple volunteered to ride a tank into Sessenheim to assist a company under heavy enemy attack. In the bitter street fighting that ensued, he captured two of the enemy. When he and two other men were fired on from a barn, he set the barn on fire and captured five more of the enemy when they fled the building. After the town had been cleared, Private Temple returned through heavy artillery fire to resume his place in his mortar squad. Entered military service from Montclair, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD C. DUSTIN, 31 340 183, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During an attack on the town of Sessenheim, Private Dustin, driver for an 81 mm mortar squad, drove his vehicle through heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire in order to bring up vitally needed ammunition. When his squad advanced into the town he assisted in setting up the mortar under intense hostile fire. Private Dustin's coolness while subjected to enemy action and his determination to keep his mortar squad supplied with ammunition, contributed greatly to the success of the supported rifle troops. Entered military service from Randolph, Vermont.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALTER R. MURPHY, 31 308 303, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. Private Murphy volunteered to ride a tank into the town of Sessenheim, France, to assist a company which was under heavy attack by a large enemy force. Private Murphy, acting without concern for his personal safety and using an unfamiliar weapon, was responsible for killing and capturing a number of the enemy. After the town had

been cleared, Private Murphy returned to his platoon to act as a gunner with his mortar squad which went into position to fire on the enemy.
Entered military service from Belmont, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FLOYD D. MCABEE, 34 813 214, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, near Drusenheim, France. When an overwhelming enemy force launched an all-out attack against Drusenheim, France, Sergeant McAbee volunteered to take up a position in an open field in the face of the onslaught in order to direct mortar fire. With utter disregard for his own safety, he tenaciously held his post for six hours while exposed to deadly machine gun and small arms fire, personally killing four Germans who advanced to within twenty yards of his position. Through his heroic courage and accurate fire direction, Sergeant McAbee accounted for over fifty enemy killed, thus halting the attack against our positions. Entered military service from Godsden, Alabama.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAT O'REILEY, 35 546 893, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. Volunteering to join the attack on Sessenheim, Private O'Reiley, a mortar gunner, borrowed a rifle and rode into the town on a tank. When wire line was needed for vital communications, Private O'Reiley volunteered to help lay the line, which he completed although another soldier was killed at his side. By his courage and devotion to duty Private O'Reiley contributed to the success of the attack. Entered military service from Fort Wayne, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH T. BARNES, 37 628 734, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. As assistant driver of a mortar ammunition jeep, Private Barnes promptly assumed command when his driver was wounded by enemy mortar fire. Without regard for his own personal safety, he drove the jeep through an intense concentration of enemy mortar and artillery fire, delivering the ammunition to his platoon. Private Barnes' heroic action was responsible for the continuous mortar fire of his platoon, materially aiding in halting the enemy attack.
Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARL A. GREEN, 38 563 601, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During an attack on Sessenheim, Private Green drove his jeep constantly under direct enemy observation and intense small arms and artillery fire to assist the evacuation of numerous casualties. Although wounded, he unhesitatingly advanced and assisted in the evacuation of two injured men exposed to a heavy concentration of artillery. Private Green's courage and devotion to duty contributed materially to saving many lives during the engagement. Entered military service from Norman, Oklahoma.



The SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR M. EDWARDS, 0 369 337, Major, Medical Corps, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945, in Sessenheim, France. Advised that troops heavily engaged in Sessenheim were without medical aid, Major Edwards with two volunteers crossed four kilometers of

open terrain to reach the town. Although fierce fighting was in progress, Major Edwards supervised the collection of twelve severely wounded men from widely scattered points under heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire and gave them medical care. After nightfall he commandeered a truck and evacuated the wounded. His courageous action and professional skill were responsible for the saving of many lives. Entered military service from Bernice, Louisiana.

At 0710, **18 January**, the enemy attacked Sessenheim, encircling the town. Company B withdrew to the south edge of the woods, and at 1500, again counter-attacked. At 1650 Sessenheim was taken, and the counterattack moved into Dengolsheim, where it encountered heavy opposition.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STANLEY HAGLER, 17 146 125, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Runtzenheim, France. When a large enemy patrol attacked his anti-tank position, Private Hagler manned a caliber .50 machine gun mounted on a truck and brought fire to bear on the advancing enemy. Although in an uncovered position and under heavy small arms fire, Private Hagler remained on his gun until mortar and artillery was directed on the enemy patrol. As a result of his heroic and timely action, six members of the patrol were killed and the remainder captured. Entered military service from Denver, Colorado.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARRY R. FOX, 36 978 607, Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945 near Runtzenheim, France. Stationed in a pillbox as an observer, Sergeant Fox discovered a squad of the enemy attempting to infiltrate past his position. Attempting to report this action, he found that the telephone wire to his company command post had been cut. Sergeant Fox then made his way nearly a half-mile under enemy artillery and mortar fire, repaired two breaks in the line and proceeded to his own lines and reported the German infiltration. As the result of his courageous act, the enemy patrol was routed.
Entered military service from Marshall, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT L. CUNLIFFE, 33 414 985, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, at Sessenheim, France. When numerically superior enemy forces cut off his machine gun platoon, Private Cunliffe tenaciously held his position for six hours under intense small arms, machine gun and artillery fire in a valiant attempt to halt the onslaught. After the overwhelming force had overrun his positions, he fought his way through the German lines to return to his Battalion Command Post, where he passed on information that enabled our troops to launch a counterattack and retake the area. Through his indomitable courage and selfless determination, Private Cunliffe made an effective contribution to the successful defense of Alsace. Entered military service from Pitcairn, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LLOYD A. CHILDRESS, 33 934 188, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. When the enemy launched a strong attack against his forward observer post during the fighting for Sessenheim, Private Childress took an automatic rifle from a wounded comrade and opened fire upon the advancing enemy. After the enemy had withdrawn

because of his accurate fire, he moved forward under a heavy artillery concentration and assisted an aid man in evacuating casualties to the medical aid station. By his courage actions and aggressive skill, Private Childress was largely responsible for the defeat of a strong enemy thrust into our lines.
Entered military service from Norristown, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAUL L. TEEMS, 34 948 060, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment, on 18 January 1945, in France. Entered military service from Cedartown, Georgia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THOMAS BEATTY, 33 931 541, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. While his own machine gun was temporarily silenced by a concentration of hostile artillery and mortars, Private Beatty, ammunition bearer, carried ammunition to the other gun in his section through heavy fire. His action enabled the gun to continue firing, inflicting severe losses on the enemy. As the result of Private Beatty's courage and devotion to duty, a rifle company was enabled to move to stronger positions.
Entered military service from Washington, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD J. FIEDOROZYK, 36 672 587, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. When the advance of rifle troops against Sessenheim, France was halted by intense enemy artillery mortar, and machine gun fire, Private Fiedorozyk brought his machine gun into an exposed position from which he could direct fire onto the enemy emplacements. Fearlessly braving the murderous fire, he opened fire with his weapon and completely silenced several machine guns, enabling the rifle troops to continue their advance. Private Fiedorozyk's prompt and courageous action played a major role in the successful completion of the day's engagement.
Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths database lists PFC Fiedorozyk as killed in action on 01/26/45].



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LOUIS K. BRANCO, 31 428 063, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the attack on enemy positions near Sessenheim, Private Branco constantly exposed himself to intense artillery, mortar, and small arms fire to bring ammunition to his heavy machine gun squad. Eventually the attacking company was forced to withdraw, leaving many casualties behind. Private Branco left his position of safety to assist in evacuating eleven wounded soldiers from close proximity to the enemy to a place of safety. Private Branco's extreme courage under fire was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army of the United States.
Entered military service from Boston, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT L. MEISBURG, 35 807 188, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. Private Meisburg was assistant gunner in a heavy machine gun squad which was attacked for the fourth time by a large enemy force. Although silhouetted by fires in a burning town behind him, and with grenades bursting less than 15 yards from his gun, Private Meisburg remained at his position and assisted in delivering effective fire on the enemy. By his courage and devotion to duty he contributed effectively to the repulse of an attack. Entered military service from Louisville, Kentucky.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MAURICE E. PRONEVOST, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. Private Pronovost was serving as ammunition bearer of a heavy machine gun squad which was attacked for the fourth time by a large enemy force. Although silhouetted by fires in a burning town behind him and with grenades bursting less than 15 yards from the gun positions, Private Pronovost left cover and advanced through rifle and automatic weapons fire to assist the machine gunner. By his courage and devotion to duty he aided in repulsing an attack with enemy losses of two men killed, one wounded and one captured. Entered military service from Springfield, Massachusetts.





The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH SKVARLA, 36 966 778, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. Private Skvarla, member of a mortar platoon, was on guard when he sighted and fired on a 60-man German patrol advancing on his position. Though wounded almost immediately, Private Skvarla made his way back to his platoon and gave warning. During the engagement which followed, and despite his injury, he remained with his unit and continued fighting. Private Skvarla's courageous act was largely responsible for inflicting heavy casualties upon the Germans and breaking up the attack. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BYRON B. ZEPPLIN, 36 845 672, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. Private Zepplin was a heavy machine gunner in a squad which was attacked for the fourth time by a large enemy force. Although silhouetted by fires in a burning town behind him, and with grenades bursting less than 15 yards from his position, Private Zepplin remained at his gun and delivered effective fire on the enemy. By his courage and devotion to duty he assisted in repulsing the attack with heavy enemy losses. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to NORMAN S. STRANGE, 0 550 364, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infanty Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, in the Sessenheim Woods, France. Volunteering to evacuate a wounded man from a Forward Observation Post, Lieutenant Strange, Mortar Platoon leader, completely disregarded his own personal safety, courageously braved intense enemy fire and successfully carried the casualty to safety and medical aid. The outstanding heroism displayed by Lieutenant Strange saved a soldier from possible death. Entered military service from Dallas, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM J. MOUNTFORD, 34 678 620, Private First Class (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the enemy attack on Sessenheim, Sergeant Mountford, squad leader, made repeated trips under intense enemy artillery mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire and under direct enemy observation to secure ammunition for his squad. When not carrying ammunition Sergeant Mountford was in exposed positions directing and observing his squad's fire. When enemy troops broke through on the company left flank, Sergeant Mountford led his squad over and repulsed the enemy penetration. His outstanding courage, initiative and devotion to duty were instrumental in successfully repulsing the enemy attack on Sessenheim. Entered military service from Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALEXANDER P. CZCINSKI, 31 281 402, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, near Sessenheim, France, on 18 January 1945. Volunteering to help evacuate a wounded medical aid man, Private Czcinski and another soldier crawled through intense enemy fire to reach the man. Finding the litter damaged, Private Czcinski repaired it with his waist belt, picked up the wounded man and began the 300-yard trip back over open terrain under full observation of the enemy, arriving safely back at his company's position. His courage and determination saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture.
Entered military service from Hartford, Connecticut.
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists S/Sgt Czinski as killed in action 04/24/45].



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE BASS, 32 207 980, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the enemy attack on Sessenheim, forward elements were running critically short of mortar and machine gun ammunition. Private Bass voluntarily drove his jeep and trailer loaded with ammunition over a road exposed to enemy fire up to the besieged elements. Artillery, mortar, and small arms fire became so intense that his vehicle was virtually riddled with shrapnel holes, but he remained with his jeep and succeeded in bringing the urgently needed ammunition to the machine gun and mortar positions. Private Bass's outstanding courage and determination contributed materially to the successful defense of the sector against determined enemy attacks.
Entered military service from West New York, New Jersey.

The Germans infiltrated in force during the night, severing communications between the Company B elements. Lacking anti-tank weapons and ammunition, the elements withdrew under heavy artillery, mortar, and automatic fire through the woods to Schirrhoffen, early the morning of **19 January**.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JAMES CHEEK, 37 522 225, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 January 1945 at Bois de Soufflenheim, France. Private Cheek was serving as gunner of the 3rd Mortar Squad, Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, in a defensive position along the southern edge of the Bois de Soufflenheim, France when the enemy attacked our positions following an intense artillery barrage. Observing more than one hundred Germans rushing toward his position and realizing that the range was

too close for ordinary sighting adjustment, Private Cheek held his mortar between his legs and began dropping shells less than thirty-five yards away, causing numerous enemy casualties. When his platoon was ordered to withdraw, Private Cheek covered the withdrawal by remaining at his position and, feeding shells into the almost perpendicular tube of his mortar, maintained a deadly fire upon the advancing enemy until all of his ammunition was exhausted. Following the remainder of the platoon to the alternate position, he again placed the mortar into action and continued the fight. His outstanding courage and daring initiative were responsible for numerous enemy casualties and greatly contributed to the successful repulse of the enemy attack. Entered military service from Buffalo, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH A. LABOMBARDI, 32 867 523, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. Private LaBombardi, a platoon runner, successfully delivered messages to his platoon while under heavy mortar and artillery fire. Noticing that the enemy had infiltrated to the rear of his platoon, he advanced through the enemy lines and safely led his platoon to the newly-established company main line of resistance. Private LaBombardi's prompt action and aggressiveness saved his platoon from encirclement. Entered military service from Mount Vernon, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FREDERICK S. BARCOMB, 31 312 207, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 19 January 1945, in Soufflenheim, France. Directed to evacuate an ammunition supply point after his Battalion had withdrawn from Soufflenheim, Corporal Barcomb remained with his truck and assisted in loading the ammunition under an enemy artillery concentration while shells landed within 15 yards of the truck. Corporal Barcomb was subjected to further German artillery fire as he drove out of town. His courage and devotion to duty were responsible for saving critical ammunition from destruction or capture by the enemy. Entered military service from Hartford, Connecticut.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WARD MILLER, 37 470 907, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 January 1945, in Soufflenheim, France. Directed to evacuate an ammunition supply point after his Battalion had withdrawn from Soufflenheim, Private Miller remained with his truck and assisted in loading the ammunition under an enemy artillery concentration while shells landed within 15 yards of his truck. Private Miller was subjected to further German artillery fire as he drove out of town. His courage and devotion to duty were responsible for saving critical ammunition from destruction or capture by the enemy. Entered military service from Council Bluff, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LLOYD A. PLATT, 37 539 034, Technician Fifty Grade, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Directed to evacuate an ammunition supply point after his Battalion had withdrawn from Soufflenheim, Corporal Platt remained with his truck and assisted in loading the ammunition under an enemy artillery concentration while shells landed within 15 yards of his truck. Corporal Platt was subjected to further German artillery fire as he

drove out of town. His courage and devotion to duty were responsible for saving critical ammunition from destruction or capture by the enemy.
Entered military service from Dodge City, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD S. COUNTRYMAN, 32 508 642, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 January 1945 near Soufflenheim, France. Directed to evacuate an ammunition supply point after his Battalion had withdrawn from Soufflenheim, Private Countryman remained with his truck and assisted in loading the ammunition under an enemy artillery concentration while shells landed within 15 yards of his truck. Private Countryman was subjected to further German artillery fire as he drove out of town. His courage and devotion to duty were responsible for saving critical ammunition from destruction or capture by the enemy.
Entered military service from High Falls, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to KENNETH L. MCCLUNG, 36 518 496, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 19 January 1945 near Soufflenheim, France. Directed to evacuate an ammunition supply point after his Battalion had withdrawn from Soufflenheim, Private McClung remained with his truck and assisted in loading the ammunition under an enemy artillery concentration while shells landed within 15 yards of his truck. Private McClung was subjected to further German artillery fire as he drove out of town. His courage and devotion to duty were responsible for saving critical ammunition from destruction or capture by the enemy.
Entered military service from Alma, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ADOLPH P. CZECH, 36 901 548, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Directed to evacuate an ammunition supply point after his Battalion had withdrawn from Soufflenheim, Private Czech remained with his truck and assisted in leading the ammunition under an enemy artillery concentration during which shells landed within 15 yards of his truck. Private Czech was subjected to further German artillery fire as he drove out of town. His courage and devotion to duty were responsible for saving much critical ammunition from destruction or capture by the enemy.
Entered military service from Cicero, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD J. THOMAS, 36 765 786, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Directed to evacuate an ammunition supply point after his Battalion had withdrawn from Soufflenheim, Private Thomas remained with his truck and assisted in loading the ammunition under an enemy artillery concentration while shells landed within 15 yards of his truck. Private Thomas was subjected to further German artillery fire as he drove out of town. His courage and devotion to duty were responsible for saving critical ammunition from destruction or capture by the enemy.
Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAUL H. CONNORS, 31 094 455, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Directed to

evacuate an ammunition supply point after his Battalion had withdrawn from Soufflenheim, Private Connors remained with his truck and assisted in loading the ammunition under an enemy artillery concentration while shells landed within 15 yards of his truck. Private Connors was subjected to further German artillery fire as he drove out of town. His courage and devotion to duty were responsible for saving critical ammunition from destruction or capture by the enemy.
Entered military service from Charlestown, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HUBERT H. BUSBY, JR., 14 063 660, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. Volunteering to help evacuate a medical aid man who was wounded when an enemy artillery barrage hit a pillbox observation post, Private Busby and another soldier crawled through intense mortar, machine gun and small arms fire to the pillbox. Finding the litter damaged, Private Busby quickly took off his waist belt, repaired the litter, picked up the wounded man, and began the 300 yard trip back over open terrain under full observation of the enemy, arriving safely back at his company's position. This display of heroism was responsible for saving the life of a soldier and exemplifies the highest traditions of the Rainbow Division.
Entered military service from Rossville, Georgia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JACK M. GINSBERG, 32 997 732, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During a heavy enemy artillery and mortar concentration, Sergeant Ginsberg carried essential ammunition to the machine guns of his section. Through Sergeant Ginsberg's courageous action, his section was able to maintain a steady volume of fire against the enemy forces while a rifle company was able to withdraw under its protection, sustaining the minimum number of casualties.
Entered military service from New York, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BEVERLY J. MORRIS, 35 088 709, Private First Class (then Private), Infantry, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January, near Sessenheim, France. While under a furious concentration of enemy artillery and mortar fire, Private Morris transported vitally needed ammunition to a heavy machine gun position in the friendly lines. In order to achieve his mission, Private Morris exposed himself fully to German observation and fire. As a direct result of his heroic act, heavy losses were inflicted upon the enemy, and the rifle platoon the heavy machine gun squad was supporting made a successful withdrawal with minimum casualties.
Entered military service from Lucas, Kentucky.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DAVID F. PETERSON, 31 042 456, Private First Class (then Private), Infantry, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During a heavy enemy artillery and mortar concentration, Private Peterson carried essential ammunition to the machine guns of his section. Through Private Peterson's courageous action, his section was able to maintain a steady volume of fire against the enemy forces while a rifle company was able to withdraw under its protection, sustaining the minimum number of casualties.
Entered military service from Norwalk, Connecticut.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE SOTAK, 33 370 322, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the fierce fighting around Sessenheim, France, Private Sotak was captured by the enemy and then lined up and shot with other American prisoners. Feigning death among his massacred comrades until darkness fell, he painfully crawled throughout most of the night, finally reaching friendly lines where he passed on invaluable information of enemy positions and strength. Private Sotak's heroic action reflects great credit upon himself and upholds the finest traditions of the United States Army. Entered military service from Tomaqua, Pennsylvania.

SESSENHEIM, FR January 18-19, 1945

Reprinted from REVEILLE January 2015

In Honor of All Who Served in the 42nd "Rainbow" Division 70 Years Ago – and in Memory of those Rainbow Soldiers of Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division who died or were taken prisoner at Sessenheim, France in January 18-19, 1945.



SAM POLIS, a machine gunner with Weapons Platoon, A/232, in a letter responding to WWII Rainbow veteran and author, Richard "Dick" Engler, wrote, "About Sessenheim…A lot of people don't know how people "get captured," and it's not an easy story to tell. But I have relived it, so I guess my memory of the story will be fairly accurate. I also feel that someone should write the story of Sessenheim. We're all getting older now and the story will die with us. So perhaps one small view of what happened should survive us."

From materials collected by **Don Williams, H1B/232 and editor of The First News –**
In September 1945, two members of A/232 who had been taken prisoner in Sessenheim, FR on 18 January 1945 were summoned by the War Department, Office of the Judge Advocate General, to be interviewed by the War Crimes Office, "In the matter of the shooting of American prisoners of war after surrender, on march from Sessenheim, NW of Straussberg [sic], to Fort Louis [about 1 hr march from Sessenheim], France, January 18, 1945".

FROM TESTIMONY OF S/SGT JAMES F. NICHOLS, A/232

Q. Were you ever taken as a prisoner of war; if so will you please state the circumstances under which you were captured?

A. On January 18, 1945 I was with a group, a part of Company A of the 232nd Infantry. We made an attack on the town of Sessenheim northwest of Strausberg [sic]. The attack was made on the 17th. We had taken a certain portion of the town and were scheduled to attack at 4 P.M.

on the 17th. The attack was called off due to insufficient equipment, and our orders were to stand by. We moved into a building on the outskirts of the town, set up general outposts and made ourselves as comfortable as possible for the evening. Around 8 o'clock the following morning we lost communication with our higher headquarters. At approximately 6 o'clock the Germans started their attack and infiltrated up to our quarters and started throwing hand grenades. Most of these men were knocked off. Then a messenger came through just at dawn with orders from Colonel Custer, our Battalion Commander, to hold out at all costs. Then the messenger left and by that time every man was on the alert. We had two tanks and two tank destroyers that were blown up, so that left us with nothing but small arms to fire. Then the Germans commenced to move in from all sides. We held them off until around noon. At approximately 11:30 I gave the order to surrender. I waved a white flag out of the window, which was immediately shot from my hands. Then we shoved a white sheet out of the window, destroyed all of our equipment, personal belongings and any other items that might have given our organization away. Then leading the column, I marched out of the house, hands over my head. The Germans immediately put us in a column of twos and marched us about twenty yards from the house.

FROM TESTIMONY OF SGT GERALD O'BRIEN, A/232 –

Q. State the circumstances under which you were captured by the Germans.

A. We had taken the town of Sessenheim on the 17th of January 1945, and in the afternoon we were to go in and take the next town, which was about 1000 yards or more away—just a little settlement. We were to move out at 4:00 P.M. Until that time we were deployed in a wooded area. We were to have an artillery barrage to soften our advance before we moved in, which was to start at 3:50 P.M. In view of the fact that we didn't get artillery support, Colonel Custer gave up the idea of taking the town. Then we were broken down into small groups and assigned to various houses on the outskirts—strong points as they were called. We were told to hold these at all costs, which we did. About midnight we heard that reinforcements were on the way—armored and infantry—and we were to sit tight until they arrived. About 5:00 A.M. the Germans started to try and get us out. We held them off until about 3:00 in the afternoon. At that time the Germans gave up trying to get us out with infantry and brought up two tanks and some bazooka men and proceeded to pull the place down. Shortly after this we left the house and were taken captive by the Germans, who had completely surrounded the house I was in.

Q. How many men were with you in this house?

A. Off hand I'd say 18 or 20 men.

Q. State what you saw after leaving the house.

A. I saw the group of Americans lined up, and I saw a German officer making a lot of threatening gestures and heard him yelling about the shooting of a German medic by Americans. He took 4 men and sent them up the street with a German soldier. These men came back in a few minutes carrying a dead German, and they put him in a pile with the rest of the dead Germans. Then the German officer pulled 7 more men out of the group and sent them up the street in charge of a German soldier; I don't know whether he was a private or a non-commissioned officer. They went up the street and that is the last I saw of them. The rest of the Americans who had been captured stayed in this same area still in formation for a good twenty minutes, and the group of 7 men never returned.

SAM POLIS' story continued later in his narrative, "We were always ready for a final assault. We expected grenades first, but some of us would have still been alive to fire in the direction of the stairs. But just sitting and lying in the basement waiting for the tank to finish us off didn't seem right. It didn't seem fair.

It was about this time that our acting sergeant suggested surrendering. Our latest hope had been to hold out until dark and then try to get back somehow. But it was now 3 p.m. and we'd all be dead by nightfall. The acting sergeant knew we had heard of American prisoners being shot after capture "up north" where we had heard the Germans had broken through, but he explained that if we were shot after we surrendered, we wouldn't be any more dead than if we had stayed in the basement. So we had nothing to lose.

In spite of this reasoning, some of us didn't want to surrender. He explained that if anyone stayed back and continued to fight, it would be certain death for those that surrendered. There wasn't much discussion on this. We didn't take a vote. A few minutes later, he ordered all of us to surrender.

I wanted to get rid of my dog tags first. They had my religion on them ("H" for Hebrew) and if we survived capture, I didn't want to handicap myself. In the basement, there was a dead German, who we hid by covering him with rutabagas. I removed some of the rutabagas as the others trudged slowly up the stairs and threw my dog tags on the dead German soldier and hastily covered him back up with rutabagas. I then joined the line, carrying my loaded carbine with me. I placed it behind the door to the kitchen. If the Germans started mistakenly shooting as our first men went out the door, I wanted to have a weapon to come back to.

We marched out, hands above our heads, about 15 of us left. No helmets, just wool knit hats. Some hollered "Kamarad," which I guess was the proper thing to say. We were all covered with plaster and debris and must have looked like very "sad sacks" since we were shell-shocked and frightened and at their mercy.

As I looked up, it seemed as though the second floor of every building all around us was swarming with white-clothed Germans waiting for us to try to break out. They lined us up in three rows of about five men each. The one in charge, probably a lieutenant, asked us, in German, if any of us could speak German. No one answered, and then I think he said, in German, that they were going to take us all down by the church and shoot us. None of us showed any emotion. He then arbitrarily picked out about six or seven of our group, including the man in front of me and the man on my left and separated them from us. We were then marched away.

I had assumed that the ones they picked out were going to be used to help gather the German dead from yesterday and today. Perhaps the American dead, too.

But we never saw them again. As we moved back through the Black Forest and other collecting points, we met other Rainbowers from our own company who were captured in other towns on different days. But we never saw the men from our own platoon who were separated from us shortly after our capture. After the war I learned that one of the separated group was home also. His letter follows:

A LETTER FROM GEORGE SOTAK, A/232 DATED FEBRUARY 12, 1946 –

Hi Sam [Polis], Received your letter and was very glad to hear from you. Thanks a lot for getting those three addresses for me. I'm getting nowhere here and the doc said I should be getting out in three weeks. I'll be getting out on points, no CDD [combat disability discharge]. To get a CDD, one has to be half-dead. My back and chest are hurting, but can't convince the doctors.

Here's what happened to us when we were separated from you guys: the only guys that I saw in our group were from the first squad and that is why I wanted their addresses. One of these days when I get the nerve, I'll write to their parents and let them know just what did happen. Do you think I should?

When they picked us out we marched up the road a couple of yards, went through a barn and stopped before a couple of barbed wire fences. I could sense what was going to happen, but couldn't make a run for it. We were lined up with our backs toward the krauts. The first guy turned around and said "kaput" to the kraut and he said "nix." Then there was a burst and I found myself flat on the ground. I knew I was hit but wasn't hurting. The other boys were hollering from the pain and got more slugs until all was quiet. Then they came over and kicked us on the soles of our feet to make sure we were dead. I had no feeling in my right arm and didn't know whether it was on or off. A little time passed and a couple of krauts in back thought they saw me move or breathe and came over and picked me up by the neck and shoulder and turned me face upwards. Blood was coming out of my mouth and they were satisfied that I was dead and threw me down again. My heart was in my throat that time!

Some more time passed by and two krauts passed by in front of me and spied my class ring on my left hand and did their best to get it off, but couldn't. Someone in back called them away just when it felt like the kraut was going for a knife to cut off my finger. I was really scared!

It was just getting dark when a kraut whispered, "hey boy, hey boy, hey boy," to us guys lying there. I wouldn't move for anything or anybody! I lay there a long time afterwards and figured I'd better try and get away or else die lying there. I'd swear all those guys were dead when I left that night. I picked myself up and started walking and crawling back to the town we started from – Soufflenheim. I just got outside of Soufflenheim and bumped into one of our tanks and they took me back to their outfit. I never did see the company. I played dead about twelve hours that day and can thank God I'm alive today. It was a "burp" gun that they shot us with. I got two scars on my back, one on my left shoulder and two on my right arm. The slugs in the back also got me in the left lung and I almost lost my right arm. A funny and lucky thing was that I felt no pain when I got hit.

Well, Sam, that's it. Sounds unbelievable but true and sounds like one of Ripley's "believe it or not." I was sent to a hospital in England and stayed there a couple of months and then was sent back to France on limited duty.

The personal accounts of combat in Sessenheim and more appear in these two books and are highlyrecommended reading –
Hold At All Cost/42nd Rainbow Division Prisoners of War, RDVMF, 2004, 498 pages
The Final Crisis/ Combat in Northern Alsace January 1945, Richard Engler, Aegis, 1999, 362 pages.
Also, this issue of REVEILLE July 2017 holds the story of "Setting Things Right for a Fallen Rainbow Soldier", by RDVF Historian, Patrick J. Chaisson. For one family of those men slain in George Sotak's account above, an honor is accorded to their Soldier.
http://www.rainbowvets.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Rainbow-Reveille-July-2017-pages-1-8.pdf



The SILVER STAR is awarded to NORMAN HILL, 16 148 101, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action, on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. When C Company of the 411th Infantry moved through his company to attack, Sergeant Hill moved his gun to an exposed position despite heavy concentrations of enemy fire in order to give

them close machine gun support. During the resulting action, he knocked out three enemy machine guns and inflicted many casualties. When Company C was forced to withdraw and leave many wounded behind, Sergeant Hill left his foxhole and made several trips forward helping to evacuate eleven of the wounded infantrymen. His gallant and courageous acts, performed without regard to personal safety, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Rainbow Division. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to KENNETH B. CLARK, 36 969 499, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the fierce enemy attack near Sessenheim, Private Clark volunteered to drive his vehicle through an intense artillery and mortar barrage to secure ammunition for his mortar platoon. He made many repeated trips through the deadly fire, never faltering in his task throughout the entire action. By his courageous action and initiative, Private Clark enabled his platoon to continue firing, inflicting many casualties on the attacking enemy forces.
Entered military service from Medora, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILL N. CLARK, 34 613 034, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the enemy attack on Sessenheim, Private Clark voluntarily drove over roads exposed to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire to obtain ammunition for his 81 mm mortar platoon. Upon returning with a load of ammunition, he received a shrapnel wound in the leg, but he did not falter in the performance of his mission. He delivered the vitally needed ammunition to the mortar positions. Private Clark's heroic action despite his wound made possible the continued firing of his platoon, thus inflicting many casualties upon the fanatically attacking enemy forces.
Entered military service from Waynesboro, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DENNIS A. DUFFY, 36 571 567, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During an engagement with the enemy in the woods south of Sessenheim, France, on 18 January 1945, Private Duffy, Company Runner, volunteered to lead litter bearers through heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire to a pillbox where two of our men lay wounded. After assisting in the evacuation of the two men to the forward aid station, he again volunteered to guide a convoy carrying wounded, through enemy artillery fire, to a rear aid station where he procured badly needed medical supplies to bring forward on his return. His devotion to duty and fearless action made possible the prompt treatment of casualties and the evacuation of the wounded. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ORVAL D. FRADY, 39 620 873, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. As squad leader of a light machine gun squad, Private Frady performed his duty under fire with exceptional bravery and leadership. Directing his gunner to fire the final protective line, he exposed himself to intense artillery, mortar and machine gun fire to cover a gap in our lines. With hand grenades and rifle fire, Private Frady wounded and killed seven of the enemy and covered the withdrawal of his men until all had reached cover. By his aggressiveness and courage, Private Frady, although wounded, retained control of his squad and enabled it to make a safe withdrawal.

Entered military service from Butte, Montana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WOODROW W. NOCKER, 38 029 806, Sergeant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the action near Sessenheim, Sergeant Nocker and his squad were engaged in a fierce small arms fight with an enemy force of superior numbers and firepower which soon forced them to withdraw. Sergeant Nocker then boldly exposed himself to the intense machine gun and rifle fire, covering the withdrawal of his squad with his rifle. His courageous action under fire enabled his men to withdraw safely without casualties. Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANDREW S. MATTHEWS, JR., 39 421 647, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action 18 January 1945 at Sessenheim, France. As assistant gunner in a 60mm mortar squad in support of a rifle platoon on the main line of resistance, Private Matthews repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire to obtain and prepare mortar ammunition. His perfect cooperation and skillful handling of the ammunition enabled very heavy and accurate fire to be placed on the attacking German forces and when the enemy fire became so intense as to necessitate withdrawal to an alternate position, Private Matthews held off the enemy with his pistol until the gunner had reached the new position and was really for action. He then made his way back through heavy fire and resumed his position as assistant gunner, inspiring the men around him by his calm courage and faithful devotion to duty. Entered military service from Fresno, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH A. LABOMBARDI, 32 867 523, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. Private LaBombardi, a platoon runner, successfully delivered messages to his platoon while under heavy mortar and artillery fire. Noticing that the enemy had infiltrated to the rest of his platoon, he advanced through the enemy lines and safely led his platoon to the newly-established company main line of resistance. Private LaBombardi's prompt action and aggressiveness saved his platoon from encirclement. Entered military service from Mount Vernon, New York.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to DUFFY B. STANLEY, 0 555 583, 2D Lieutenant, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 19 January 1945 at Sessenheim, France, Lieutenant Stanley was in command of the A&P Platoon which was left as part of a holding force in the town after relieving another company. Forced to withdraw by the attack of a superior enemy force, Lieutenant Stanley personally reconnoitered each house before allowing his men to enter. In one house he killed three Germans. Observing an enemy tank nearby, he obtained a rifle with an anti-tank grenade, crawled back, and hit the tank, causing it to withdraw. When the enemy surrounded the town, hopelessly outnumbering our troops, Lieutenant Stanley divided the platoon into two groups, and placing his assistant platoon leader in command of one group, he led the remainder back to the company through the enemy lines, with a loss of only three of his men.
Entered military service from Alexandria, Louisiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELMER B. LONZEN, 06 939 870, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 19 January 1945, at Sessenheim, France, Sergeant Lonzen was assistant platoon leader of the A&P Platoon, which was left as part of a holding force in the town after relieving another company. When a

superior enemy force attacked and surrounded the town, Sergeant Lonzen took command of half the platoon and skillfully led them back through the enemy lines to his company.
Entered military service from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HENRY H. ROTHELL, 38 555 737, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. Acting as anti-tank platoon leader, Sergeant Rothell exposed himself to constant artillery and mortar fire in order to deploy his men while covering the withdrawal of our forces from Runtzenheim. When all friendly troops had withdrawn, he successfully led his platoon with their guns and equipment to new defensive positions, Sergeant Rothell's outstanding courage and leadership played a major role in the successful withdrawal of our forces from this sector under heavy enemy pressure. Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD J. ANDRUCHEK, 36 979 602, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Runtzenheim, France. When Private Andruchek's anti-tank gun position was under direct fire from an enemy tank, one man was seriously wounded. Private Andruchek crawled from his foxhole, exposed to fire from the tank, and advanced twenty feet to where the wounded man lay, dragging him back to the safety of his foxhole. Private Andruchek's courageous action saved the man from almost certain death. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EUGENE W. SCHLOTTMAN, 37 259 935, Private, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945 near Runtzenheim, France. While leading a small patrol to outflank an enemy group, Private Schlottman exposed himself to heavy enemy small arms fire in order to contact a mortar section. Advancing across open terrain, he reached an outpost telephone and used the instrument to adjust fire on the enemy patrol. By his prompt and courageous action, Private Schlottman was instrumental in killing and wounding several of the enemy and repelling the infiltrating group.
Entered military service from Ellsworth, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EUGENE P. KEARNEY, 32 837 101, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 20 January 1945, near Runtzenheim, France. When his anti-tank gun squad was prevented from displacing to the rear by enemy machine gun and small arms fire, Private Kearney exposed himself to direct observation and hostile fire to advance to a forward position. Without regard for his own safety, he determined the position of the enemy and returned over the same ground with the information. Private Kearney's courageous actions enabled his squad to successfully lay down a covering fire for the withdrawal of the gun and crew.
Entered military service from Syracuse, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STANLEY HAGLER, 17 146 125, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Runtzenheim, France. When a large enemy patrol attacked his anti-tank position, Private Hagler manned a caliber .50 machine gun mounted on a truck and brought fire to bear on the advancing enemy. Although in an uncovered position and under heavy small arms fire, Private

Hagler remained on his gun until mortar and artillery was directed on the enemy patrol. As a result of his heroic and timely action, six members of the patrol were killed and the remainder captured. Entered military service from Denver, Colorado.

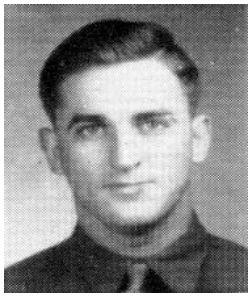


The SILVER STAR is awarded to DAVID M. IANNI, 42 022 005, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry, for gallantry in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim Woods, France. As medical aid man, Corporal Ianni voluntarily advanced across an open field through intense enemy fire to administer first aid to two wounded men. After reaching the men and treating their wounds, Corporal Ianni returned through sniper, artillery and mortar fire, guided litter bearers to the wounded men and supervised their evacuation. During this entire time, the area was subjected to heavy artillery fire. By his courage and devotion to duty he saved two fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Batavia, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT H. MCELROY, 37 682 827, Corporal, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 January 1945 at Runtzenheim, France. While acting as observer for his mortar section in a church steeple, Corporal MCElroy's position was struck several times by enemy artillery fire. Despite the continuing intensity and accuracy of the fire, he remained at his post and continued to direct mortar fire on the enemy positions. Corporal McElroy's courage and selfless determination contributed materially to the successful defense of the town.
Entered military service from Ottumwa, Iowa.

At 1730 on **19 January** under the command of Col. McNAMEE, troops consisting of elements from the 103d Division, a battalion of the 79th Division with armored reinforcements were committed on a large-scale attack to relieve the situation, but could not gain ground because of heavy opposition. That night the 232d Infantry was ordered into Corps Reserve, and withdrew in orderly fashion through the Haguenau woods to Bossendorf.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BENJAMIN E. KEATHLEY, 37 621 451, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 January 1945, near Runtzenheim, France. When a strong enemy patrol opened fire on his squad, Sergeant Keathley left his covered position and crawled to a radio with which he directed mortar and artillery fire on the enemy. As a result of his action, several of the enemy were killed or captured, and the hostile attack repulsed. By his courage and initiative, Sergeant Keathley enabled his squad to hold its sector of the line. Entered military service from Van Buren, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STEPHEN MARTA, 32 992 303, Staff Sergeant, (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company L, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action from 16 to 19 January 1945, near Haguenau, France. As a member of an Infantry-Tank Task Force which operated in and near the Haguenau Forest, France, Sergeant Marta was in action for 72 consecutive hours without sleep, very little food and under the most adverse of weather and battle conditions. His cool and aggressive leadership greatly aided in repulsing several vicious enemy counterattacks. Through his courage, tenacity of purpose and unfaltering devotion

to duty, the enemy forces were delayed long enough to permit friendly reserves to re-group and halt further German thrusts.
Entered military service from New York, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE DAVIS, 31, 322 339, Staff Sergeant, then Private First Class, Infantry, Company L, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action from 16 January 1945 to 19 January 1945, inclusive, near Haguenau, France. During the period of 16 January to 19 January 1945, inclusive, Sergeant Davis was a member of the Infantry component of an Infantry-Tank Task Force, operating in and near the Haguenau Forest in France. For 72 consecutive hours with no sleep and very little food, through sleet, snow and rain, Sergeant Davis and the other members of the Task Force withstood a heavy enemy attack. Under heavy enemy artillery, mortar, automatic and small arms fire, they relieved two platoons of riflemen in the town of Drusenheim, held a defensive position around a bridge outside of Sessenheim against an enemy attack to allow a demolition squad to destroy the bridge, and successfully stopped numerous enemy counterattacks. By his outstanding courage and unfailing devotion to duty, Sergeant Davis and the other members of the Task Force successfully delayed the determined enemy offensive sufficiently to allow reserve forces to be regrouped in order effectively to continue the assault upon the enemy.
Entered military service from South Portland, Maine.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANTHONY HARDEN, 12 242 308, Private First Class, Infantry, Company L, 232d Infantry, for meritorious achievement in action on 16-19 January 1945, near Haguenau, France. Private Harden was a rifleman in an Infantry-Tank Task Force which operated for several days in the Haguenau Forest without relief. Exposed to extreme cold, Private Harden assisted in a counterattack under heavy fire to relieve two platoons in the Town of Drusenheim, the defense of a bridge at Sessenheim to permit its demolition, and the repulse of numerous determined enemy attacks. As a result of these operations friendly reserves were afforded time to regroup and resume the offensive. By his courage and devotion to duty Private Harden effectively contributed to the success of the Task Force. Entered military service from Utica, New York.

On **20 January** the Regimental CP moved from Camp d'Oberhoffen to Mon Fre de Birklach.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MAX M. MROTEK, 36 981 864, Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 January 1945, near Runtzenheim, France. When a holding force of which he was a member was ordered to withdraw, Private Mrotek remained behind to load the force's equipment into a jeep. Although the town was subjected to intense artillery concentrations, he continued on his mission, successfully securing the equipment. After rejoining his group, artillery fire caused two casualties among them. Private Mrotek, disregarding his own safety, carried one of the wounded men to a shelter and applied first aid. By his courage and devotion to duty Private Mrotek was largely responsible for the success of the mission. Entered military service from Manitowac, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT H. JENNINGS, 35 608 390, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. When our forces withdrew to new defensive positions from the Haguenau sector, Private Jennings voluntarily remained behind as part of a covering force. For seven

hours he remained in an exposed position under intermittently intense machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, fearlessly assisting in holding back the enemy advances. Upon withdrawing he helped to blow two bridges and establish two roadblocks in the face of the determinedly advancing enemy force. Private Jennings courage and zealous devotion to duty played a major role in the successful withdrawal of our forces.
Entered military service from Barberton, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLAUDE A. TIGERT JR., 0 557 265, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 January 1945 near Soufflenheim, France. During the withdrawal of our forces in the face of the final enemy attempt to retake Alsace, Lieutenant Tigert volunteered to remain as part of a rear guard covering the withdrawal. For five hours he exposed himself to intense enemy mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire to direct the fire of his men. When ordered to withdraw, he supervised the blowing of two bridges and the establishing of two road blocks in the face of the oncoming enemy forces. By his outstanding and courageous leadership, Lieutenant Tigert played a major role in allowing our forces to withdraw successfully to new defensive positions. Entered military service from Stillwater, Oklahoma.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRED J. MCLAIN, 35 646 810, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. During the withdrawal of our forces from the Haguenau sector to new defensive positions, Private McLain voluntarily remained behind to provide rear guard protection. For seven hours he remained in an exposed position under intermittently heavy machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, holding back enemy advances in the sector. Upon withdrawing he assisted in blowing two bridges and establishing two road blocks in the face of the advancing enemy. Private McLain's indomitable courage and selfless determination played a major role in the successful withdrawal of our forces.
Entered military service from Mount Hope, West Virginia.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROY D. CARNEAL, 35 105 182, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 January 1945 near Soufflenheim, France. During the withdrawal of our troops to new defensive positions from around Soufflenheim, France, Sergeant Carneal voluntarily remained behind as a member of a group covering the withdrawal. For five hours he fought off advancing enemy troops with his rifle from an out-post position. Despite intense concentrations of mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire on his position, he never faltered or left his position. When the rear guard was ordered to withdraw, Sergeant Carneal assisted in blowing two bridges and establishing two roadblocks in the face of the oncoming enemy forces. By his courageous action and aggressive determination, Sergeant Carneal played a major role in the successful withdrawal.
Entered military service from Guthrie, Kentucky.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BOBBY L. BEDNAR, 38 564 480, Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. During the withdrawal of our forces from the Haguenau sector to new defensive positions, Sergeant Bednar was part of a group covering the withdrawal. For seven hours he remained in an exposed position under intermittent machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, holding

back the enemy advances. Upon withdrawing, he assisted in blowing two bridges and establishing two roadblocks in the face of the advancing enemy patrols. Sergeant Bednar's courageous aggressiveness and determination played a major role in the successful withdrawal. Entered military service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

At 1730, **21 January**, the Regimental CP at Bossendorf was established, with the regiment deployed in that town; Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies, in Wickersheim; and the train bivouac in Wilshausen.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MELVIN C. FRITZ, 33 851 487, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 21 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. While defending one of four vital bridges over which our forces were withdrawing from the town, Private Fritz and two other men were subjected to intense concentrations of artillery and mortar fire. Remaining at his post until the last of the troops had withdrawn, Private Fritz then set off demolitions destroying the bridge in the face of the enemy attack. Private Fritz's heroic action was an important factor in delaying the determined enemy advance. Entered military service from Berwick, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to OMAR D. WIDNER, 35 833 808, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 21 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Entered military service from Fort Wayne, Indiana. [text of citation identical to Melvin C. Fritz, above]



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WESLEY L. GRIFFEN, 36 966 530, Private, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 21 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Entered military service from Barn Center, Michigan. [text of citation identical to Melvin C. Fritz and Omar D. Widner, above]



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DEAN E. HUMBERT, 19 203 610, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 21 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Entered military service from Los Angeles, California. [text of citation identical to Melvin C. Fritz, Omar D. Widner and Wesley L. Griffen, above]



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEWIS E. COPE, 34 737 749, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in

action on 21 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Entered military service from Chattanooga, Tennessee. [text of citation identical to Melvin C. Fritz, Omar D. Widner, Wesley L. Griffen and Dean E. Humbert, above]



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN A. BOLLIER, 42 129 068, Private First class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 21 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York. [text of citation identical to Melvin C. Fritz, Omar D. Widner, Wesley L. Griffen, Dean E. Humbert and Lewis E. Cope, above]



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HUGH D. MCCRAE, 33 408 490, Sergeant, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 21 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Entered military service from Oil City, Pennsylvania. [text of citation identical to Melvin C. Fritz, Omar D. Widner, Wesley L. Griffen, Dean E. Humbert, Lewis E. Cope and John A. Bollier, above]



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH FABER, 42 006 574, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 21 January 1945, near Soufflenheim, France. Entered military service from Elizabeth, New Jersey. [text of citation identical to Melvin C. Fritz, Omar D. Widner, Wesley L. Griffen, Dean E. Humbert, Lewis E. Cope, John A. Bollier and Hugh D. McCrae, above]



The SILVER STAR is awarded to CARL L. MILLER, 0 389 485, Captain (then First Lieutenant), Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion (formerly Company I), 232nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 22 January 1945, near Leutenheim, France. When an overwhelming enemy force attacked his weapons platoon's positions near Leutenheim, France, Lieutenant Miller, with utter disregard for his own safety, led a combat patrol in a counterattack against the Germans. By skillful deployment and fast aggressive action, he so bewildered and surprised the enemy force that they retreated in a disorganized state. Pursuing the fleeing Germans, he led his men in inflicting terrific casualties upon the retreating enemy. By his gallant leadership, Lieutenant Miller repulsed a determined attack against our thinly-held main line of resistance. Entered military service from Ashland, Kentucky.

On **23 January**, the reorganization of all personnel was completed. Equipment, clothing and ordnance shortages on requisition were partially restored. Anti-aircraft defenses and road blocks, with twenty-four-hour guard on all roads, were established. The Regimental, Battalion, and Special Troops Commanders, as well as the Regimental Officers and men, held general discussions and critiques of combat experiences. The reconnaissance of the VI Corps areas were completed as well as the plans for the probable employment of the regiment to counterattack or strengthen front line defenses. Battle drill and other combat activities were

concurrent, in order to increase the combat efficiency and to assimilate changes brought about by reorganization of troops.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MARTIN W. POE, 33 909 501, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 January 1945, at Uhlweiler, France. During the defense of Uhlweiler, France, Private Poe remained at his machine gun position for forty-eight hours without rest under intense enemy artillery, mortar, and rocket fire. Directing a heavy volume of fire at the attacking enemy forces, he repulsed three enemy attempts to break through his position killing eighteen and forcing seven to surrender. Private Poe's courageous aggressiveness played a major role in the successful defense of the sector.
Entered military service from St. Georges Island, Maryland.

SCHWEIGHAUSEN

The morning of the **25th of January**, the 232d Infantry was ordered to proceed to the vicinity of Keffendorf. The Second Battalion proceeded to Keffendorf, arriving about 1300, where it received mission type orders from the Regimental Commander. After being oriented on the situation the Battalion was ordered to proceed to the area east of Schweighausen and to launch a limited attack on the eastern third of the town, and to organize and hold that portion of the town.

The situation then was as follows: The Second Battalion, 222d Infantry front had been penetrated and the Third Battalion of the 314th Infantry was attacking northeast from its position south of the Third Battalion, 222d Infantry. CCB of the 12th Armored Division was attacking north through the eastern edge of the Bois d'Ohlungen and the First Battalion, 314th Infantry attacking north was engaged with some enemy southwest of Schweighausen. The objective of all these attacks was to regain the original front along the Moder River. The 313th at that time held positions on the right flank of the Second Battalion, 232d Infantry; and their positions had not been penetrated and remained intact.

The Second Battalion's attack was launched from an assembly area in the Bois de Schweighausen. Its objective was the eastern one-third of Schweighausen. The plan of attack was generally as follows: Company G on the right, attacking, from the east, was to clear the right or northern section of the objective and Company F, on the left, was to clear the southern section of the objective. Company E was to remain in the northern edge of the Bois de Schweighausen in reserve for further orders. The time of the attack was 1545.

The attack jumped off on time and each company proceeded on its mission as ordered, Company F moving with light small arms opposition but heavy and continuous artillery and mortar fire into the area assigned. Company G, however, was held up by fire for sometime from machine guns sweeping the near street of the town. A delay occurred because of the inability of Company G to determine whether it was friendly or enemy machine gun fire. It was discovered that

although reported friendly, the machine gun was an enemy gun which was knocked out by action of Company G. After that fire ceased, Companies F and G continued their mission and completed the occupation of their assigned objectives.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEONARD C. SMOKE, 39 212 493, Technician Third Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 25 January 1945, near Schweighausen, France. During the attack of our forces on the town of Schweighausen, Sergeant Smoke volunteered to set up an advance dressing station in the town. Carrying blood plasma and other medical supplies he went forward under intense machine gun and sniper fire and established his station less than fifty yards from the enemy positions. Sergeant Smoke's courageous action enabled many wounded men to be promptly treated and evacuated. Entered military service from Seattle, Washington.

Following occupation of the objective the Second Battalion set up a defensive area defending the right half of the town of Schweighausen facing north generally from the road running north over the Moder River to the creek at the eastern edge of the town. That defensive position was established and maintained throughout the night. During the night, contact was made with the First Battalion of the 314th Infantry, which had entered the western half of the town, and with the Second Battalion of the 313th on the right.

In the meantime, the First Battalion, 232d Infantry, was ordered to occupy and defend Uhlwiller and to outpost the southwest edge of the Bois d'Ohlungen and the Third Battalion, 232d Infantry, was ordered to occupy and defend Ohlungen and to outpost the south edge of the Bois d'Ohlungen.

The Third Battalion of the 314th, having failed to continue their attack through the Bois d'Ohlungen, left the whole eastern part of the woods open on the night of **25 January**. The Third Battalion, 232d Infantry, was ordered to strengthen their outposts on the southern edge of the woods to prevent a breakthrough.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD R. LILES, 0 556 794, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 25 January 1945 near Schweighausen, France. During the attack on Schweighausen, Lieutenant Liles moved forward in the face of intense mortar and artillery fire to observe and direct our mortar fire on the enemy. The fire was so intense that at times he was forced to take cover in the freezing water of a nearby stream. After the town had been taken, he refused to leave his platoon although suffering from cold and severe exposure. Lieutenant Liles' outstanding courage and leadership played a major role in the successful capture of the town. Entered military service from Stillwater, Oklahoma.

A general attack was ordered for 0700 the morning of **26 January** by Task Force Wall, to consist of coordinated attacks by the Third Battalion, 314th Infantry attacking northeast, a limited attack by the First Battalion, 222d Infantry,

attacking northeast abreast of the Third Battalion, 232d Infantry; the Third Battalion, 232d Infantry, attacking north to the Moder River; and CCB of the 12th Armored attacking north on the right of the Third Battalion, 232d Infantry.

The night of **25 January** passed by quietly without any serious enemy action, and the attack jumped off as scheduled the morning of 26 January. All attacks were relatively unopposed, and all units reached the Moder River line.

The Third Battalion, 314th Infantry, was ordered to extend to the east and relieve the Third Battalion of the 232d Infantry. The First Battalion of the 314th Infantry was ordered to move to the west and to relieve CCB of the 14th Armored Division.

The Second Battalion, 232d Infantry was ordered to shift to the west and take over the whole front of the town of Schweighausen.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to ROBERT W. BEINDORF, 35 553 056, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry for heroic achievement in action on 26 January 1945, near Schweighausen, France. During the action around Schweighausen, France, Private Beindorf was with forward elements of his company when the enemy launched a strong counterattack on our positions. Despite intense mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire striking all about him, he remained in an exposed position in order to effectively direct and adjust mortar fire on the attacking enemy forces. He continued to expose himself until fatally wounded by mortar fragments. Private Beindorf's courageous self-sacrifice enabled his mortar section to play a major role in repulsing the determined enemy attack. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Cleora B. Beindorf (Mother), 709 Nicholas Street, Defiance, Ohio. Entered military service from Defiance, Ohio.

The afternoon of **26 January**, the 327th Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division was ordered to relieve all elements of TFL and the 79th Division in this sector. The entire 232d Infantry Regiment was moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Altdorf after being relieved on the line, closing in the area about 0500, 27 January. From there the Regiment moved by motor to the vicinity of Moncel-Sur-Seille for reorganization, rest, and training.

The Regimental and Second Battalion CP's were located at Moncel-Sur-Seille; the First Battalion, at Bezange; the Third Battalion, at Gremecey; Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies, at Chateau Salins; and Service, E, and H Companies, at Pettoncourt.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MICHAEL J. WOZNIAK, 33 400 518, Staff Sergeant, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 29 January 1945, near Schweighausen, France. While directing litter squads in the evacuation of casualties near Schweighausen, France, Sergeant Wozniak learned that there was a seriously wounded man far

forward of our positions. He proceeded under intense mortar fire and fearlessly directed a litter squad in treating and evacuating the injured infantryman. Sergeant Wozniak's courageous determination in the face of heavy fire saved the wounded man from further injury or possible death and was an inspiration to the men in his command. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

At 0800, **30 January**, the Regiment commenced a training program, the prime objective being the review of combat experiences and the elevation of combat efficiency to the highest degree. Ordnance inspections were held, all equipment found unserviceable or in need of repair being replaced or serviced. A small arms range was in operation for the purpose of zeroing weapons and preliminary training for newly-assigned reinforcements. Company A, 80th Tank Battalion was attached for use in infantry-tank team training. Other training, including night problems and patrols, were conducted in accordance with the directive from Task Force Linden. To fill vacancies caused by casualties during the month and in recognition of outstanding service and leadership ability, twenty-eight enlisted men received battlefield promotions to the rank of Second Lieutenant. The total number of prisoners captured during the month of January was 261.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES B. SAYERS, 33 528 377, Corporal, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 30 January 1945, near Schweighausen, France. When one of his comrades fell wounded in an area which was under intense artillery fire, Corporal Sayers crossed the open area and administered first aid despite the heavy fire. He then carried the wounded man to his foxhole and again went through the barrage to the aid station for medical help. Corporal Sayers' outstanding courage under fire was directly responsible for saving the injured man's life. Entered military service from Pulaski, Virginia.





The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to KENNETH H. CARPENTER, 33 732 622, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry, for meritorious achievement on 30 January 1945 near Schweighausen, France. When our positions in and around Schweighausen, France were receiving intense artillery and mortar fire, Sergeant Carpenter, forward mortar observer, exposed himself to the deadly fire in order to adjust and direct mortar fire on the enemy positions. When increasingly intense fire forced him from his observation post, he advanced across two hundred yards of open terrain to a new position. From this new position, he directed fire on enemy troops in a nearby patch of woods, killing many and forcing the remainder to flee. Sergeant Carpenter's outstanding courage and skill contributed materially to the successful defense of the town. Entered military service from Baltimore, Maryland.

During the period **from 28 January to 17 February** the 232d Infantry troops participated in an active rehabilitation and training schedule. One platoon from the 11th Tank Battalion, 10th Armored Division was attached to the regiment for Infantry-Tank training. The troops received additional instruction and review in mine and booby traps. They studied the technique of flame throwing, attended lectures on the handling of captured enemy documents and prisoners of war. A

range was set up for the test firing of all weapons. The battalion and regimental staffs engaged in CPX problems.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HENNING LINDEN, 07 009, Brigadier General, United States Army, 42d Infantry Division for meritorious service in sustained operational activities against the enemy from 30 December 1944 to 5 February 1945 inclusive. During the occupation of the Rhine River by Task Force Linden, of which he was in command, General Linden was constantly in the field, personally insuring that the maximum training value would be achieved for his inexperienced infantrymen. When the enemy made the attack in the Gambsheim – Herrlicheim – Drusenheim sector, General Linden employed his troops in such a manner that the enemy bridgehead was contained. Repeatedly exposing himself to heavy enemy small arms fire and artillery concentrations with utter disregard for his own safety, General Linden was constantly in the sector forward of Battalion Command Posts, encouraging, and advising his officers and men. Operating with a skeleton staff and with troops experiencing combat for the first time, and facing a superior enemy force, his leadership was an inspiration to all officers and men of his command and is worthy of the highest praise.
Entered military service from the University of Minnesota.

HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE LINDEN

31 January 1945

To the Officers and Men of the Rainbow Infantry Regiments:

You men of the 42d Infantry Division and our gallant comrades who fell on the battlefield have just written Chapter 1 of Volume II of the history of the Rainbow.

By your courage and ability you have demonstrated that the Infantry of the Rainbow Division of World War II is a tough, hard-hitting team, capable of destroying the enemy any place and any time it meets him.

Your baptism of fire was fast and furious; and received in carrying out the mission of holding an important Seventh Army sector against experienced German troops intent on regaining Alsace. You fought the powerful 10th and 21st Panzer Divisions and you and the troops who fought with you prevented these units from reaching their objective.

At Gambsheim, Hatten and Sessenheim you showed that you have what it takes to meet the German and destroy him. At Schweighausen and Kaltenhouse you repulsed strong German attacks, as a result of which the enemy drive was stopped cold on the Haguenau positions with approximately 1,100 Germans dead. His effort to retake Alsace was a failure.

No single effort of an individual or an organization need by singled out to illustrate your courage and your strength. Everyone had a job to do, and everyone did it to the best of his ability. For this I am proud of all of you.

Now we are in a period of training. Your experiences against the enemy should prove to you that you cannot win with courage alone. You must have skill. You must know everything there is to know about your job, and you can never know too much.

The tricks that you learned in combat – nd you learned many of them – must be taught to your new comrades, for it is they who will revitalize your squads and platoons. Welcome these men into your organization. Together you will write Chapter 2 of Volume II of the history of the Rainbow.

You and your new comrades must prepare in this short training period to drive again toward Berlin and the destruction of the German. Mistakes in was cost human lives. Profit by the mistakes that you made in your first engagements. TRAIN, TRAIN, and TRAIN that the same mistakes shall not re-occur.



This is the period in which you can take out life insurance. Make every minute of it count.

HENNING LINDEN
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

The Division Artillery, Medical, and Finance complements having arrived, word was received that at 0001 on **6 February**, Task Force Linden would cease to operate, and that the 232d Infantry would function as an Infantry Regiment of the 42d Infantry (Rainbow) Division, under the command of Maj. Gen. HARRY J. COLLINS.

On **15 February**, the 232d Infantry received orders to prepare to relieve the 157th Infantry in the 45th Division sector. Immediately a quartering party departed from Moncel-Sur-Seille to reconnoiter the area in the vicinity of Wimmenau for a Regimental CP site. The party returned to Moncel-Sur-Seille on the evening of 15 February. The following day preparations were made for the movement.



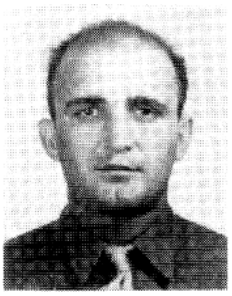
The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:
Otto H. Schultz, 01 167 619, Captain, Field Artillery, Battery A, 392d Field Artillery Battalion, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 15 February to 5 May 1945, in France and Germany.

During the period of combat in which his unit participated in the attack on the vaunted German West Wall, the siege of Wurzburg, the drive on Schweinfurt, and the pursuit of the enemy across Germany, Captain Schultz performed his duties as Battery Commander in a highly superior manner. By his thorough reconnaissance, made over roads and areas not yet cleared by enemy mines, his battery was able to rapidly occupy new positions and promptly deliver accurate and devastating fire on the enemy. Captain Schultz' untiring energy, outstanding leadership, and unswerving determination contributed materially to the combat success of his Battery and Battalion. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Harry Collins
Major General, USA Commanding

This citation is contributed by the family of Captain Otto H. Schultz, 1918-2020

Starting at 0610, **17 February**, the 232d Infantry moved by motor from the vicinity of Moncel-Sur-Seille, France, to a detrucking area in the vicinity of Wimmenau. The convoy closed Wimmenau at 1630 hours. Relief of the 157th Infantry was completed without incident, and the 232d Infantry assumed command of the sector at 2255, 17 February. The regimental sector extended about four miles along the south and west bank of the streamline from 500 yards below Wildenguth east to within 1000 yards of Rothbach. The troops were deployed as follows: the First Battalion (with its CP about one half mile southwest of Reipertswiller on the Reipertswiller road) extended from the eastern boundary of the regimental sector below Wildenguth east along the streamline about 2000 yards; the Third Battalion (with its CP near Buxembourg/803357/) occupied the middle of the regimental sector with a frontage of about 2000 yards along the streamline; the Second Battalion (with its CP at Champagne) extended its front lines south and east along the streamline from the right boundary of the Third Battalion approximately 3000 yards east toward Rothbach; the Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies (with CP's near Wimmenau) supported the regiment. Service Company Forward was located in Erkartswiller; the Service Company Rear, in Pfalzweyer. In support of the regiment were Company B, 142d Engineers, at (Q745294); Company B, 122d Medical Battalion, at Weitersweiller; and Company A, 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion, at (Q806317). On the right flank was the 411th Infantry of the 103d Division, and on the left, the 222d Infantry of the 42d Division.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK J. ZOUDAR, 7 031 467, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 February 1945 near Lichtenberg, France. Sergeant Zoudar was a member of a night combat patrol near Lichtenberg when they suddenly encountered enemy small arms, machine gun, and artillery fire so intense that further advance was impossible. Taking full advantage of the terrain, he jumped into a vacated enemy foxhole and laid down an effective base of fire while the remainder of the patrol withdrew out of range of the enemy weapons. Because of direct enemy observation, Sergeant Zoudar was forced to remain in his position until the following night when he was able to make his way back to friendly lines. His outstanding courage and accurate information concerning enemy deployment in that sector was invaluable to successful advance of his Battalion. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

The Infantry has started the attack. Loaded with bazooka ammunition the doughs move into Reipertsweiller, long in the middle of no-man's land.



Consolidation and improvement of all defensive installations were continuous. The troops directed mortar fire at enemy installations throughout the day and night. Aggressive patrolling established occasional light contact with the enemy, whose action was limited

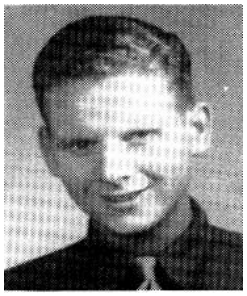
to sporadic mortar fire. Road blocks and abatis in the regimental sector were prepared and maintained.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MELVIN F. BARKER, 38 680 060 Private, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action during the period from 18 February to 4 March 1945, inclusive, at Reipertswiller, France. Private Barker's conduct and action during his participation in several reconnaissance patrols led to the obtaining of valuable information concerning the strength and disposition of enemy forces. On 4 March, Private Barker accompanied a patrol deep into enemy territory where enemy activity had been observed. Operating through heavily wooded and mountainous terrain the patrol crossed a stream in the face of artillery fire and climbed a hill where they located the enemy positions strengthened by additional reinforcements. Reporting the location by radio, they successfully brought friendly artillery fire to bear upon them. Through Private Barker's cool, deliberate and aggressive action, the other members of his patrol were inspired to continue their tasks and accomplish their missions.
Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN W. SCHRIVER, 37 644 764, Private, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action during the period from 18 February to 4 March 1945, inclusive, at Reipertswiller, France. Private Schriver's conduct and action during his participation in several reconnaissance patrols led to the obtaining of valuable information concerning the strength and disposition of enemy forces. On 4 March, Private Schriver accompanied a patrol deep into enemy territory where enemy activity had been observed. Operating through heavily wooded and mountainous terrain the patrol crossed a stream in the face of artillery fire and climbed a hill where they located the enemy positions strengthened by additional reinforcements. Reporting the location by radio, they successfully brought friendly artillery fire to bear upon them. Through Private Schriver's cool, deliberate and aggressive action, the other members of his patrol were inspired to continue their tasks and accomplish their missions.
Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROY W. JOHNSON, 33 525 415, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action during the period from 18 February to 8 March 1945, inclusive, near Reipertsweiler, France. During the period from 18 February to 8 March 1945, Private Johnson accompanied six reconnaissance patrols into enemy territory. On all of those missions Private Johnson's skillful scouting ability played a very important part in the success of the patrols. On many occasions Private Johnson's cool courage and skill inspired his comrades and was instrumental to the success of the assigned mission.
Entered military service from Hampton, Virginia.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HENRY WEST, JR, 14 034 999, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action during the period from 18 February to 4 March 1945, inclusive, at Reipertswiller, France. Private West's conduct and action during his participation in several reconnaissance patrols led to the obtaining of valuable information concerning the strength and disposition of enemy forces. On 4 March, Private West accompanied a patrol deep into enemy territory where enemy activity had been observed. Operating through heavily wooded and mountainous terrain the patrol crossed a stream in the face of artillery fire and climbed a hill where they located the enemy positions strengthened by additional reinforcements. Reporting the location by radio, they successfully brought friendly artillery fire to bear upon them. Through Private West's cool, deliberate and aggressive action, the other members of his patrol were inspired to continue their tasks and accomplish their missions.
Entered military service from Stantonsburg, North Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES P. JENNINGS, 36 652 703, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action during the period from 18 February to 4 March 1945, inclusive, at Reipertswiller, France. Private Jennings' conduct and action during his participation in several reconnaissance patrols led to the obtaining of valuable information concerning the strength and disposition of enemy forces. On 4 March, Private Jennings accompanied a patrol deep into enemy territory where enemy activity had been observed. Operation through heavily wooded and mountainous terrain the patrol crossed a stream in the face of artillery fire and climbed a hill where they located the enemy positions strengthened by additional reinforcements. Reporting the location by radio, they successfully brought friendly artillery fire to bear upon them. Through Private Jennings' cool, deliberate and aggressive action, the other members of his patrol were inspired to continue their tasks and accomplish their missions.
Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT H. LeMERE, 31 413 330, Private, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action during the period from 18 February to 4 March 1945, inclusive, at Reipertswiller, France. Private LeMere's conduct and action during his participation in several reconnaissance patrols led to the obtaining of valuable information concerning the strength and disposition of enemy forces. On 4 March, Private LeMere accompanied a patrol deep into enemy territory where enemy activity had been observed. Operation through heavily wooded and mountainous terrain the patrol crossed a stream in the face of artillery fire and climbed a hill where they located the enemy positions strengthened by additional reinforcements. Reporting the location by radio, they successfully brought friendly artillery fire to bear upon them. Through Private LeMere's cool, deliberate and aggressive action, the other members of his patrol were inspired to continue their tasks and accomplish their missions.
Entered military service from New Haven, Connecticut.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROY T. JOHNSON, 16 131 780, Corporal, Field Artillery, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action 21 February to 6 March 1945, inclusive, in France and Germany. As Assistant Section Leader, Corporal Johnson undertook numerous and dangerous reconnaissance missions while under enemy mortar, artillery and small arms fire to ascertain advantageous gun positions for his section. On many occasions when communications were destroyed, Corporal Johnson maintained close liaison on foot, under heavy enemy fire, between the infantry and leading elements of the Tank Destroyer Battalion. His devotion to duty and unfaltering courage contributed directly to the success of the operations in which his section was engaged.
Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD G. BUNTING, 42 112 851, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 18 February 1945, near Rothbach, France. While occupying a foxhole in the Rothbach Woods with two other men on the night of 18 February 1945, Private Bunting observed three Germans approaching his position. Throwing a hand grenade behind them and observing their location from the grenade flash, Private Bunting climbed out of the foxhole and took up a position from where he could bring fire to bear upon the enemy. Although wounded in his left hand, he continued to fire his rifle until his hand became paralyzed and he could no longer hold his rifle. Refusing to be evacuated after the enemy had been repulsed, he returned to his foxhole where he remained until the next morning. His courageous act prevented the enemy from infiltrating and penetrating our lines.
Entered military service from Kingston, New York.

Counterattack plans were coordinated with all supporting troops. There was continued work on positions and supply routes. Active patrolling was continued to harass the enemy and to insure continuous contact with them.

At this time the Rainbow Rangers were organized, composed of approximately a platoon of men from each battalion, specially armed, selected for use as reconnaissance and combat patrols, requiring a high degree of courage and skill.

All the companies carried out intensive patrolling, maintaining a very active contact with the enemy; as a result of the information thereby obtained, the artillery and mortar sections were able to adjust on enemy targets.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAUL L. HAMAN, 35 299 413, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 February 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. While serving with the Rainbow Rangers as lead scout of a seven-man patrol, Private Haman was fired on at a range of twenty-five yards by five enemy using hand grenades and small arms. Although Private Haman was injured in the arm by grenade fragments, he refused to be evacuated and insisted on continuing to the patrol objective. Returning from the successful reconnaissance with vital information, he enabled artillery to place a devastating mission on the area. His courageous conduct was consistent with the highest standards of the Rainbow Rangers. Entered military service from Tiffen, Ohio.



. The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to ARTHUR D. KESSLER, 35 140 332, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 February 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. While on an outpost guarding his light machine gun section in positions near Lichtenberg, France, Private Kessler heard suspicious noises nearby and advanced to investigate. Although armed only with a pistol and a grenade, he proceeded through the darkness until he discovered an enemy patrol attempting to infiltrate the company area. As he shouted the alarm, he was mortally wounded by an enemy grenade. Private Kessler's heroic self-sacrifice enabled his company to prepare to repulse the enemy threat. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Josephine Kessler (Mother), 8833 E. 21st Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. Entered military service from Indianapolis, Indiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK L. DANIELS, 39 913 413, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 25 February 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. While on a reconnaissance patrol with two other men, Private Daniels and the other men were wounded by exploding mines. Despite his wounds, he assisted in administering first aid to the third man whose foot had been blown off. Then, with the patrol leader, Private Daniels returned to our lines and gave directions to the location of the seriously wounded man. By his extreme courage and disregard for himself, Private Daniels saved the injured man from possible death. Entered military service from Toole, Utah.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES L. LETT, 38 563 976, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Company B, 122nd Medical Battalion [no date in original General Order], for heroic achievement in action, near Reipertsweiler, France. Having been informed of two severely wounded men lying in an unexplored mined area, Corporal Lett made his way safely through the mines to the men and

administered first aid. He then reconnoitered a safe return route and led his litter squad forward to evacuate the wounded men. Corporal Lett's prompt and heroic actions undoubtedly saved the lives of the two men, and his bravery and initiative prevented casualties among his own squad.



Entered military service from Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALLEN J. DUNCAN, 32 270 890, Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 25 February 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. While on a reconnaissance patrol with two other men, Sergeant Duncan and the other men were wounded by exploding mines. Despite his wounds, he assisted in administering first aid to the third man whose foot had been blown off. Then, with the patrol leader, Sergeant Duncan returned to our lines and gave directions to the location of the seriously wounded man. By his extreme courage and disregard for himself, Sergeant Duncan saved the injured man from possible death. Entered military service from Pitman, New Jersey.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROBERT F. STEFFER, 02 006 219, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 February 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Learning that three men of a reconnaissance patrol had been wounded in a mine field in the vicinity of Reipertswiller, and that one of the men could not be found, Lieutenant Steffer determined to locate the missing man. He entered the mine field alone, worked in total darkness with the constant threat from enemy machine gun positions only 100 yards away, and succeeded in locating the wounded man. Administering first aid, he then carried the soldier to the Battalion Aid Station for further treatment. Lieutenant Steffer's gallant courage and heroic devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLOVIS H. BRAKEBILL, 0 519 182, 1st Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 542nd Field Artillery Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 27 February 1945 at Lichtenberg, France. As Forward Observer for his Battalion Lieutenant Brakebill was adjusting artillery fire from the top of the tower of the Lichtenberg Castle when an enemy 120 mm. mortar shell barely missed the tower. Ordering his men below, he remained at his post alone in order to determine the location of the enemy mortars. Ascertaining their position from the puffs of smoke as they fired on the castle, Lieutenant Brakebill withdrew to the stairway inside the tower and, observing through a slit in the wall of the tower, and disregarding several direct hits upon the tower, adjusted the fire of a battery of friendly artillery upon the German mortar position. His prompt and accurate adjustment of fire was responsible for the neutralization of the enemy mortars and prevented numerous casualties to our troops. Entered military service from Bonham, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN RONCO, 12 077 439, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 27 February 1945 at Lichtenberg, France. When Sergeant Ronco's reconnaissance patrol encountered a heavily mined area, the explosion of several mines seriously wounded two men and aroused nearby enemy mortar positions, which immediately adjusted fire on the group. Four more of the patrol fell wounded by the mortar fire. Sergeant Ronco then organized an evacuation team to remove the wounded men. He fearlessly led his group over five hundred yards of difficult terrain, and, despite the mines and mortar fire, succeeded in evacuating all casualties to safety. Sergeant Ronco's extreme courage and calmness under fire contributed materially to saving the lives of the wounded soldiers. Entered military service from Roseto, Pennsylvania.

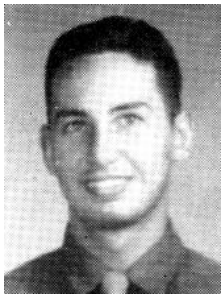


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THEODORE POWELL, 20 382 372, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 27 February 1945 near Lichtenberg, France. During the fierce fighting around Lichtenberg, France, intense enemy artillery and mortar fire was causing numerous breaks in the wire lines from the mortar observation post to the gun positions. When our troops were under cover from the heavy fire, Sergeant Powell braved the hail of shells to locate and repair the many breaks, restoring the vital communications. By his heroic and courageous determination, he made an effective contribution to the successful completion of the engagement. Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.

On the night of **28 February**, psychological warfare was employed against the enemy preceded by a ten-minute barrage of heavy concentrations then followed by the dropping of propaganda leaflets and broadcasting to definitely-known enemy positions by means of a mobile loudspeaker system. Satisfactory results were effected, and the regiment captured several enemy deserters. The total number of prisoners captured during the month of February was 10.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD D. SCHMITZ, 17 176 687, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. When the Ranger patrol of which Private Schmitz was a member met intense machine gun, machine pistol, and rifle fire on a large hill near Reipertswiller, France, he silenced several of the enemy with his automatic rifle. He then contacted our artillery with the patrol's radio and, while the patrol leader directed artillery fire on the enemy positions, he laid down an effective base of fire, knocking out an enemy machine gun and silencing much of the rifle fire. When the patrol was forced to withdraw, Private Schmitz remained behind under increasingly intense machine gun and rifle fire until every man had withdrawn. By his exceptional courage and unswerving determination, Private Schmitz was instrumental in the successful withdrawal of his patrol from its precarious position. Entered military service from Overland Park, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES W. HIRSCH, 36 776 176, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 28 February 1945 at Reipertswiller, France. Subjected to intense enemy mortar fire while assisting in evacuating a wounded man, Private Hirsch lifted the man to his back and proceeded through the German fire to a forward aid station. Private Hirsch's courageous act was responsible for the successful evacuation of a wounded man in a minimum of time and without further injury. Entered military service from Joliet, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES E. KANOST, 37 711 252, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When one of his comrades was seriously wounded and lying in an open area exposed to intense enemy fire, Private Kanost made several attempts to rescue him, but was beaten back by hail of grenades and bullets. Later, when reinforcements were sent up to augment the firepower, he took command of the new men and proceeded to lead them to the patrol leader's position. Although wounded by an enemy mine, he tenaciously continued to advance until he made contact with his officer. Private Kanost's exceptional courage and unflinching determination played a major role in the successful completion of the patrol's mission. Entered military service from Wauneta, Nebraska.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE E. RHODES, JR., 37 517 445, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. While Private Rhodes was laying wire for a combat patrol advancing on enemy positions near Lichtenberg, France, the enemy opened fire with machine guns, forcing our men to withdraw. He then voluntarily led the return of the patrol through mine fields along the route of his wire line. As he was proceeding across the dangerous area, he stepped on a mine and was severely wounded. With no exhibition of pain he warned the other men of the patrol to remain silent and then crawled back to our lines unassisted. Private Rhodes' heroism and unflinching determination enabled his comrades to effect the withdrawal with a minimum of casualties.
Entered military service from Lee's Summit, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to KENNETH C. SCHULZ, 39 476 183, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When the combat patrol of which Private Schulz was a member met strong enemy resistance near Lichtenberg, France, it was forced to withdraw with numerous casualties. As the patrol withdrew across a mine field, the enemy subjected the group to an intense concentration of mortar fire, seriously wounding Private Schulz in the chest. Despite the intense pain and severity of the wound, he remained quiet in order not to disclose the patrol's location, and, because of the large number of wounded already in the patrol, he refused to be carried or assisted. After walking and crawling over seven hundred yards to our lines, he succumbed to his wounds. Private Schulz's indomitable courage and determination reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Julia Marie Schulz (Mother), 4508 S.D. St. Tacoma, Washington, Entered military service from Tacoma, Washington.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANTHONY F. ALBENSI, 42 018 602, Private, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Private Albensi was a member of a five-man reconnaissance patrol that penetrated enemy lines for a distance of more than 1500 yards. When the patrol reached its objective it was fired upon by two enemy machine guns and approximately twenty-five riflemen at a range of less than fifty yards. During the fire fight that followed, Private Albensi was wounded in the leg and was forced to remove and destroy the SCR 300 which he had been carrying. In spite of his wounds, he joined in the fire fight that covered the successful withdrawal of the patrol. His outstanding courage and coolness under fire were important factors in the successful accomplishments of the patrol, which accounted for seven Germans and obtained valuable information concerning enemy locations, strength, and dispositions.
Entered military service from Dover, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN C. KREUCHAUF, 36 874 100, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement on 28 February 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Sergeant Kreuchauf led a five-man reconnaissance patrol through the enemy lines for a distance of more than 1500 yards. When the patrol reached its objective, it was fired upon by two enemy machine guns and approximately twenty-five riflemen at a range of less than fifty yards. After killing two of the enemy Sergeant Kreuchauf ordered the men to withdraw. Skillfully planning the movement so that the men successfully covered each other with fire, Sergeant Kreuchauf brought the men back to our lines with only one man wounded. His courageous leadership and sound judgement were largely responsible for obtaining valuable information as to enemy locations, strength, and dispositions and for the killing of seven Germans. Entered military service from Monroe, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DUANE F. MERRILL, 42 123 003, Private, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Private Merrill was a member of a five-man reconnaissance patrol that penetrated enemy lines for a distance of more than 1500 yards. When the patrol reached its objective it was fired upon by two enemy machine guns and approximately twenty-five riflemen at a range of less than fifty yards. As the patrol withdrew, Private Merrill helped to cover the other members, killing two Germans with his rifle. His outstanding courage and coolness under fire were important factors in the successful accomplishments of the patrol, which accounted for seven Germans and obtained valuable information concerning enemy locations, strength, and dispositions.
Entered military service from Saratoga Springs, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MELVIN F. OLSON, 37 600 169, Private, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement on 28 February 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Private Olson was a member of a five-man reconnaissance patrol that penetrated enemy lines for a distance of more than 1500 yards. When the patrol reached its objective it was fired upon by two enemy machine guns and approximately twenty-five riflemen at a range of less than fifty yards. As the patrol withdrew, Private Olson covered the other members from his position on the right flank, killing three Germans with his sub-machine gun. His outstanding courage and coolness under fire were important factors in the successful accomplishments of the patrol, which accounted for seven Germans and obtained valuable information concerning enemy locations, strength, and dispositions. Entered military service from Roseau, Minnesota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALVIN W. PIERCE, 35 237 446, Private, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Private Pierce was a member of a five-man reconnaissance patrol that penetrated enemy lines for a distance of more than 1500 yards. When the patrol reached its objective it was fired upon by two enemy machine guns and approximately twenty-five riflemen at a range of less than fifty yards. During the fire fight that followed, one of the members of the patrol who was carrying an SCR-300 was wounded. Private Pierce went to the aid of the wounded man and assisted him in removing and destroying the radio, after which he joined the fire fight that covered the successful withdrawal of the patrol. His outstanding courage and coolness under fire were important factors in the successful accomplishments of the patrol, which accounted for seven Germans and obtained valuable information concerning enemy locations, strength, and dispositions.
Entered military service from Zanesville, Ohio.

To fill vacancies caused by casualties, and in recognition of outstanding service and leadership ability, twelve enlisted men received battlefield promotions to the rank of Second Lieutenant.

During the period **from 1 to 14 March 1945**, the 232d Infantry was engaged in extensive and aggressive patrolling, with continuous consolidation and improvement of all defensive installations. Concurrent training was held in mine, sniper, and artillery schools. Beginning on 2 March, platoon-size raiding parties were sent out daily to maintain contact with the enemy. Psychological warfare consisting of heavy-concentration artillery barrages followed by broadcasts and the dropping of propaganda leaflets resulted in the regiment's capturing several enemy deserters. Each battalion was required to maintain an alert platoon, whose primary mission was to maintain contact with the enemy or conduct reconnaissance in force, and which was to be used for this purpose on regimental order only. Making deep penetrations beyond enemy lines, these patrols gained information that was of value in planning operations.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT L. BURNS, 33 768 411, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When the combat patrol of which Private Burns was a member had penetrated deep into enemy territory, it made contact with a superior enemy force near Lichtenberg, France. After engaging the enemy for some time in a vicious exchange of machine gun and small arms fire, the patrol was ordered to withdraw. Private Burns voluntarily remained behind to cover the withdrawal, directing a heavy volume of rifle fire at the enemy positions until his comrades had retreated out of range. While attempting to rejoin the patrol, he was seriously wounded in the right arm and was captured by the enemy. Private Burns' outstanding courage and unswerving devotion to duty enabled his fellow soldiers to successfully effect the retrograde movement.
Entered military service from Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD J. OTRADOVEC, 36 823 870, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When the combat patrol of which Private Otradovec was a member had penetrated deep into enemy territory near Lichtenberg, France, it made contact with a superior enemy force. Although seriously wounded in the thigh during the exchange of fire, he left a covered position and crawled through an intense hail of artillery, machine gun, and small arms fire until he reached friendly positions. The information which he then gave enabled our mortars to fire on the enemy, laying down a smoke screen until the patrol could withdraw safely from its precarious position. Private Otradovec's courageous determination and aggressiveness undoubtedly saved his comrades from certain death. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK P. FEIST, 35 239 387, Private, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. While his rifle squad was on a mission to obtain information of enemy positions near Lichtenberg, France, Private Feist was the first man to spot the enemy. After signaling the remainder of the squad to take cover, he advanced to an advantageous position from which he could more closely observe the enemy emplacements. While returning to his comrades with the vital information, he

stepped on an enemy shu-mine, but he tenaciously continued on his way until he had transmitted the information to his squad leader. Private Feist's outstanding and indomitable courage played a major role in the successful attack through the area several days later.
Entered military service from Steubenville, Ohio.



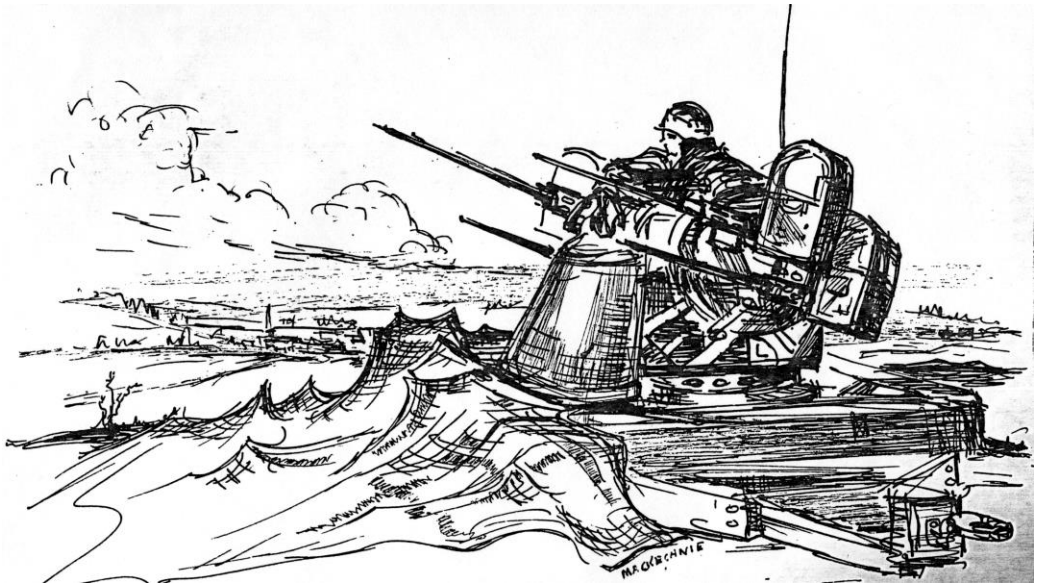
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARRY W. GUNTHEROTH JR., 38 471 107, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. While Sergeant Guntheroth was leading his squad in an attack on Hill 328, his men became pinned down by intense enemy machine gun and small arms fire. The men were momentarily frightened and reluctant to move. He then exposed himself to the intense fire in order to reconnoiter a route of withdrawal to safety. Sergeant Guntheroth's outstanding courage and fearless leadership contributed materially to withdrawing his men from their precarious position without a casualty.
Entered military service from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALTER J. OLIWA, 31 412 454, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When his combat patrol was fired upon from three sides and forced to take stronger positions, Private Oliwa ran across open ground to help set up his machine gun where it could return the enemy fire. After covering the withdrawal he picked up the gun and, firing it from the hip as he ran, rejoined the patrol. By his courage and devotion to duty, Private Oliwa enabled his patrol to carry out a difficult maneuver with minimum casualties.
Entered military service from Shelton, Connecticut.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR SHAPIRO, 12 043 064, Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 2 March 1945 in the Hardt Mountains, France. While under heavy enemy machine gun and small arms fire, Sergeant Shapiro went forward with the point squad of a combat patrol and called for artillery fire. Despite his hazardous position, he remained with the forward elements of the patrol and accurately adjusted artillery fire, neutralizing enemy positions. Through Sergeant Shapiro's cool and courageous actions several enemy were killed and a strong enemy position was knocked out.

Entered military service from New York, New York.



"Watchful Waiting" – overlooking Division CP near Wimmenau, France March, 1945 sketch by Lt. T.A. MacKechnie, junior aide to MG Harry J. Collins



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALTER KOVAL, 6 805 178, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 2 March 1945, near Wimmenau, France, Private Koval was wounded in the shoulder while a member of a combat patrol, which became pinned down by enemy machine gun and rifle fire. Learning that the remainder of the patrol had withdrawn, leaving six other men and himself exposed to enemy fire with no covered avenue of withdrawal available, Private Koval took command and, in spite of his wounds, formulated a plan of escape. Pointing out the route to be followed, he directed all the remaining members of the patrol simultaneously to throw white phosphorous grenades, which provided a smoke screen under cover of which the men made their way back to our lines. His initiative and aggressive leadership were responsible for the safe return of six other members of the patrol.
Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JEROME L. KOHN, 36 873 120, Sergeant (then Corporal), Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 2 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When a call was made for litter bearers, Corporal Kohn made his way forward to evacuate the casualties of a combat patrol. Crossing a heavily mined field, he made contact with the patrol and rendered first aid to the injured soldiers. Despite a constant hail of enemy mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire, he then carried six of the casualties to the comparative safety of friendly lines, from where they were evacuated to the rear for medical treatment. Through his indomitable courage and heroic devotion to duty, Corporal Kohn saved his wounded comrades from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to BENJAMIN M. PETERS, JR., 39 707 770, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 3 March 1945, near Wimmenau, France, Sergeant Peters led a two-man patrol that traversed enemy territory through heavily-mined positions to a point 2500 yards behind their lines. On the way they passed one five-man enemy patrol and after hiding in the woods for an hour to avoid another ten-man patrol continued their reconnaissance and located an enemy ammunition dump. Then, leaving the other man to observe enemy activity in the area, Sergeant Peters went on alone for another mile to a point where he could closely observe the enemy-held town of Untermuhlthal and the adjoining area and roads. After noting the type and volume of traffic and rejoining the other man, they worked their way back to our lines passing through a ten-man enemy patrol armed with automatic weapons that was searching the woods. By his courage, skill, and alertness, Sergeant Peters obtained detailed information of the strength, location, and activity of the enemy over a wide area, which proved of great value in the formulation of our plans.
Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ATANACIO H. QUIROGA, 39 598 391, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action. On 3 March 1945, near Wimmenau, France, Private Quiroga was a member of a two-man patrol that traversed enemy territory through heavily-mined positions to a point 2500 yards behind their lines. On the way they passed one five-man enemy patrol and, after hiding in the woods for an hour to avoid another ten-man patrol continued their reconnaissance and located an enemy ammunition dump. Private Quiroga then remained on post alone while the other man went on to another point where he could observe an enemy held town. When this man returned, they worked their way back to our lines passing through a ten-man enemy patrol armed with automatic weapons that was searching the woods. By his courage,

skill, and alertness, Private Quiroga helped to obtain detailed information of the strength, location, and activity of the enemy over a wide area, which proved of great value in the formulation of our plans. Entered military service from Pomona, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE H. BURTON, JR., 39 128 464, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 March 1945, near Fay de Bretagne, France. While his unit was in the vicinity of Fay de Bretagne, France, Private Burton volunteered to destroy a vital railroad line deep within enemy territory. Carrying sixteen pounds of explosive, he advanced across a heavily mined field under enemy machine gun and rifle fire to the location previously designated. There, under direct enemy observation, he placed two charges of high explosive and set the fuses, completely destroying the important stretch of track. Private Burton's outstanding courage and unswerving determination eliminated a strategic enemy transportation line. Entered military service from San Francisco, California.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to MICHAEL J. MANDERO 36 982 968, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry, for gallantry in action on 3 March 1945 at Reipertswiller, France. As lead scout of a combat patrol, Private Mandero was advancing over wooded and mountainous terrain when he came under the fire of an enemy machine gun less than twenty-five yards away. From his exposed position he returned the enemy fire with his BAR, pointing out to the other members of the patrol the location of the enemy machine gun. Although wounded in the hand by fragments of an enemy hand grenade which exploded within a few feet of him, and although each of his bursts drew more enemy grenades, he remained at his position and continued firing until he could no longer hold his weapon with his injured hand. By his courageous act Private Mandero located the enemy position and enabled his patrol to continue its advance. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to STEPHEN BUNDRA, 13 004 830, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action, on 3 March 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. As squad leader in a combat patrol attacking Hill 301, Sergeant Bundra foresaw the possibility that an enemy machine gun would pin down the entire patrol. Completely disregarding his own personal safety, he crawled up to the emplacement, in the face of intense automatic weapons and small arms fire and with his rifle, killed the gunner and assistant gunner, silencing the weapon and permitting his patrol to continue on its mission.
Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MELVIN R. JONES, 37 640 519, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Private Jones was a member of a squad furnishing flank security for a combat patrol near Reipertswiller, France. When the squad was pinned down by fire from an enemy machine gun, Private Jones voluntarily crawled forward in the face of the enemy fire to a point within a few yards of the machine gun. Throwing four hand grenades into the position and drawing the fire from the gun upon himself, he neutralized the enemy fire and enabled the rest of his squad to continue their advance. His courageous and aggressive act contributed greatly to the successful accomplishments of the patrol and was an inspiration to the other members of the squad, most of whom were under enemy fire for the first time. Entered military service from Springfield, Missouri.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DANIEL R. JONES, 34 664 614, Private, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. As a member of a combat patrol, Private Jones was participating in the attack on Hill 301 near Reipertswiler, France, when his squad was held up by an enemy sniper. Advancing until he located the German, Private Jones killed him and then wounded and took prisoner an enemy soldier manning a rocket launcher. The courage and daring initiative exhibited by Private Jones enabled his squad to resume its attack and accomplish its mission. Entered military service from Plymouth, North Carolina.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES E. STEARNS, 18 249 316, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. Private Stearns was assigned as communications man for a combat patrol sent to feel out enemy positions near Lichtenberg, France. Expertly laying communications wire behind the patrol as they advanced one-half mile into enemy territory, Private Stearns proceeded to keep the command post informed of the Patrol's progress. When the patrol became engaged with the enemy forces, Private Stearns then proceeded to maintain communications with his 300 radio. While operating his radio from an exposed position he was hit and seriously wounded. Through his capable action, sincerity and devotion to duty, Private Stearns strengthened the morale of his comrades and enabled them to accomplish their mission. Entered military service from Little Rock, Arkansas.
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists PFC Stearns as killed in action on 03/02/45].



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELEK S. NAGY, 35 518 617, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 March 1945, near Wimmenau, France. While on a reconnaissance patrol, part of Sergeant Nagy's squad was pinned down by an intense concentration of rifle and machine gun fire. He skillfully led a group of his men by fire and maneuver through dense underbrush to within thirty feet of an enemy machine gun nest where he engaged in a fierce fight, inflicting thirteen casualties on the determined force. When forced to withdraw by superior fire power, he led his men back without loss. Sergeant Nagy's aggressiveness and accurate reporting of enemy positions aided materially in the formation of plans for the successful attack which followed on 15 March 1945. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALBERT J. AMBROSAVAGE, 33 489 551, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 March 1945, near Sarnersville, Germany. During a fire fight south of Sarnersville, Private Ambrosavage captured a prisoner and forced him to divulge the locations of other enemy positions. Then, requiring the prisoner to guide him to the positions, he captured eight more enemy. Private Ambrosavage's courage and presence of mind saved his unit the difficult and dangerous task of routing the enemy from their emplacements.
Entered military service from Port Carbon, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH S. GOLOWSKI, 33 931 781, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 7 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When the combat patrol to which he was assigned as machine gun ammunition bearer encountered enemy fire from three sides, Private Golowski was seriously wounded. Despite his wound, he crawled forward and delivered ammunition to his gun. Then, refusing to permit anyone to leave the gun to assist him, he made his way alone through the heavy fire to an aid station. By his courage and devotion to duty, Private Golowski enabled his gun to remain in action and cover the withdrawal of

the patrol. Entered military service from Reading, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK A. RANEY, 39 934 638, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 7 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. As first scout for a reconnaissance patrol near Lichtenberg, France, Private Raney observed an enemy machine gun position seventy-five yards to the front. The enemy suddenly opened fire, directing such an intense volume of fire at the patrol, that it was forced to withdraw. Remaining behind to cover the withdrawal, Private Raney killed one machine gunner and partially silenced the fire of several others with his rifle. As a result of his courageous action and devotion to his comrades, the patrol was able to withdraw successfully without a casualty.
Entered military service from Weiser, Idaho.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ANTHONY HARDEN, 12 242 308, Sergeant (then Private First Class) Infantry, Company "L", 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 March 1945 near Lichtenberg, France. Although two members of his machine gun squad had been wounded, Private Harden continued to operate his weapon, in the face of intense enemy machinegun and rifle fire. Upon withdrawal, he noticed that the radioman of his patrol was missing. With utter disregard for his own safety, Private Harden crossing 200 yards of open field and penetrating deep into enemy territory brought the man to safety. By his heroic act, Private Harden saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture.
Entered military service from Utica, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD E. BEST, 33 711 414, Sergeant, Infantry, Company L, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 March 1945 near Lichtenberg, France. When his combat patrol was ambushed by eight enemy machine guns and several mortars, Sergeant Best deployed his mortarmen as riflemen since the terrain made the use of mortars impossible, and helped repulse the enemy attack. Despite severe wounds he continued to direct his squad during the fight and subsequent withdrawal, refusing assistance so that other wounded men could be carried to safety. Sergeant Best's extreme courage contributed materially to the successful withdrawal of his men with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Meadville, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT H. PEERY, 38 431 619, Corporal, Field Artillery, Battery C, 232nd Field Artillery Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 7 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. While accompanying a combat patrol as artillery observer, Corporal Peery was wounded and pinned down by enemy fire. Despite his wound and the intensity of the hostile mortar, automatic weapons and small arms fire, Corporal Peery accurately directed artillery fire and knocked out one enemy mortar and machine gun. During the withdrawal he successfully adjusted smoke shells to screen the patrol's movement. Under the covering smoke Corporal Peery assisted in evacuating the wounded back to our lines. His courageous actions reflect the highest standards of the Rainbow Division.
Entered military service from Dallas, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES E. VETTER, JR., 35 239 713, Private First Class, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 232nd Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 8 March 1945 near Lichtenburg, France. When his jeep driver was wounded by shell fragments during a heavy artillery concentration, Private Vetter carried the wounded man to safety behind an embankment. Then, despite enemy fire, he returned over five hundred yards of open terrain to secure medical aid for

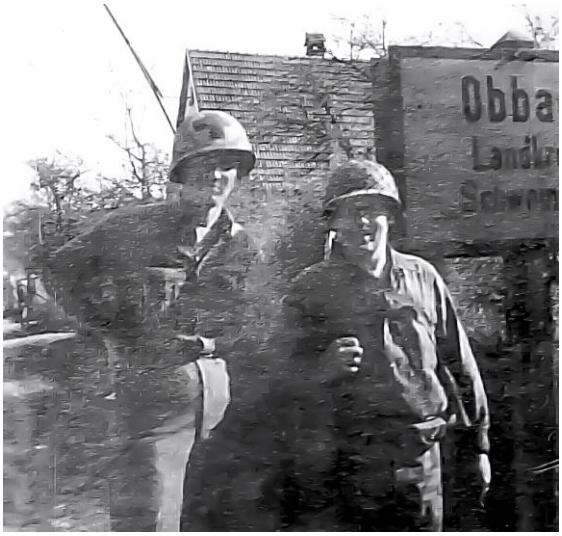
the wounded man. Private Vetter's courage and devotion to duty was responsible for saving the life of his fellow soldier. Entered military service from Chillicothe, Ohio.



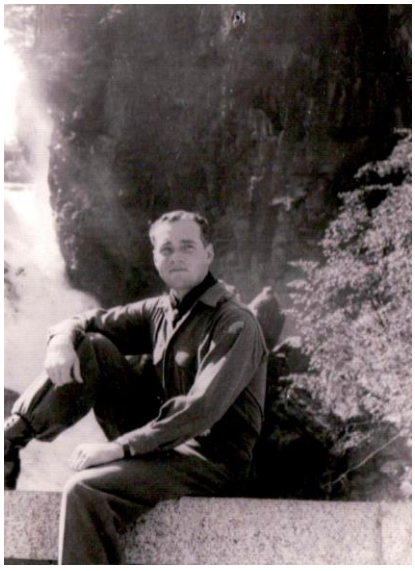
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR J. CAMPBELL, 42 022 056, Technician fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 March 1945 near Lichtenburg, France. When informed that a man had been wounded, Corporal Campbell advanced over three hundred yards under heavy enemy artillery fire to administer first aid to the man. Without regard for his own safety he enlisted the aid of two other men to carry the man to the aid station. Corporal Campbell's courage and devotion to duty saved the injured man from possible death or capture.



Entered military service from Buffalo, New York. Photos are contributed by the family of T/5 Campbell. [Left – Bertchesgarden, Germany; Center - T/5 Campbell, center, at Obbach, Germany; bottom center – Bad Gastein, Austria; bottom left – LeHavre, France Port of Embarkation.







Skytrooper Freed By Brother's Unit

After being separated for three years, Pfc. Arnold J. Campbell, 23, paratrooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Campbell, 127 University Ave., was reunited with his brother, Arthur, Jr., 26, corporal in the 42d (Rainbow) Division, when Gen. Patton's troops freed the paratroopers trapped in Bastogne, according to a letter Mrs. Campbell received from Arnold.



Pfc. Campbell

Remarking that he spent three days with Arthur, Arnold added: "He said the wrong thing when he told me he had $30 in good old American money. Before our visit was over, I guess you know who had it." Arnold, a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division, had participated in the invasions of Normandy, Holland and Belgium since going overseas in October, 1943.



Cpl. Campbell

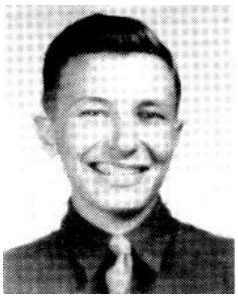
Arthur, whose wife lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wharton, 23 Minnesota Ave., has been overseas since October. A sister, Shirley M., is a seaman first class in the Waves at Norfolk, Va. Their father was a lieutenant during World War I.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DAVID F. WILSON, 37 707 494, Corporal, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 8 March 1945 near Lichtenburg France. When his jeep driver was hit by shell fragments during an artillery barrage, Corporal Wilson took the wheel and guided the vehicle off the road. He then carried the wounded man to safety and administered first aid, remaining with the wounded man throughout the concentration of artillery until he was evacuated. Corporal Wilson's courage and devotion to duty was responsible for saving the life of his fellow soldier.
Entered military service from Lexington, Kentucky.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PETER S. KARADIMOS, 33 453 163, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry for meritorious achievement in action on 8 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. When the telephone line between the battalion command post and observation post had been destroyed by artillery fire, Private Karadimos volunteered to help repair the break. Without tools and under intense shelling, he advanced and made repairs, remaining in the open until communications had permanently been re-established. Private Karadimos' courage and devotion to duty materially contributed to his battalion commander's successful coordination of all elements of the battalion. Entered military service from Washington, District of Columbia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM H. FELLER, 39 578 393, Private First Class, Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When a 50 man combat patrol of which he was held up by intense enemy fire from the front and both flanks, Private Feller, forward observation radio operator, moved about in exposed positions, observing and reporting corrections for artillery fire. After fire had been brought on enemy positions and orders had been given for withdrawal of the patrol, he remained behind to direct the fire of covering smoke. While in this position, Private Feller was severely wounded by enemy mortar fire and immediately radioed the latest information as to the enemy and his patrol, and then destroyed the radio which he could no longer carry in his weakened condition. He then made the hazardous journey back to his own lines. By his courage and determination, Private Feller was instrumental in assuring the success of the patrol.
Entered military service from Huntington Park, California.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to DANIEL J. WOFFORD, 38 516 175, Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 9 March to 12 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Sergeant Wofford led a three man reconnaissance patrol that remained behind the German lines for three days, securing detailed information concerning enemy activity and dispositions. Observing from positions, in several instances within ten yards of the enemy, the patrol located two hostile road blocks, two machine guns, six mortars, a 105mm Howitzer, an ammunition dump, two bivouac areas, several command posts and dugouts, and numerous installations of various types. On retracing part of its route, the patrol discovered recent evidence of heavy traffic and newly laid telephone lines, freshly dug foxholes, a trip-flare, and a trail used by the enemy and apparently clear of mines. Sergeant Wofford's action and skillful reconnaissance was an important factor in obtaining information of vital importance to our plans and anticipated operations and is worthy of the highest praise.
Entered military service from Rudy, Arkansas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LYLE D. SALLEE, 37 750 637, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. While acting as first scout for a combat patrol near Reipertswiller, France, Sergeant Sallee was suddenly subjected to intense enemy machine gun fire coming from well concealed enemy positions. Plotting the enemy location on a map, he returned through the murderous fire to the main body of the patrol where the information was relayed to our mortars. When the enemy guns were silenced by the mortar fire, he again led the patrol forward to its original objective. Sergeant Sallee's courageous and aggressive determination played a major role in the successful completion of the patrol's mission. Entered military service from Sedan, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD J. CARNER, 20 920 804, Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment for meritorious achievement in ground operations against the enemy, European Theater of Operations, on or about 12 March 1945.





The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THOMAS B. GIBONEY, JR., 0 556 795, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. When his combat patrol was pinned down by heavy enemy mortar fire well inside enemy territory, Lieutenant Giboney reconnoitered the area and organized a plan of withdrawal. He then exposed himself to intense small arms and mortar fire to take up a position in an open field and cover the withdrawal of each man of the patrol, killing numerous enemy troops who were advancing under cover of the fire. By his outstanding courage and fearless leadership, Lieutenant Giboney saved the entire patrol from probable annihilation. Entered military service from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SHURLES E. MYERS, 38 273 447, First Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. When the combat patrol of which Sergeant Myers was a member was pinned down by intense enemy mortar and machine gun fire, he unhesitatingly volunteered to remain behind to cover the withdrawal of the body of the patrol. Armed with a sub-machine gun, he fearlessly exposed himself to the murderous fire, holding the attacking forces back until the remainder of the patrol had successfully withdrawn. By his courageous action and unswerving determination, Sergeant Myers undoubtedly saved the patrol from complete annihilation. Entered military service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STEPHAN TOMASZEWSKI, 36 979 616, Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on the 12th of March 1945 near Wimminau, France. During the action near Wimminau, France, Private Tomaszewski was an automatic rifleman on a combat patrol in the Hardt Mountains. When the patrol was suddenly met by intense machine gun fire, Private Tomaszewski crawled forward in the face of the deadly fire until he was near the enemy position. Then, with three bursts from his automatic rifle, he silenced the enemy gun, killing or wounding the entire crew. Private

Tomaszewski's courageous action under fire enabled his patrol to proceed onto their objective. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAUL T. PRICE, 02 006 230, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, at Wimmenau, France. While leading his platoon on a combat patrol through heavily mined fields near Wimmenau, France, Lieutenant Price displayed exceptional leadership and initiative. Discovering that the enemy strength and firepower were overwhelming, he exposed himself fearlessly to a murderous machine gun and small arms fire to reorganize his platoon for a withdrawal. With utter disregard for his personal safety, he made his way to each squad and personally led them to safety. Lieutenant Price's outstanding courage and aggressive determination undoubtedly saved his men from suffering severe casualties in this precarious situation. Entered military service from Dallas, Texas.



The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to ANDREW CIZMARIK, 36 000 056, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 March 1945, near Wimmenau, France. When the advance of Sergeant Cizmarik's combat patrol was threatened by an enemy machine gun nest and a group of riflemen, he promptly deployed his men and personally directed their fire, neutralizing the enemy forces. Advancing further he came upon a mine field and proceeded to cross it in an attempt to locate a safe path for his men. Half way across the dangerous area, three mines exploded and he was mortally wounded. With courageous determination Sergeant Cizmarik then outlined for his assistant patrol leader a probable safe route of advance and encouraged his men to continue on the mission. By his intrepid gallantry and devotion to his comrades, Sergeant Cizmarik undoubtedly prevented further loss of life among his men. Name and address of nearest relative: Margaret S. Cizmarik, 220 Talbot Street, Burlington, New Jersey. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to STYRON P. JAMES, 44 010 554, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. During the fierce fighting around Lichtenberg, France, Private James was lead scout for a combat patrol attacking well fortified positions on Hill 415. When the patrol was suddenly subjected to intense concentrations of artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, he fearlessly advanced into the face of the deadly hail of bullets, firing as he walked. As he approached the first machine gun nest, he was mortally wounded by a burst of fire. Private James' courageous and heroic self-sacrifice enabled his comrades to flank and overrun the enemy positions. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. May Meeks James (Mother), Route 1, Stokes, North Carolina.
Entered military service from Stokes, North Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to W.B. HENSLEY, 34 924 775, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When the lead scout of his combat patrol was cut down by intense machine gun fire on Hill 415 near Lichtenberg, France, Private Hensley unhesitatingly advanced through the murderous fire to the side of his seriously wounded comrade. As he was rendering first aid, a mortar round landed next to him, wounding him fatally before he could finish treating the injured soldier. Private Hensley's heroic self-sacrifice was an inspiration to his fellow soldiers and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Lilla G. Hensley (Mother), Route 1, Lake, Mississippi. Entered military service from Lake, Mississippi.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SAMUEL A. MARSHALL JR., 37 644 704, Private, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. Acting as lead scout of a combat patrol attacking Hill 415 near Lichtenberg, France, under intense machine gun and small arms fire, Private Marshall tripped an enemy booby trap which hurled him to the ground and wounded him severely in the leg. Despite the seriousness of his wound, he continued to fire on the enemy positions with his rifle, ignoring the murderous hail of bullets striking all around him. By his courageous perseverance and indomitable determination, Private Marshall aided materially in pinning the enemy down until the patrol could withdraw from its precarious position. Entered military service from Normandy, Missouri.

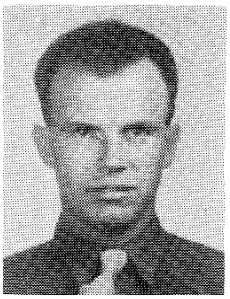


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH R. NOWACKI, 6 915 114, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When the combat patrol of which Private Nowacki was a member was approaching the heavily-defended positions on Hill 415 near Lichtenberg, France, it was met with devastating cross fire from enemy machine guns. Moving forward through the deadly fire, Private Nowacki made his way to the rear of one of the enemy positions and silenced it with a grenade, permitting the remainder of the patrol to outflank the other emplacements. By his outstanding courage and aggressive determination, Private Nowacki played a major role in the successful completion of the patrol's mission.
Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to JAMES A. KENNEDY, 39 423 416, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. As first scout for a combat patrol near Lichtenberg, France, Private Kennedy led the patrol successfully through several mine fields to the objective. Boldly exposing himself to draw enemy fire in order to locate the enemy positions, he advanced toward the enemy as they opened fire with machine guns and mortars, firing as he ran. While still proceeding in the face of the deadly barrage, he was mortally wounded by a burst from an enemy machine gun, but only after he had successfully enabled his comrades, by his heroic action, to advance on the emplacements. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Hazel B. Kennedy (Mother), Route 1 Box 291, San Jose, California. Entered military service from San Jose, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAUL E. EYER, 33 576 397, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When Sergeant Eyer's combat patrol approached Hill 415 near Lichtenberg, France across a heavily mined field, the enemy opened fire with intense mortar concentrations and machine gun cross fire. Exposing himself to the murderous fire, Sergeant Eyer went among his men maintaining contact and control and directing their fire. When the enemy fire became too intense, he organized the patrol and led them to safety through the mined area without further casualty. By his outstanding courage and leadership, Sergeant Eyer enabled his men to effect a successful retrograde movement.
Entered military service from McElhatten, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ERNEST D. OATES, 33 067 036, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232D Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When his combat patrol was halted by intense machine gun and rifle fire near Lichtenberg, France, Sergeant Oates unhesitatingly advanced into the face of the deadly fire to assault an enemy machine gun position. Exposing himself fearlessly to the murderous barrage, he

fired a rifle grenade into the emplacement, killing the entire crew. Sergeant Oates' courageous action and unswerving determination enabled his comrades to continue their attack with a minimum of casualties.
Entered military service from Alberton, Maryland.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to RUSSELL J. KUBIAK, 36 981 537, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry, for gallantry in action from 9 March to 12 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Private Kubiak was a member of a three-man reconnaissance patrol that remained behind the German lines for three days, securing detailed information concerning enemy activity and dispositions. Observing from positions, in several instances within ten yards of the enemy, the patrol located two hostile road blocks, two machine guns, six mortars, a 105mm Howitzer, an ammunition dump, two bivouac areas, several command posts and dugouts, and numerous installations of various types. On retracing part of its route, the patrol discovered recent evidence of heavy traffic and newly laid telephone lines, freshly dug foxholes, a trip-flare, and a trail used by the enemy and apparently clear of mines. Private Kubiak's action and skillful reconnaissance was an important factor in obtaining information of vital importance to our plans and anticipated operations and is worthy of the highest praise.
Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisonsin.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to RICHARD B. JONES, 33 450 925, Corporal, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry, for gallantry in action from 9 March to 12 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Corporal Jones was a member of a three-man reconnaissance patrol that remained behind the German lines for three days, securing detailed information concerning enemy activity and dispositions. Observing from positions, in several instances within ten yards of the enemy, the patrol located two hostile road blocks, two machine guns, six mortars, a 105mm Howitzer, an ammunition dump, two bivouac areas, several command posts and dugouts, and numerous installations of various types. On retracing part of its route, the patrol discovered recent evidence of heavy traffic and newly laid telephone lines, freshly dug foxholes, a trip-flare, and a trail used by the enemy and apparently clear of mines. Corporal Jones' action and skillful reconnaissance was an important factor in obtaining information of vital importance to our plans and anticipated operations and is worthy of the highest praise.
Entered military service from Washington, D.C.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE M. ORR, 33 465 628, Private, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 13 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When Private Orr's combat patrol was fired upon by an enemy sniper near Lichtenberg, France, he and another man unhesitatingly advanced in the face of the deadly fire to eliminate the sniper. Wounded seriously in the leg by the accurate fire, he continued to move forward, firing steadily until the sniper was killed. Private Orr's outstanding courage and aggressiveness enabled the patrol to continue its advance and complete its mission. Entered military service from Scranton, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SHERWOOD M. FRYE, 02 006 215, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. When his patrol was held up by machine gun, sniper and mortar fire, Lieutenant Frye advanced in the face of this intense concentration to locate the enemy positions. Knocking out one sniper and silencing the rest with his sub-machine gun, he then led this patrol in an attack on the enemy positions, finally withdrawing when the fire became too heavy. The information of the dispositions and strength of the enemy forces which

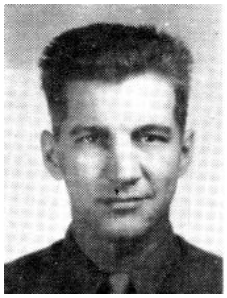
was gained by Lieutenant Frye's courageous action aided materially in the major attack that followed soon after. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DALPHY I. FAGERSTROM, 37 294 620, Sergeant, Infantry, Company A, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. While raiding an enemy position, Sergeant Fagerstrom exposed himself to the fire of two enemy machine guns in order to direct rifle grenade fire on the enemy position. He then advanced to a new position and registered three hits, silencing the enemy gun. Sergeant Fagerstrom's courageous action enabled his platoon to continue their uninterrupted advance. Entered military service from Duluth, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RAY KEYES, 39 582 605, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 March 1945, near Champagne, France. When his platoon was met by intense machine gun fire while on a combat patrol, Private Keyes advanced through the hail of bullets to a position from which he could observe the enemy positions. Spotting an enemy machine gun, he opened fire on it with his rifle, killing two of the enemy and neutralizing the installation. Withdrawing to the main body of the patrol, he gave information which made possible the neutralization of other enemy gun positions by friendly artillery and mortar fire. Private Keyes alertness and outstanding courage under fire enabled his patrol to accomplish its mission with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from White River, Arizona.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH F. JOHNSON, 35 707 610, Technician Third Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 March 1945 near Champagne, France. Noticing a rifleman seriously injured from an enemy mine, Sergeant Johnson ran alone across the mined area to the man's assistance. He applied a tourniquet to the wounded man's arm, gave him blood plasma, and then evacuated the casualty across the mine field to the aid station. Sergeant Johnson's courageous action undoubtedly saved the man's life and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Rainbow Division.
Entered military service from Lexington, Kentucky.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JOHN CHUK, 02 006 214, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 12 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France, Lieutenant Chuk led a combat patrol of thirty-nine men under constant mortar and small arms fire, directing them so skillfully that they inflicted numerous casualties upon the enemy. Discovering after the patrol withdrew that two of the men were missing, Lieutenant Chuk returned to the enemy territory under heavy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire and brought the wounded men back to his own lines. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES O. GROESBECK, 36 822 157, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action near Lichtenberg, France, on 12 March 1945. Sergeant Groesbeck was a squad leader on a combat patrol to Hill 415 near Lichtenberg, France. Upon contact with the enemy one of his men was seriously wounded by an enemy mine. Sergeant Groesbeck ran through intense mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire to the aid of the injured man. After rendering first aid, he directed two men to evacuate the

casualty, then returning to his squad to lead its successful withdrawal from the area. Sergeant Groesbeck's courageous action under fire played a major role in the successful completion of the patrol's mission and withdrawal with a minimum of casualties.
Entered military service from Racine, Wisconsin.



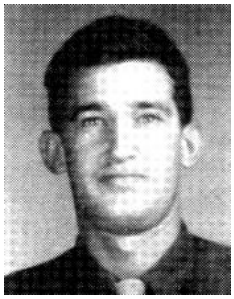
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALVA A. GILLISPIE, 35 200 633, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945 near Lichtenburg, France. Upon learning that a wounded man lay far beyond our lines, Corporal Gillispie led his litter squad close to the spot, which was heavily mined. With utter disregard for his personal safety, he advanced alone about one hundred and fifty yards through the mined area, administering first aid to the wounded man and carrying him to safety. Corporal Gillispie's courageous devotion to duty saved the injured man from possible death or capture.
Entered military service from Fraziers Bottoms, West Virginia.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT N. READER, 35 815 430, Private, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945 near Lichtenberg, France. When the right flank of the combat patrol attacking Hill 415 near Lichtenberg was pinned down by intense enemy machine gun fire, Private Reader ran across thirty yards of bullet swept terrain to the position of the right flank automatic rifleman and replenished his exhausted supply of ammunition. Although hit and seriously wounded in the eye and shoulder by the machine gun fire, he continued back to his own position and continued to fire his own automatic rifle. Private Reader's courageous action enabled the other automatic rifleman to silence an enemy machine gun nest so that the patrol could successfully withdraw from the area. Entered military service from Louisville, Kentucky.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD C. LLOYD, 33 908 486, Private First Class (then Private), Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When Private Lloyd's combat patrol engaged the enemy in a fierce fire fight near Lichtenberg, the enemy systematically directed fire on the patrol with mortars. When the patrol started to withdraw, he remained behind to assist in evacuating the wounded. He exposed himself to enemy fire to extricate an unconscious wounded comrade entangled in a mesh of barbed wire. He then helped to carry the soldier five hundred yards out of the range of enemy fire. Private Lloyd's courageous action under fire resulted in the successful evacuation of a wounded comrade.
Entered military service from Baltimore, Maryland.

On **13 March** the 242d Infantry replaced the 222d Infantry on the left flank. The 411th Infantry was on the right. Combat patrols engaged in frequent firefights with the enemy in the sector north of Reipertswiller. Opposition throughout the period from 1 to 14 March was otherwise limited to enemy patrols, sporadic artillery, mortar, automatic, and small arms fire.

The Anti-Tank Company was given the mission of plotting and locating mine fields and clearing roads. The regiment was thereby able to move through these areas with few casualties.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH E. KREUTZBERGER, 33 575 052, Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 13 March 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. While his platoon was attacking a road block near Reipertsweiler, Sergeant Kreutzberger skillfully led supply parties through a heavily mined area with ammunition required by the forward elements. On returning to the rear for additional ammunition, Sergeant Kreutzberger assisted in evacuating a number of men wounded in the action. His courageous action and aggressive leadership contributed greatly to the successful accomplishments of his company. Entered military service from Portage, Pennslyvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STEVE KLEPCHICK, 33 626 227, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 13 March 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. Although a patrol for which Private Klepchick was lead scout was suffering heavy casualties, he remained in an exposed position firing anti-tank grenades at an enemy machine gun. His accurate fire eliminated the gun and permitted his patrol to withdraw. Private Klepchick refused to withdraw himself until every man had reached safety. His courage and devotion to duty were important factors in the safe withdrawal of the patrol. Entered military service from New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

At 1200, **14 March**, the Regimental CP moved from Wimmenau to the Ingwiller Forest south of Lichtenberg (Q799346), and all organizations attached or supporting this unit were relieved from attachment or support, respectively.

MARCH 15, 1945

This date of March 15, 1945 has been chosen by the District of Columbia Chapter of the Rainbow Division Veterans as the most significent date for the commemoration of the heroic deeds of those members of the Rainbow Division who made the supreme sacrifice in the honorable fight for truth and freedom during World War II.

There are many dates in that war which mean many things to all of us – dates which we will never forget. However, **March 15, 1945** was the date that the entire Division first began offensive operations against the German War Machine. It was the date that the U.S. Seventh Army began its final drive to crush the detested Nazi Regime. That was the day the Rainbow Division began the long, difficult and heroic journey to later become known as the "Glory Road." It was a day that tested the physical and moral fiber of every Rainbow Soldier. It was a day of trial, a day of proof, and a day of manhood. It was a day of death, and sorrow, and sadness. **March 15, 1945** was a day we were all glad to have behind us, but a day of which every Rainbow soldier can be justifiably proud.

It is to the memory of those heroes who fell in line of duty that memorable day, and to the memory of all the other Rainbow Soldiers who have given their

lives for the principles upon which our glorious country is founded, and which this organization seeks to serve, that we, the living, dedicate our thoughts and pay our most sincere and humble respects on the 15th day of March every year.

DAY OF TRIAL

March 15, 1945 dawned bright and clear in contrast to the weather of a week before. By mid-morning, troopers would be shedding the heavy winter clothing that a few hours before seemed altogether inadequate against the bitter chill of the night. The weather would be one of the few factors in favor of the Rainbow Division that fateful day.

All along the front lines chilled soldiers huddled in their attack positions awaiting the order to move out, knowing for certain only that physical movement would restore their circulation and the warmth in their bodies. The rest of the day's coming events were a constant wonder and worry to them. True, they had an idea of what to expect because they had been making plans for days, and they were not new in the area, having faced the Germans across numerous draws and creeks in the Hardt Mountains for several weeks.

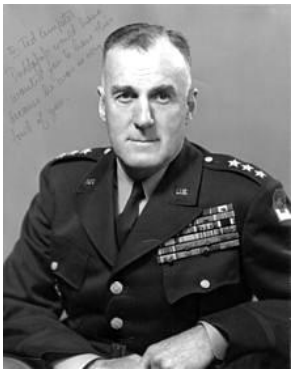
Thousands of individual lives, each like the carefully conceived plot of a novel, had reached their climaxes without dramatic fanfare. Today was outwardly no different than yesterday, or the day before. The difference was in the heart and mind of each Rainbow Soldier, and that difference didn't make itself felt until this day arrived with the coming of sunlight.

Then, that difference swept through the frozen forest like a sudden thunder shower and culminated in the same simple questions which thousands of heads asked thousands of hearts. Will I be adequate? Will I have the strength to meet the requirements of today? Will I survive this "Day of Trial" as a man with honor? Yet, the questions were not so simple, because they were complicated by the natural desire for physical survival, by problems and circumstances at home, by the esteem of buddies who were huddled left and right with their own searching thoughts.

Someone once said that a Soldier spends most of his time waiting for something; chow, pay, a shower, a bus to town, or a letter from home. There is probably some truth to that, because eventually he gets used to waiting – until he must find a way across the eternity of those last few minutes before the attack. It wasn't so bad for the leaders who moved around from man to man making last minute checks of ammunition, shoepacs, gloves, and the many other details incident to the attack. Their questions and remarks were a welcome interruption to private thoughts, although they would never know it from the answers they received.

Finally, it came – the order to move out. Suddenly, the cold, quiet forest was alive with action as carefully synchronized watches triggered thousands of human beings into silent action. Individuals became squads, squads became platoons, platoons merged into companies, and the Rainbow Division moved across the line of departure at **6:45 A.M.** on **March 15, 1945** as a coordinated fighting machine which was later to be called "the crushing superiority of the enemy" by the Chief of Staff of the XIII S.S. Army Corps.

The U.S. Seventh Army mission in the Spring of 1945 was designed to carry U.S. troops through Hitler's vaunted West Wall to the western banks of the Rhine River. General Patch decided to attack with his three corps abreast, the XXI Corps on the left flank, the VI Corps on the right flank, and the XV Corps in the middle making the main effort.



However, General Patch directed ***Major General Edward H. Brooks*, the VI Corps commander** to push forward on a broad front and attempt a penetration of the Wissembourg Gap, an easily traversible lowland between the forests of the Rhine Plain and the heavily forested Hardt Mountains to the west of the city. A penetration through this gap and a break through the West Wall at Bad Bergzabern, just to the north, would open the Rhine Plain to exploitation by armored forces and threaten to cut off the German First Army to the west.

General Brooks planned to attack with four infantry divisions – the 42nd (Rainbow), 103rd, 36th, and 3rd Algerian, respectively, from left to right. The Rainbow Division was directed to attack to the northeast, from positions along the Rothbach River deep in the Hardt Mountains, to clear the Bitche-Haguenau road; to assist the 103rd Infantry Division on the right by taking the high ground to the west of Niederbronn; and to seize the high ground in the vicinity of Schonau. At this point, the Division was to swing to the northwest up the Lauter River Valley and cut the Pirmasens-Landau road.



On the face of it, this mission was a man-sized job, but when one looks at a map of the area, the full magnitude of the tasks assigned the Rainbow Division strikes like a punch in the nose. The zone of attack of the Rainbow Division was directly through the heart of the heavily forested Hardt Mountains. The rivers through the area ran parallel to and across the front of the Division, cutting the area into easily defended cross-compartments. Most of the surfaced roads followed the river

valleys and offered the Rainbow Soldier little help. Those few roads and trails leading to the north were easily and heavily mined. The woods and rocks offered cover and concealment and the crests and crags provided commanding positions. In short, the terrain could not have been more ideal for the defense.

To view this and other WWII photos of the German West Wall, go to – http://search.aol.com/aol/image?q=NARA+%2B+photos+%2B+Siegfried+Line+fortifications

At the end of this forested and mountainous corridor of death lay the Nazi West Wall, a fortified belt of minefields, tank obstacles, and mutually supporting pill boxes and gun emplacements. Covered with earth and overgrown with vegetation, the concrete pill boxes formed an almost impregnable belt 500 yards deep, with a secondary defensive zone to the rear.

Elements of two German infantry divisions sat astride the zone of attack of the Rainbow Division. As a matter of fact, after the war was over, it could be determined that the boundary between the XIII S.S. Army Corps and the LXXXX Army Corps of the German First Army ran right down the middle of the Rainbow zone. The superior fighting qualities of the Rainbow soldier were to make this fact quite significant before the action was over.



In his recollections of the battle in the Hardt mountains after the collapse of Germany, ***General Major Helmut Kleikamp*, commander of the 36 Volks Grenadier Division** which opposed the Rainbow Division on its right flank, said that his staff had estimated that the point of the enemy main attack would be against the Fischbach-Schonau sector. As a consequence, he placed his 87th Infantry Regiment in the area directly opposite the Rainbow's 222nd Infantry, the 3 to 1 advantage usually sought before assuming the offensive.

On the left flank, the Rainbow Division was faced by elements of the 16th Volks Grenadier Division of the XIII S.S. Army Corps. This unit was weaker and had a longer front than the 36th Volks Grenadier Division on its left flank. These facts undoubtedly led the division commander to gamble on the excellent defensive features of the area, much to his later regret. However, his reasons for his dispositions and his reaction to the ultimate fate of his unit will never be known, since he was killed in action before the month was out.

German plans called for a vigorous delaying action back to the West Wall, which was lightly garrisoned with housekeeping troops, and then a determined defense in that area by all troops available. Consequently, roads and trails to the north were heavily mined and defended from commanding heights.



42nd Division Commander*, Major General Harry J. Collins'* plans called for the attack to be made by the attached 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on the left, the 242nd Infantry Regiment in the center, and the 222nd Infantry Regiment on the right. The 232nd Infantry Regiment was initially to be in reserve. The attack was to be a surprise without artillery support, but with artillery concentrations on call for likely targets. Attacking units were to take the high ground and flank the enemy fires laid on the roadblocks and minefields in the valleys. Thus the engineers would be able to clear these areas without interruption. **General Collins checks defensive positions**

The relief of the 222nd Infantry by the 242nd Infantry on the 11th of March and the relief of the 3rd Battalion of the 242nd by the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron on the 13th Of March was considered normal by the Germans when they detected it on 14 March. The daily war diary of the 16th Volks Grenadier Division recorded on that date that "Intention of enemy attack is not yet noticeable."

Meanwhile, preparations for the attack continued along with routine duties. Units not on the line conducted training problems and learned new techniques which time had not permitted at Camp Gruber. Division Field Order No. 3 was issued on 14 March and caused a flurry of activity at regimental headquarters. Line companies used troops and mules to carry supplies forward. Romeo Fagiolo, 2nd Bn, 242nd Infantry, reports that at the end of the day he was so tired he didn't know whether he was a troop or a mule.

The aggressive patrolling of the Division continued up until the time of the attack and kept the Germans out of our lines. One patrol spent 3 days and 4 nights behind the German lines, bringing back information that was invaluable for the attack. Back at the rear echelon in Cirey, France, life went on as it had for centuries, as if no war existed. Dick Wayland, of Division Headquarters Company, tended bar at the Officers Club (term used in its broadest sense), and Roland LeMay made one of the longest patrols into friendly territory, back to Seventh Army Headquarters.

Defensive preparations by the Germans moved simultaneously with Rainbow activity. However, here the Rainbow Division had another advantage over the Germans; they knew when the attack would begin, and the Germans did not, despite the fact that in retrospect several German commanders and staff officers claim that they were not surprised. As a consequence, the night of 14-15 March

was a routine night for the German soldiers. They were not alert to the danger that was to strike in the morning.

During the period from midnight on the 14th to midnight on the 15th of March 1945, the operations journal of the Rainbow Division was to record 301 entries, more than 1 every 5 minutes. Headquarters personnel at all levels were keyed to fever pitch as they waited for reports of the action to filter onto the dimly lit operations maps where technicians represented the current situation with signs and symbols. Commanders and operations officers, somewhat like football coaches on the sidelines, made their decisions and issued their orders. There was a quiet, tired atmosphere of efficiency about the whole deadly panorama.

First reports arriving in the Division operations center ran at a slow pace and concerned the progress of final preparations for the attack and reports from the last few weary patrols which had been keeping the Germans off balance. At 40 minutes past midnight, one patrol reported the location of a foxhole containing 2 Germans who were laughing and talking, little expecting the fate which the morning held in store for them. Reports of digging, log cutting, and flashlights behind the German lines were commonplace. By 1:30 A.M. the 42nd Reconnaissance troops had established firm contact with the 103rd Infantry Division on the right flank. Preparations for the attack continued in logical order.

A report from the 232nd Field Artillery Battalion of machine gunfire and smoke falling into their area at 3:00 A.M. caused some anxious moments at the Division, until it was concluded that this was only a part of routine German harrassment. By 4:20 A.M. Captain Carroll at Division had determined that all units were ready for the attack, except Task Force Downard which did not complete its preparations until 6:15. By **5:45 A.M**. the front lines were quiet in the zones of the Rainbow Division and the 103rd Infantry Division to its right. The lull before the storm had settled over the Hardt mountains – and only the U.S. forces knew the weather report.

The storm broke precisely at **6:45 A.M. on the 15th of March 1945** when silent soldiers of the Rainbow crossed the line of departure into the German lines. Telephones at the Division operations center jangled continuously as reports began to arrive. VI Corps was advised at **7:05** that the Rainbow was on the move. The attack was a complete surprise to the Germans, as prisoners of war were later to reveal. German reaction to the attack was mixed. Some just thought that the Rainbow patrols were getting stronger and larger. Others did not detect the advance until Rainbow units were well on their way to gaining high ground. Some Germans fought desperately, others executed withdrawal plans with, or without orders. Some just quit and surrendered.

However, the bulk of the German forces rallied after a short period during which they tried to ascertain the precise nature of the threat against them, and then they fought with all the resources available to them. Enemy artillery fire began to fall in Reipertswiller and Lichtenberg at **7:40**, and attacking infantrymen began to receive small arms and machine gun fire. Mortar fire was sporadic. Mine fields seemed to be everywhere, and were initially the greatest deterrent to forward movement. At **8:00** General Collins called the 242nd Infantry to learn the 3rd Battalion was 300 yards into the German lines with no organized opposition facing them. Already that unit had 2 casualties. By **9:35**, L Company was in a mine field and in trouble. Nine men were lost and extra litter teams from the 2nd Battalion were called up. All along the line Rainbow units continued to move forward, maintaining contact and holding their flanks up.

By now Rainbow soldiers were tired, but confident – some were even a little cocky. The sun had risen into the sky to lace the forest with dust-filled shafts of light. Winter clothing was being removed and tied to packs, socks were wet, and shoepacs had begun to chafe. **Then the 1st Battalion of the 222nd Infantry came up to Hill 402.** It was immediately obvious the Germans did not plan to give it up without a fight – an assault would be necessary. Preparations were started at **9:32.** The German 87th Infantry Regiment was well dug-in and ready for a fight. Major Walter J. Fellenz and his 1st Battalion were going to accommodate them.

The role assigned to the 232nd Infantry didn't keep them out of the fight either. By **10:30** the regiment had 19 prisoners and B Company had suffered almost a platoon of casualties. A platoon from A Company was rushed to their aid and the battle for the ridges continued unabated.

Dazed and shaken German prisoners were beginning to arrive in increasing numbers by mid-morning. The unexpected volume and accuracy of the Rainbow artillery was a most convincing factor according to the interrogations. The timetable established by the German commanders for their delaying action was moving too fast. S.S. Lt. Col. Albert Ekkehard, the XIII S.S. Army Corps Chief of Staff, stated after the war that, "In the sectors of all three divisions, critical situations developed, which led to deep penetrations and caused heavy losses – up to 40 per cent." Ekkehard also confirmed the losses of terrain to the 242nd Infantry that continued to mount as the day wore on – losses that time and again destroyed contact between the two German Army corps.

The bomb safety line was moved forward by Division at **11:10**, signalling to all units that the Rainbow was not going to be stopped. However, all was not going to be easy, either. The 1st Battalion was still having trouble with Hill 402 in the 222nd Infantry area, and B Company of the 232nd Infantry wasn't out of trouble yet. In the meantime, the prisoners who had been captured earlier had been

interrogated and began to give some idea of the enemy situation. Most claimed to have been surprised by the attack. Some had heard rumors of a withdrawal, but none had received any orders to that effect. Practically all of them had been ordered to stand and fight. There was no question but what large forces were dug in and ready to fight in front of the 222nd Infantry's 1st Battalion and the 232nd Infantry's B Company.

Consequently, initial efforts to take Hill 402 were stopped by the Germans, who even felt strong enough to counter attack. At **1:30 P.M**. the tired and overheated troopers of the 1st Battalion commenced an assault of the German positions. The attack was used as cover for the movement of Lt. Col. Edward F. Niblock's 3rd Battalion around the hill to the east. Rainbow Division Headquarters waited anxiously for news from this quarter – but the news was slow in coming. Communication with the 222nd Infantry forward command post had been cut a half hour before the assault started.

It had now become quite obvious that Hill 402 was the key to the German defenses of the area, and that the enemy intended to hold it at all costs. This became even more apparent at **2:30 P.M.** when the 242nd Infantry reported they were moving easier than they had all day, and that they expected to capture Melch in a half hour. The decision to by-pass the hill and turn the defenders out of their position was timely.

In speaking of the 87th Infantry Regiment's performance, General Major Helmut Kleikamp, Commanding General of the 36th Volks Grenadier Division, said, "…Fierce battles ensued for the possession of every foot of ground, and both sides fought with great bravery. Crisis piled upon crisis, every one a threat that the enemy might break through to the north."

Taking the high ground and avoiding the mined valleys with their deadly roadblocks wasn't the only Rainbow surprise for the enemy. Lt. Col. Robert G. Sherrard, the Rainbow G-3, advised Colonel Davis at VI Corps Headquarters that Rainbow units started maneuvers to by-pass enemy strong points, around **2:50 P.M**., and that plans were being made to continue the attack at night. These plans would further upset the German timetable, and allow them none of the rest which they so badly needed.

The 242nd Infantry continued to exploit its opportunity. By **4:45**, Rainbow troops controlled Petite Marteau and others were on the high ground above Baerenthal, still moving fast. A half hour later, infantry was able to place direct fire on the Baerenthal-Zinswiller road, and for all practical purposes that transportation artery was cut. On the other flank, the 3rd Battalion of the 222nd Infantry had entered the race to the north and moved to a point about 400 yards north-east of Hill 402. The German position was soon to become untenable.

Not to be outdone by the attacking regiments, the 232nd Infantry still had its B Company in the fight. Although often times surrounded on Hill 335, and under almost continuous German counterattack, B Company was digging in to stay at 6:40 P.M. Its score of machine guns knocked out and prisoners taken continued to mount.

Lt. Colonel Edwin Rusteberg, the Rainbow G-2 learned from the 100th Infantry Division at **8:50 P.M**. that the forts around Bitche, to the left of the Rainbow zone, had been captured and that the Germans in that area were in a general withdrawal to the West Wall to the North. The enemy was to have no rest. At **9:45 P.M.** General Collins' directive, to infiltrate as many men as possible to the day's objective, was sent out to the 222nd and 242nd Infantry Regiments.

By **11:00 P.M**. fairly reliable reports had reached Division that the Baerenthal-Zinswiller road had been cut by the 3rd Battalion of the 222nd Infantry. The attacking units had outrun their wire communications, and radios simply didn't function in the dense woods and difficult mountains. Efforts were being made to establish communications through use of messengers, but the unfriendly darkness of the chill night made it most difficult. The fog of battle would not clear before morning.

However, if there was doubt about the precise details of the military situation, there was no doubt about the personal situation. Thousands of bone-weary, hungry, and chilled Rainbow soldiers knew the answers to the questions that had gnawed at them earlier that day. Many had paid dearly to learn those answers. All of them had earned their own self respect, as well as that peculiar respect which only comrades who have served together in battle can have for each other.

The results of the Rainbow Division's action on the 15th of March 1945 weren't to become apparent until after the war was over and the score could be totaled with returns from the enemy side. General Major Wolf-Rudeger Hauser, the Chief of Staff of the First German Army, summarized it very nicely when he said, "From 15 March until 19 March the enemy launched attacks with his far superior forces and succeeded in creating a deep breach in the area of the XIII S.S. Army Corps and the LXXXX Army Corps, particularly in the former, resulting in withdrawal of the front line back to the West Wall. …. In view of this situation, which became worse every moment, the Army as well as the Army Group realized that an immediate withdrawal – sector by sector – to the prepared Rhine bridge-heads was necessary to save the remaining, already weakened, fighting power of formations."

History also records the fact that the 16th Volks Grenadier Division was so badly shattered that the larger of the two halves into which it was split had to be attached to the 36th Volks Grenadier Division in order to evacuate it to the Rhine

bridgeheads. Also, after the action to penetrate the West Wall was over, the XIII S.S. Army Corps, of which the 16th Volks Grenadier Division had been a part, survived only as a headquarters.

Despite the almost impossible obstacles presented by the harsh terrain and the fanatical enemy, a Rainbow soldier was the first man in the U.S. VI Corps to cross the German border – thus, the Rainbow Division began the "Glory Road" – proud, bloodied, but unbeaten.

At 0645 on **15 March**, Company B, with one platoon of Company A, jumped off to attack and captured Hill 302, 500 yards northeast of Reipertswiller. The troops engaged in a firefight, receiving mortar and artillery fire. Gaining control of the top of Hill 302 at 0934, they then continued to Hill 336, 400 yards northeast of Hill 302, capturing and consolidating. In the afternoon, elements of Company B and the platoon from Company A with another platoon of Company A as reinforcements, cut to the west, attacking and capturing Hill 343 (Le Schweinestich), knocking out at least four machine gun positions. Because of the counterattack on Hill 336, estimated to be of company strength, all elements on Hill 343 withdrew and augmented defenses of Hill 336. Company C and a third platoon from Company A outposted the 242d Infantry front from Reipertswiller to Althorn. The First Battalion, 232d Infantry front was outposted by a platoon from Company A, which was later released to reinforce Company B, and replaced by a platoon from Anti-Tank Company.



The SILVER STAR is AWARDED TO Major General HARRY J. COLLINS, 0-7320, United States Army, Headquarters 42nd Infantry Division, United States Army, for gallantry in action in FRANCE. On 15 March 1945, near REIPERTSWEILER, FRANCE, General COLLINS fearlessly exposed himelf to intense hostile automatic weapons, mortar and artillery fire and made his way forward to the leading elements of his division whose attack had been slowed by fierce enemy resistance. With utter disregard for his own safety, this intrepid officer advanced through the heavily mined area and the withering hostile fire, contacted his battalion and regimental commanders at a forward battalion observation post and personally directed the attack. General COLLINS' inspiring leadership was instrumental in a renewed and successful advance against the enemy; his heroic actions and unswerving devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.
By command of General PATTON, Hobart R. Gay, Major General, U.S. Army Chief of Staff.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to HENNING LINDEN, 07 009, Brigadier General, Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. On 15 March 1945 when stubborn enemy resistance threatened to delay the advance of one of the regiments in the Hardt Mountains, General Linden was directed by the Division Commander to contact the troop commanders concerned and take such action as might be necessary to make certain the unit advanced to its objective. General Linden unhesitatingly went

forward in the face of intense concentrations of enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire to contact regimental, battalion, company and platoon commanders to insure the success of the operation. His presence among the foremost elements of the assault units, his coolness under fire and keen appreciation of tactical requirements accomplished the desired results and the regiment reached its objective on schedule.
Entered military service from the University of Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WARREN R. SUDDUTH, JR., 39 862 793, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiler, France. During the attack north of Reipertswiler, Private Sudduth courageous exposed himself to enemy small arms and mortar fire in order to assist wounded comrades through heavily mined areas. Through Private Sudduth's cool and courageous act, several men were saved from possible death or further injury. His courage reflects the highest standards of the 42d Infantry Division.
Entered military service from Nogales, Arizona.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HOWARD THOMPSON, 42 095 608, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiler, France. While laying a wire from the front to the Company Command Post under heavy enemy fire, Private Thompson was wounded in the face. Refusing evacuation, he persisted in laying and servicing the line until it was no longer needed. By his courage and devotion to duty, Private Thompson enabled communications to be maintained and an enemy counterattack halted.
Entered military service from North Tonawanda, New York.

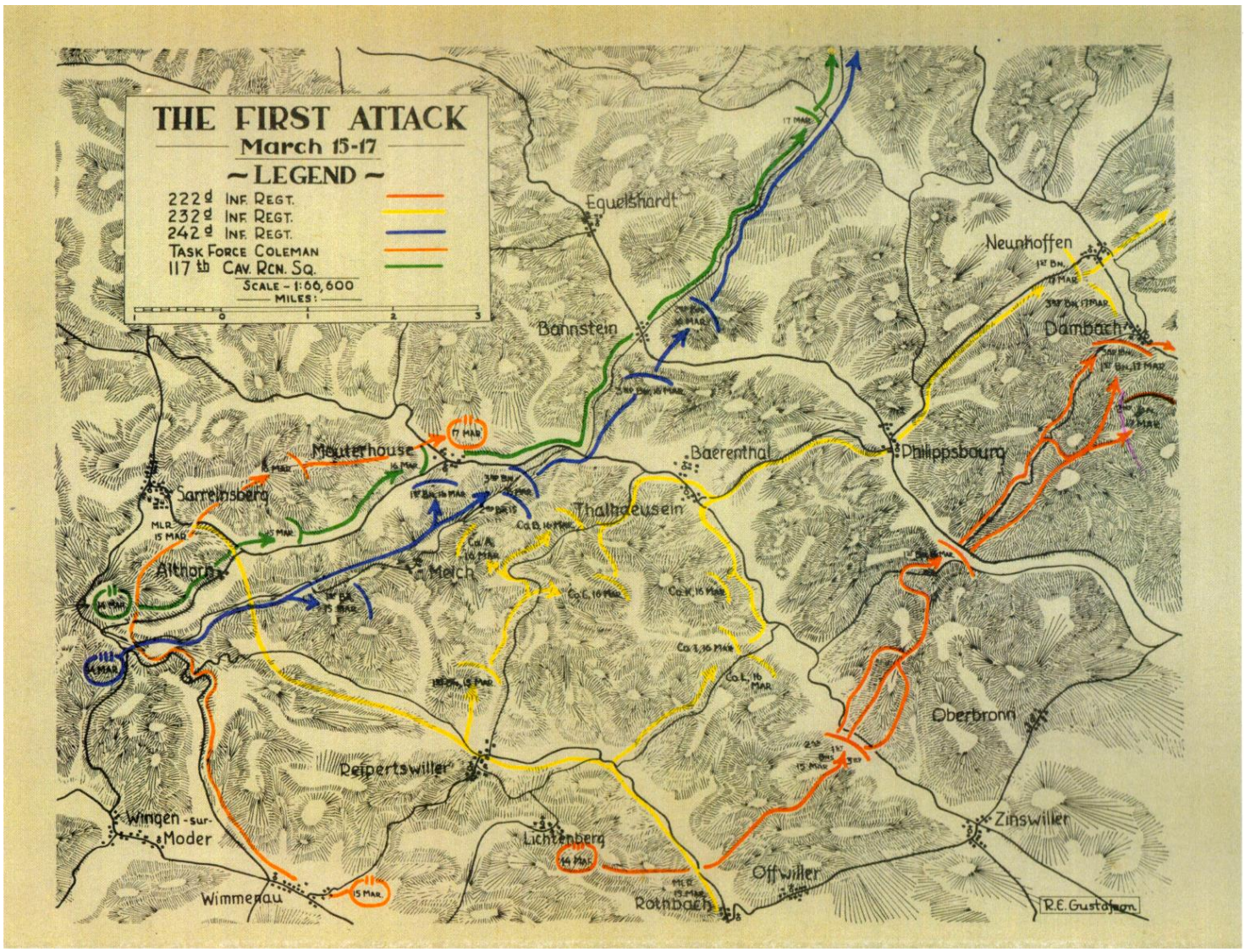
At the bottom of the hill is Reipertswiller, battered and smelling. Ahead, smoke from bursting artillery mars the country landscape.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CALVIN V. CHRISTENSEN, 37 747 879, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertsweiller, France. When the right flank of his company was being driven back from its attack on Hill 335, Private Christensen moved his light machine gun into a position from which he could lay fire on the advancing enemy. While his fire caused confusion and momentary halt in the enemy's

thrust, the rifle elements of his company reorganized and threw back the enemy. By his quick and soldierly act, Private Christensen prevented the enemy from successfully launching a counter-attack and contributed to the successful accomplishments of his company.
Entered military service from Boyd, Nebraska.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THADDEN HILL JR., 44 040 015, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. As ammunition bearer for a 60mm mortar squad during the attack through the Hardt Mountains, Private Hill constantly exposed himself to enemy fire while carrying ammunition to his gun. During periods when his squad did not need his services as ammunition bearer, he voluntarily fought as a rifleman, thereby strengthening his company's effectiveness in combat. His courageous action and devotion to duty contributed greatly to the successful accomplishments of his company.
Entered military service from New Port, Tennessee.





The SILVER STAR is awarded to FAY J. KELLY, 39 466 816, Technician Fifth Grade, Field Artillery, Battery A, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. While serving as a member of a Forward Observer Section with Company B, 232d Infantry, during the attack north of Reipertswiller, Corporal Kelly and the Sergeant in charge of the section were ordered to lay wire over exceedingly difficult, rugged terrain in order to maintain important communications between Company B and the Artillery Liaison Section. Because of these difficulties, Corporal Kelly and the Sergeant were unable to advance as rapidly as the Infantry but, in spite of the danger from German mine fields and the imminence of contact with the enemy, continued to lay the line until the supply of wire was exhausted. Moving to regain contact with their company they entered an enemy mine field. While moving through the field, the Sergeant stepped on a mine, the explosion from which blew off his foot. Disregarding the danger to himself, Corporal Kelly went to him and attempted to administer first aid. While doing so, he also stepped on a mine, blowing off his foot. With no assistance available, Corporal Kelly and the sergeant crawled several hundred yards through the field to safety, encouraging each other as they struggled along. The courageous act of Corporal Kelly in going to the aid of his Sergeant at the risk of his own life and the outstanding fortitude demonstrated by him are worthy of the highest praise. Entered military service from Spokane, Washington.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to IRWIN W. KRAMBECK, 6 245 306, Staff Sergeant, Field Artillery, Battery A, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. While serving as a Forward Observer with Company B, 232d Infantry, during the attack north of Reipertswiller, Sergeant Krambeck and a corporal from his Forward Observer Section were ordered to lay wire over exceedingly difficult, rugged terrain in order to maintain important communications between Company B and the Artillery Liaison Section. Because of these difficulties Sergeant Krambeck and the corporal were unable to advance as rapidly as the Infantry but, in spite of the danger from German mine fields and the imminence of contact with the enemy, continued to lay the line until the supply of wire was exhausted. Moving to regain contact with their company, they entered an enemy mine field. While moving through the field, Sergeant Krambeck stepped on a mine, the explosion from which blew off his foot. As the corporal attempted to come to his aid, he also stepped on a mine blowing off his own foot. With no assistance available, Sergeant Krambeck and the corporal crawled several hundred yards through the field to safety, encouraging each other as they struggled along. The outstanding fortitude demonstrated by Sergeant Krambeck is worthy of the highest praise.
Entered military service from Seattle, Washington.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HENRY A. NELSON, 32 206 747, Technician Third Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232D Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. During the bitter fighting for Hill 301 near Reipertswiller, France, Sergeant Nelson directed and assisted in the emergency treatment and evacuation of forty-one wounded Infantrymen. Concussion from mortar shells twice knocked him to the ground. On two occasions when he was caught in the open administering blood plasma to casualties, he shielded the wounded soldiers with his own body rather than seek cover. When mortar fire fell dangerously close to his ambulance, Sergeant Nelson and the ambulance driver removed two wounded men from the vehicle and placed them beneath it before taking cover themselves. By his indomitable courage and unflinching determination, Sergeant Nelson reflected great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Bloomfield, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STANLEY W. TELLVICK, 37 600 441, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. When the enemy counterattacked a hill near Reipertsweiler, France, Private Tellvick courageously exposed himself to intense enemy small arms fire in order to place his mortar in the most effective position to repulse the enemy forces which threatened to overrun the company positions. Under Private Tellvick's direction his mortar fire contained the hostile advance, while the company reorganized to stop the enemy counterattack.
Entered military service from Carpio, North Dakota.
Photo is contributed by SGT Tellvick's family.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LOUIS A. BRYJA, 33 760 070, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiler, France. After being held up during the attack on Hill 301, the squad led by Sergeant Bryja came under intense mortar fire. Ordering his men to advance, Sergeant Bryja moved out in front and led them forward in the face of increased fire and took their objective. His courage and leadership enabled his squad to carry out its mission. Entered military service from Portage, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT C. CARRIKER, 39 593 484, Sergeant (Then Private First Class), Infantry Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. Returning from Hill 301 near Reipertswiller, to secure ammunition for his platoon, Private Carriker found his platoon guide lying seriously wounded as a result of stepping on an enemy mine. Disregarding his personal safety, he entered the mined area under sniper fire, carried the wounded man to a position in defilade, and organized a litter squad to evacuate the casualty. This accomplished, he continued to the ammunition supply point and quickly returned to his platoon with the urgently needed ammunition. Private Carriker's outstanding courage and selfless determination were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Rainbow Division.
Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to HAROLD E. HIGGENBOTHOM, 34 792 110, Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. During the attack on Hill 301, Sergeant Higgenbothom, although wounded in both legs by mortar fragments, crawled through a mine field under heavy machine gun and rifle fire to a wounded medical aid man, secured his medical bag, and returned to administer first aid to one of the members of his squad who was severely wounded by an enemy mine. Working under intense enemy fire, he applied a tourniquet to the wounded man's leg and then refused to be evacuated until his comrade had been removed from the battlefield. Sergeant Higgenbothom's prompt and gallant, self-sacrificing action undoubtedly saved the soldier's life. Entered military service from Bunnell, Florida.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to VOTOLD J. BUTKUS, 35 897 578, Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. While attacking a hill north of Reipertsweiler, France, Sergeant Butkus led a 60mm mortar squad. He constantly exposed himself to heavy small arms and mortar fire to direct

effective fire on the enemy positions. Much credit for the success of the attack is due to Sergeant Butkus' courage, skillful leadership and effective fire direction.
Entered military service from East Chicago, Indiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LOUIS E. HUBACH, 15 399 642, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. As assistant gunner in a mortar squad, Private Hubach advanced through heavy artillery and mortar fire to the assistance of a seriously wounded man and carried him to a covered position. Later that same day he led a number of aid men and litter bearers through a heavily mined area to another group of seriously wounded men. Private Hubach's courage and heroic efforts played a major role in saving several lives. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

LOUIS E. HUBACH Company B, 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division– as printed in the August 2016 edition of RAINBOW TRAIL, the history newsletter of the Millennium Legacy Association of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BAKER COMPANY (232ND INFANTRY) MARCH THROUGH GERMANY

[The editor's addition of the medal citations are from the General Orders 42nd Division WWII, through the research findings of the Millennium (Chapter) Legacy Association for the past several years; photos taken at Camp Gruber in the fall of 1945.]
The following is an account of the travels of Baker Company on its way across the border between France and Germany, and from there 750 Kms. across Germany to within 60 Kms. of Czechoslovakia.

From the time that the whole Rainbow Division moved to the lines to relieve the battle weary 45th Division at the town of **Reipertswiller**, France until the cessation of hostilities, there was no time that the company did not give an excellent account of itself, even in the most minor of skirmishes. One of the most interesting, if not spectacular facts of the whole drive was that not once did the "Fightingest" company give as much as an inch of territory in the face of the enemy.

To quote a letter from the battalion commander to his devoted troops: "During our months of combat, you endured, without complaint, the bitter cold of winter in France, the rugged, almost impassable terrain of the **Hardt Mountains**, the deadly mines and withering fire of the **Siegfried Line**, and the murderous artillery, automatic fire and sniper fire in our advance through Germany." There are no other words that can more eloquently express the type of combat to which the company was subjected.

The mission of the Rainbow, when it first pushed off, was to fill in a pocket formed by two flanking armies. Its initial drive was aimed at breaking the reversed **Maginot Line**, and then crashing through the powerful and well defended **Siegfried Line**. On the 15th of March 1945, Baker Company, the only company from the 232nd Infantry on line at the time, pushed off from its defensive position around **Reipertswiller**. The mission was to capture **Hills 301 and 355**, which proved to be the toughest bit of action met by the company.



The BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the SILVER STAR is awarded to ALVAN E. SQUIRES, 01 325 347, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 16 March 1945, near **Reipertswiller**, France, when his company was pinned down by intense enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire while attacking **Hill 301**, Lieutenant Squires left his position behind the 2d Platoon and in the face of enemy fire, charged up the hill shouting for his men to follow him. Inspired by his courageous leadership, in which he personally knocked out one of the enemy positions, the company advanced and took its objective. Entered military service fromWest Plains, Missouri.

After suffering numerous casualties on **Hill 301**, the company fought its way to the top of **Hill 355**, at which point it consolidated its positions and fought off a German counterattack. Although many were left on the hills, the company pushed on in keeping with the general offensive, which gradually grew in momentum until it assumed the proportion of a rout.

After such a difficult beginning, the company was amazed to note the ease with which the drive progressed. As it moved forward, it became increasingly apparent that the initial action was that of a holding force on the part of the enemy, for little resistance was encountered other than passive measures. The men were surprised to be informed, for instance, that one bridge had been mined with Teller-mines, and upon crossing and recrossing it, the mines had failed to detonate. Shortly thereafter, the battalion moved through the powerful **Siegfried Line** at **Petersbach,** Germany. An interesting note can be made of the fact that for the first of many times to come, the light machine guns of Baker Company's Fourth Platoon were on a point, without rifle support, at the spearhead of the entire Division.

There are few men who made it, who can forget the ensuing hike from the town of **Rumbach**, Germany. It was on this march that the excellent work of the Tactical AAF's Thunderbolts was witnessed. Shortly before the passage of the company through the territory, the enemy lost an entire vehicular column to these demons of the sky. I might comment here that never in my life have I seen such destruction, with the possible exception of Würzburg. There were dead Heinies, horses, and the entire column was wrecked beyond belief. Horses were still lying as they fell, as were their drivers still in their seats. The whole road was a mess of wreckage, bodies, and blood. Never was a sight more welcome than the masses of wreckage which were once part of the powerful German Army.

The company then moved forward with the battalion and bivouaced, while its ranks were swelled somewhat by a group of replacements. It was in this group that the veteran of the First World War and volunteer for the infantry, "Pop" Moore joined the outfit. During the stay in that particular locality, the other units of the outfit were moving forward to prepare a way across the mighty **Rhine River**. The crossing of the river itself was uneventful save for the importance of the act itself. Soon after the crossing, the company was joined by the armor of the 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion. In the times to come, Baker was to become quite fond of those care-free men and their beautiful destroyers. It was more than once that their powerful 90mm guns exterminated enemy pockets of resistance which endangered the onslaught of an attack. The evening of April 1st, the company was to witness the first demonstration of the fire

power it had to present in the form of its tank destroyers (TDs) as they proceeded to fire seven quick rounds into one of the log road blocks which were found in abundance along the way.

The next day, the battalion moved into an assembly area, and moved out in the evening on an all night hike which ended up on the banks of the **Mainz River at Würzburg**. That hike will live in the memories of those who were not walking in their sleep – for the pure misery of the thing. When breaks were called, men were so tired that they dared not sit down for fear of either their inability to rise and move on, or, because some of them actually fell asleep on their feet and did not realize that there was a break.

Since the ranks of the company had been badly depleted by casualties, four of the "fighting cooks" of the company joined the front line platoons. Armed with Thompson sub-machine guns and M-3s, they accompanied the troops on the march and into the ensuing battle. They doggedly stuck to the job throughout the entire battle of **Würzburg**, and only when they were needed at their regular jobs did they leave the line. The battle of **Würzburg** was memorable because of the conditions under which the men fought, the ferocity of resistance, and the complete state of ruin of the town. So great was their lack of sleep, that many men fell asleep while others were trying to clear out the resisting snipers. At one point, just across the river, there was a group of snipers, estimated to be four to six in number, which had hit some men, and in spite of bazooka, machine gun and rifle fire, refused to come out. After being tricked out of their hiding place by the second platoon, the snipers began to file out as prisoners. To the amazement of the company, they numbered around **43.** Small wonder that the advance was so delayed. The company, then, proceeded to clear out their assigned sector of the town.
Upon completion of the job, the company paused for a brief rest on the grass of a small park in the section which had been cleared by Charlie Company. Someone spotted three Heinies coming across the park, and jumped up to claim their capture. Suddenly, an enemy machine gun opened fire on the group. The ensuing fire fight showed B Company to be the master of the situation. It was in this skirmish that Sgt. Rhey Palmer of the LMG section, spotted a sniper in the window of a nearby building. He moved his A-6 to a place on the curb of the street and proceeded to seat himself on the curb with the gun at his side. He then sprayed the entire wall with deadly fire, chewing his gum – all done with a nonchalance amusing to watch.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to RHEY C. PALMER JR., 34 810 274, Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 March 1945 near **Reipertswiller**, France. As machine gun squad leader, Sergeant Palmer distinguished himself by his outstanding courage when the platoon to which he was attached was held up by enemy mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire. Realizing that poor visibility and intense enemy fire made organized squad action impossible, Sergeant Palmer advanced alone with his machine gun and quickly put it into action. His maneuver was so effective that the enemy gun was silenced and the riflemen driven to cover, permitting our forces to take the position. Sergeant Palmer's cool and courageous action was instrumental in the continuous advance of his company. Entered military service from Greenville, Alabama.

On the morning of April 4th, during the **Würzburg** action, the battalion was billeted in one building, which was the Office of Labor – a massive structure of stone, embracing four floors. The first floor held Able Company; the second Charlie and Battalion Aid; the third had Baker

and H1B; and the fourth was occupied by Dog Company. They bedded down in the building, the first bit of sleep in forty hours; everyone slept like a log. Early in the morning, the guard noticed a group of men pushing a jeep, from a row of parked jeeps, down the street. When they returned, the guard noticed that they were not G.I.s, and halted them. At that moment, one of the Germans threw a grenade through the door and wounded the guard. Another Kraut went to a pile of K Ration cases and started off with two of them. An A Company lieutenant shot and killed him. Meanwhile, the Kraut's companions sent a momentary chill down the backs of the occupants of the building with the following words, "D Company, Dog Company come out – you are surrounded – there is no help for you – come out Americans!" The answer was a hail of lead, dropping the speaker at the entrance to the building. Meanwhile a third member of the attacking force fired a Panzerfaust round. The surprised men recovered and began to pick out the enemy positions. An order was received to hold fire until the "heavies" of Dog Company opened up. The next moment was a sight to behold – a hail of tracers streaked the early morning sky as the whole building spat fire. Also the bazookas were brought to bear, and the super accurate artillery at Lt. Steeno's direction. One perfectly placed round succeeded in firing positions in the building. Not long after that, the firing ceased, and another situation had been met.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to RICHARD J. STEENO, 0 545 732, 2d Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 6 April 1945, at **Würzburg**, Germany. Lieutenant Steeno was acting as Forward Observer with Company B, 232d Infantry on 6 April 1945 in **Würzburg**, Germany, when the building in which the Company was located was surrounded by the enemy. Using a 1/100,000 map, Lieutenant Steeno immediately called for protective artillery fire, the first round of which landed within ten yards of his position. To obtain better observation, Lieutenant Steeno moved to the roof of the building, from where, exposed to hostile machine gun and small arms fire, he adjusted the fire of his Battalion on the enemy positions across to the street, completely destroying them and killing more than fifteen Germans. By his courageous action and skillful adjustment of fire, Lieutenant Steeno prevented numerous casualties among our troops and contributed materially to the capture of the City of **Würzburg**. Entered military service from Maple Heights, Ohio.

It must be mentioned that, in searching the extensive underground warehouses of **Würzburg** that tremendous stocks of sparkling pink and white Champagne from the finest cellars in the city were exploited. The characteristic "pop" of corks was heard for days afterward from the Champagne-laden "Destroyers". Upon leaving **Würzburg**, the battalion advanced across fields to the town of **Rimpar**. We entered after dark, and little was known of the situation. Pfc Ken Casey, of Rochester, taking care of the company's bedrolls, was startled to hear the familiar click of hobnailed boots going past him in the dark. He reported the fact to the C.P., where the C.O., Lt. Squires, told him to go back and get any enemy he saw. Armed with the most formidable weapon at hand, a flashlight, he proceeded into the street, as ordered. He found two of his pals nearby and the three started toward the sound – total armament, the flashlight and an empty Thompson. As Casey turned the light on the rear of the departing column, one of the fully armed group halted and returned to the trio. The German hailed his comrades – result 44 prisoners, taken without a shot.

The next morning, the company started out on another town walking spree. It proceeded for two days until the town of **Schraudenbach** was reached. The advance platoon was as surprised as their captives to find 167 Krauts comfortably billeted in the town – eating, sleeping and washing, as they were taken prisoner. The company mounted the TDs in the morning, and started on the approach to **Schweinfurt**. Stiff resistance was encountered as the outfit lost its first vehicle. A reconnaissance jeep was hit by a round from an enemy Halftrack, which was, in turn, destroyed by a round from the TDs 90mm gun. At this point, the ack ack defenders of **Schweinfurt** detected the advance and leveled their guns at the oncoming troops.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD J. SCANLON, 33 489 272, Sergeant, Field Artillery, Company C, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, in **Schweinfurt**, Germany. While supporting the rifle troops in the attack of **Schweinfurt**, Sergeant Scanlon's tank destroyer led the foremost elements in the assault. In the action his destroyer fired 52 rounds of 90mm ammunition at snipers, machine gun emplacements and road blocks. Despite the intensity of the enemy panzerfaust and small arms fire directed at his destroyer, he drove forward, spearheading the infantry attack, destroying several hostile installations, and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Entered military service from Ashland, Pennsylvania.

While the enemy retreated to the next town, more flak was encountered. As the TDs entered the town, **Bauerbach**, one fanatical defender fired his Panzerfaust at the first TD, setting fire to it, and killing himself. The men of the battalion were saddened by the injury to their pals, but were consoled by the fact that the only one killed was the Nazi. The next day, the entire regiment assembled and marched to flank **Schweinfurt**, and cut off any retreating defenders. After a long hike, and after darkness had fallen, the battalion approached two large fires on the side of a hill. These fires lit up the whole column. At that moment, a Spandau machine gun opened up, scattering the group. It was lucky that the gunner wasn't too expert, for few casualties resulted in spite of the excellent field of fire. Due to this action, much time was lost in reorganizing, and only a couple of hours of sleep were available before the move to the hills overlooking **Schweinfurt**. In the morning, the battalion advanced up to the rear of the above-mentioned hill. Before it could cross the top and pass through the woods, a few snipers had to be taken care of. Then the column stopped while the artillery dueled with the Flak defenders. During the shelling, many rounds came in upon the waiting column – although few knew it, having fallen asleep in the ditches and not aware of the "incoming mail". Following the TDs as they crashed through the woods, the company came upon the outlying houses, where it was to remain while other parts of the division cleared the town. Again, replacements were added before pushing on – April 13th.

At **Schweinfurt,** the company assumed the duties of a task force, to follow the flank of another division. It rode trucks back through **Würzburg**, recalling memories, and proceeded to the town of **Weigenheim**, where the second, third and fourth platoons took positions on the hills. This was one of the few times the company had to sleep under the stars during its march through Germany. The following day, Baker resumed its approach, moving out by trucks and TDs. The most interesting occurrence of the day was watching the TDs get themselves out of the mud when they attempted to cross a stream, since the wooden bridges were not strong enough for them. Moving into **Lenkersheim**, the company found billets, and was told to stay inside as the Colonel was looking for us. In this town, Baker stayed until the morning of the

17th. Then, it was moved out so early that the cooks volunteered to serve hot cakes on the march. Three cheers for the cooks! On the 17th, B entered **Gönnersdorf**, where it found 155s emplaced, and no room in the houses, so it moved into a barn. The 155s do sound good, but when one tries to sleep, they are rather annoying. The next morning, continuing the march, Able and Charlie joined the rest of the battalion from their duties as security in **Schweinfurt**, at the famous ball bearing works. That evening, after several minor skirmishes, the men of Baker entered **Leichendorf**, where they stayed, for two days in comparative luxury, while the other regiments of the division took **Fürth**, a suburb of **Nuremburg**. Boarding trucks on April 21st, the battalion proceeded to the beginning of its last European action – on to **Munich** – and traveled through the lines of the second and third battalions, riding to a point not far from **Wassermunganau**, where incoming artillery forced everyone from their vehicles. Charlie cut to the left, and Baker continued on down the right side of the road in skirmish line. The weather then turned and the rains came, making the trudge across newly plowed fields difficult and miserable. When the first enemy shots were fired, the men were only halfway across the field to the wood-line where the enemy were emplaced. Here, the valiant TDs came to the rescue, firing first their 50 MGs and then their 90mm. The first 90 sent a Kraut body thirty feet in the air. Then, the artillery opened fire and racked the wood-line. The company continued the advance, only to be fired upon, again, but this time by fewer of the enemy. A few minutes later, they took off, on bicycles, following their SS comrades through and out of the next town. Thus, in **Wassermunganau**, the company stopped to dry itself while the engineers rebuilt a blown bridge.

The following day will live in the memories of the men of the battalion as the day of the long, tiresome march through heavy enemy resistance, both in small arms and artillery fire. We went over long, steep hills and newly plowed fields. The battalion was ordered to push 15 miles further, even if it meant marching all night. The Battalion was given credit for this action by General Collins. On this march, as the company approached **Dittenheim**, located on the reverse slope of a hill, the rumble of a heavy vehicle was heard. It was discovered that our company was facing a Mark IV tank. Before a bazooka could be brought to bear, and while Lt. Squires charged with his carbine, the tank was destroyed by its own crew. Through the excellent leadership of Lt. Squires, who constantly urged the company forward, the Heinies were unable to maneuver their tank and were forced to destroy it. Past the town, the battalion was momentarily stopped by an artillery barrage, but, charging forward, it remained in front of the incoming rounds, and suffered few casualties. It might be noted that through this whole march, not one member of B Company fell out, and the Regimental Chaplain was heard to cry, as the company trudged forward, “Come on, Baker!”

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM J. RIDDICK, 37 631 750, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 April 1945 near **Dittenheim**, Germany. When another rifleman was wounded, Private Riddick made his way to him under intense sniper fire. After administering first aid, Private Riddick dragged and carried the wounded man to cover where adequate medical care could be given. His prompt and courageous action saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture. Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.

Towards evening, as the company progressed across fields, it noticed a Kraut wagon-train trying to escape to the woods which were 800 to 1000 yards to the right. The TDs were brought

to bear on the wagons, and the first round knocked them out of action. At almost double time, the company advanced and entered a town, where it noticed another large group of wagons trying to escape. Dog Company chose them as its targets, and laid down a heavy barrage of mortar fire. This town also received a few well-aimed rounds from our own Cannon Company, which brought a common comment from the men, “Here they go again!”. In spite of their tired condition, the men were eager to advance and capture a vital bridge intact. The day ended with billets in **Dittenheim**, thus completing the most tiring day of the whole march through Germany. The next morning, the drive to **Dockingen** began.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALVAN E. SQUIRES, 01 326 347, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945 near **Dockingen**, Germany. While Companies B and C were attacking the town of **Dockingen**, intense small arms and automatic fire disorganized the attacking elements. Lieutenant Squires refused to take cover, but traveled along the front rallying and encouraging his men. He then personally led them in the attack, completely over-throwing the enemy positions. Lieutenant Squires’ courage and outstanding leadership under fire contributed materially to the successful completion of the operation. Entered military service from West Plains, Missouri.

During the day, the First Battalion climbed a hill to high ground which commanded the whole area; then passed through a town in which C Company had a brief skirmish with S.S. troupers. We saw a little girl of about seven lying in the street. An SS had shot her as she ran out in the street announcing that the Americans were coming. It was in this town than an unwary jeep was crushed flat when a TD backed away from a close round. A counter battery of our own silenced the Germans, and the battalion moved forward. A brief rest was given about a mile out of town, where we had K rations. In the afternoon, as the battalion was crossing a wide, open field, the enemy laid down a heavy concentration of artillery fire which forced everyone to sprint for shelter. The company entered and advanced up a draw. When some elements were still in the open, the enemy fired on our men. In a short time, our unprotected men had taken cover at the base of a small hill, and just in time! An enemy machine gun laid fire in the draw from where the men had just come. To the left and to the right were woods. B Company was in the woods to the right; some of them were in the open. Then the enemy began zeroing in with artillery. It landed to the right, left, front, and rear but miraculously, only one man was slightly wounded. Finally, the attack was resumed, despite the fact that it was now past nine o’clock and fast-growing dark. We attacked down another long draw; Charlie on the left, and Baker on the right. By this time, it was after eleven. Little did anyone realize, at the time, that the German MLR along the **Danube** was being assaulted frontally. When the companies were halfway through the draw, six enemy machine guns, with supporting burp guns and rifles opened fire. Our troops advanced so rapidly and so savagely that the German positions were overcome. One captured German officer said his men were amazed to find that the attackers were Americans, because they were never known to advance at night, running and yelling (tactics more akin to the Red Army.) As Sgt. Rivas, of the third platoon, came upon two wounded men, in the thick of the fight, he stopped to see if they were GIs or not. They weren’t. He left with a new P-38 and a watch, while bullets sang inches away. So **Dockingen** was reached. During the night, Heinies were riding motor bikes through the streets. When the men woke, the next morning, they found the Heinies gone and Regimental Headquarters set up.

That night, the Second Battalion crossed the **Danube**, and the following morning, pressed their attack on the opposite bank. The Third Battalion joined the Second, and then, on the 26th, the First Battalion crossed and, pressing forward, reached a woods where the night was spent. Early in the morning, Baker crossed a canal and assaulted **Feldheim**, expecting heavy resistance. Instead, white flags appeared at every house. No shots were fired, although more than a dozen 120mm mortars were discovered at the rear of the town. They were set to fire in our direction, and there were countless stores of ammunition in specially dug and camouflaged positions, indicating that a hot reception had been planned. Plans were changed when the Air Force discovered their positions. Now, the regiment followed on the heels of the other two regiments, being attached to the 20th Armored. On the 28th, we left **Feldheim** for **Seisenbach**, ten miles distant. After that, came **Puschlagen** on the 29th, and **Langweid** (northeast of **Munich**) on the 30th. From **Langweid**, on the 1st of May, some members of the company went to see the horrors of **Dachau**. This was while the company moved through **Munich** to **Gartenstadt**. That night, a heavy snow storm struck. At daybreak, all was white and at noon, the cooks made ice cream from the heavy snows. On May 2nd we were billeted in **Sorneding**. On the 3rd, we marched to **Gersdorf**. On the following day, Service Company trucks brought us to **Haiming**, where a gang of hungry GIs were disappointed by the lack of food due to a stuck-in-the-mud kitchen. Early in the morning, the men of the First Battalion discovered that they were in reserve. We left on artillery vehicles, and found billets around midnight. However, we reboarded the trucks and rode for an endless time. The sound of airplane motors were heard and everyone was off the trucks in a flash. In the rush for cover, a captain, who happened to be in a GIs way, was knocked into a manure pile. The captain's words were unrepeatable.

The trucks took the men to the point where all disembarked to press the attack on the town of **Itzing**. To reach the town, one had to cross an open field, go past a stream, and partway up a hill. Not many steps were taken before the snipers opened fire from the opposite woods. Slugs flew right and left, but no one was hit. This was due to the rapid, zigzag advance. No one allowed himself to be pinned down. After the company reached safety, inside the houses, and after the TDs were brought up, the firing began in earnest. Somehow, the artillery party became separated from us. We called on the 60mm mortars to fire on the snipers. In order to do this, one had to send the rounds through a two-foot opening in the trees above. Although there was practically no mass clearance, Sgt. Tellvik rose to the occasion. Spotting the opening, he placed his mortar on a window-sill. Warning everyone of a possible tree burst, he stood inside the window to fire the rounds. Ammunition was scarce so every round counted. The first round whisked the ends of the branches as it sped through to its mark. The second was a hair off, and after the explosion, in which no one was hurt, Sgt. Tellvik reported, "We've got mass clearance now!" "Chief" Miles, the Indian member of the weapons platoon, was acting as observer in an attic window next to the hole in the tree. He gave a slight expression of surprise, and, as shrapnel rained on the roof, muttered a solemn, "Ugh".

After the night at **Buchdorf**, we left **Haiming** behind on the 5th, and stayed in **Hausmanning** until the 13th. **Then, the company moved out of Germany and into the Austrian Alps to a small town named Scheffau**. Here, we enjoyed the benefits of mountain resort life.

Much had been accomplished in the comparatively short time the company had been on line, and many who were once on the company roster are no longer here. To those who have endured the fatigue and pain of their own and their buddy's wounds, and who have been next to a dead comrade, those weeks have turned the course of their lives. Also, we wish to pay tribute and give grateful thanks to our gallant medics, to whom so many owe so much. History and a grateful people salute those who have fallen by the wayside.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD G. MCCRACKEN, 16 177 499, Private First Class, Medical Department, **Medical Detachment**, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 15 March 1945, near **Reipertswiller**, France. During the attack on **Hill 301** near **Reipertswiller**, the rifle platoon to which Private McCracken was attached as aid man was receiving intense mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire that caused numerous casualties. Private McCracken ran out under the increasingly intense fire and began to render first aid to the more seriously wounded. While giving first aid, he was wounded himself in the thigh by mortar fragments, but he continued to work despite his pain. He refused evacuation until all other casualties had been removed from the battle field. Private McCracken's outstanding courage and selfless determination undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his wounded comrades. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

PFC LOUIS E. HUBACH Co. B, 232nd Infantry MAY 20, 1945
ADDENDUM and HILL 301 - "I have no written account of what happened before we hit **Reipertswiller**, so here goes: We boarded a converted Victory ship, the afternoon of January 1st as an advance party. We had a rough crossing, and the results were anything but pleasant. After landing at **LeHavre** on the 16th, we proceeded to the "Repple Depple" (Replacement Depot) at **Neufchateau**, France. We spent a few days there, making sure we had all the equipment needed, then took a train to **Theon**, another R-D. There, we got our rifles and were assigned to divisions. Leaving by truck, I found the **Division Replacement Company at Cirey**. We were there while the Division was moving back from the lines, due to heavy losses. I was glad I had missed that action! We moved, by truck, from **Cirey to Sorneville**, where we stayed almost three weeks with an old French couple. It was between **Nancy** and **Luneville**. From there, we moved to the hell hole of **Reipertswiller**, where the 45th Division had lost its pants in the December offensive. We found, after V-E Day, that their division had lost a whole battalion in trying to retake **Hill 301**. This, we didn't know when we took off.

We were dug in and around **Reipertswiller** almost a month. Our Battalion front had two companies parallel and one in reserve. All positions were dugouts of the best shrapnel-protecting type. From there, we attacked on the morning of March 15th.

Our objective was **Hill 335**. To reach it, we had to take **Hill 301**. That hill extended directly from the rear of the houses in the town. We started at 0800. Our mortar squad was headed by Sgt. Rosensweig with Stan Tellvik as gunner, me as assistant gunner and George Balz, Joe Marshall, Thaden Hill, and Hector Hernandez serving as ammunition bearers. However, we all carried 10 rounds, each one 2.73 Lbs. We advanced up the hill about 150 yards when all hell broke loose. We had been spotted by Jerry, even with the heavy cloud of white phosporous smoke laid down by our artillery. We hit the ground amid a rain of small arms and automatic fire. The enemy then zeroed in with 88s, mortars, etc. Then, we hit the mine fields – they were even worse! The third platoon was hit the hardest, coming out with only six of the original

platoon. They started with around 28 or so. I was sent down to the town again, with one of the first casualties, the 3rd platoon runner, who was hit in the legs. It was a break for me; we had already been on the hill for 3 hours. Shortly after, I saw George helping Joe Marshall down. Marshall was hit in the arms and legs. I was ordered; George's trip was voluntary.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to IRWIN W. KRAMBECK, 6 245 306, Staff Sergeant, Field Artillery, Battery A, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945, near **Reipertswiller**, France. While serving as a Forward Observer with Company B, 232d Infantry, during the attack north of **Reipertswiller**, Sergeant Krambeck and a corporal from his Forward Observer Section were ordered to lay wire over exceedingly difficult, rugged terrain in order to maintain important communications between Company B and the Artillery Liaison Section. Because of these difficulties Sergeant Krambeck and the corporal were unable to advance as rapidly as the Infantry but, in spite of the danger from German mine fields and the imminence of contact with the enemy, continued to lay the line until the supply of wire was exhausted. Moving to regain contact with their company, they entered an enemy mine field. While moving through the field, Sergeant Krambeck stepped on a mine, the explosion from which blew off his foot. As the corporal attempted to come to his aid, he also stepped on a mine blowing off his own foot. With no assistance available, Sergeant Krambeck and the corporal crawled several hundred yards through the field to safety, encouraging each other as they struggled along. The outstanding fortitude demonstrated by Sergeant Krambeck is worthy of the highest praise. Entered military service from Seattle, Washington.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to FAY J. KELLY, 39 466 816, Technician Fifth Grade, Field Artillery, Battery A, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 near **Reipertswiller**, France. While serving as a member of a Forward Observer Section with Company B, 232d Infantry, during the attack north of **Reipertswiller**, Corporal Kelly and the Sergeant in charge of the section were ordered to lay wire over exceedingly difficult, rugged terrain in order to maintain important communications between Company B and the Artillery Liaison Section. Because of these difficulties, Corporal Kelly and the Sergeant were unable to advance as rapidly as the Infantry but, in spite of the danger from German mine fields and the imminence of contact with the enemy, continued to lay the line until the supply of wire was exhausted. Moving to regain contact with their company they entered an enemy mine field. While moving through the field, the Sergeant stepped on a mine, the explosion from which blew off his foot. Disregarding the danger to himself, Corporal Kelly went to him and attempted to administer first aid. While doing so, he also stepped on a mine, blowing off his foot. With no assistance available, Corporal Kelly and the sergeant crawled several hundred yards through the field to safety, encouraging each other as they struggled along. The courageous act of Corporal Kelly in going to the aid of his Sergeant at the risk of his own life and the outstanding fortitude demonstrated by him are worthy of the highest praise. Entered military service from Spokane, Washington.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE P. BALZ, 35 227 691, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievment , on 1e5 March 1945, near **Reipertsweiler**, France. Disregarding heavy enemy fire, Private Balz stopped in an exposed position to render first aid to a wounded soldier and move him to safety. Later he guided medical aid men and litter bearers down heavily mined slopes and assisted in the evacuation of several casualties under fire. By his courage and determination, Private Balz saved several fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Toledo, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THADDEN HILL JR., 44 040 015, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near **Reipertswiller**, France. As ammunition bearer for a 60mm mortar squad during the attack through the Hardt Mountains, Private Hill constantly exposed himself to enemy fire while carrying ammunition to his gun. During periods when his squad did not need his services as ammunition bearer, he voluntarily fought as a rifleman, thereby strengthening his company's effectiveness in combat. His courageous action and devotion to duty contributed greatly to the successful accomplishments of his company. Entered military service from New Port, Tennessee.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LOUIS E. HUBACH, 15 399 642, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 15 March 1945, near **Reipertswiller**, France. As assistant gunner in a mortar squad, Private Hubach advanced through heavy artillery and mortar fire to the assistance of a seriously wounded man and carried him to a covered position. Later that same day he led a number of aid men and litter bearers through a heavily mined area to another group of seriously wounded men. Private Hubach's courage and heroic efforts played a major role in saving several lives. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

The company kept up their push up the hill; the area I was in was constantly raked by mortars and 88s. It is still a mystery why I was not hit. After helping the medics up the hill, after the gobs of guys still lying where they were hit. In one area of about 10 yards in diameter, there were 7 casualties from mines. The mines were of two types; one big enough to blow off a leg, the other designed for foot amputation. I helped to carry the two worst wounded from that area. We had an awful time without any regular litters, but made it. We felt we had to get them back. It wasn't until I took the second guy that I found out the area was mined. It was another miracle I wasn't hurt. One of the guys I had come overseas with was killed instantly when he set the tripod of his BAR on a small mine. He was lying directly by the mine. None of the scene was very pretty. We worked the entire day on those boys while the company proceeded up the hill, and then on to **Hill 335**, repelling a fierce counterattack. George and I tried twice to return to the gang, but each time we stuck our heads around a corner of a building, a barrage would come in, so we waited for another chance. We started up a trail with some men taking water and rations to the company. When three were injured and one killed by a mine in the path, we returned with the casualties. Being thoroughly unnerved by the happenings of the day, we decided to stay there until morning.

We returned to the company the next morning, with a train of pack mules. I led one for the first time. From there, we pushed on. The company had suffered 52 casualties during those hours. **L.E.H.**

REIPERTSWILLER AND SAEGEMUEHLE MARCH 1945

Don Williams Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd "Rainbow" Division:

We were camped on the west side of the valley in the woods. The village of Reipertsweiller was just down the hill to the east about a quarter of a mile. We moved in there in early March 1945. B and C Companies were down in the valley in and around Reipertsweiller and Saegemuehle. The villages had been mostly abandoned by the civilians, and the German patrols moved in one side of town at night and we moved in the other side. But the civilians had left some things we wanted like potatoes. We were in dugouts in the woods. They had dug holes in the ground and covered them with tree trunks and then put the dirt back on top to protect against shrapnel. The little road from the woods down to the villages was under German observation from Hill 301, but we would sneak down to the village and scrounge for food at night.

We found a stash of potatoes and brought them back for the cook to make french-fries. And about March 12 we found a cow that had been abandoned. We saw a chance to have some fresh steaks, so we put a rope on the cow and led it back up to our camp. We thought we would give it to the medics to butcher and pass out the meat. But before we could follow through with our plans, we were ordered to prepare to move out, so the poor cow got a reprieve.

On the night of March 14 our artillery opened up a barrage with all the 60mm, 81mm and 120mm mortars, plus the division and corp artillery as well. We had seen the 155mm guns right behind us firing for several days. The shells were so big you could actually see them as they left the guns and headed for targets miles away. We knew that the area in front of us was laced with mines so the idea was to saturate the area with artillery and explode as many of the mines as possible before going forward on the 15th.



In reference to the above photo, http://camping-vinschgau.info/ of Saegemuehle Don wrote on 06/01/2016:

"I can't believe this little village has turned into a resort area!!

Yes, the topology is the same as in 1945. The area is known as the Hardt Mountains. The hills are more like the Ozarks where I come from and a lot like NC. They are heavily wooded with little logging trails running through them.

When we were there in 1993 we drove down trails just wide enough for our car.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to LOREN BENKENDORF, 36 304 253, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertsweiler, France. When the advance of his platoon was halted by an enemy road block, Private Benkendorf advanced alone to silence the enemy machine gun. Unmindful of his own safety, he exposed himself to heavy automatic and rifle fire and hurled a hand grenade into

the emplacement, killing the gunner and forcing the remaining enemy to surrender. By his outstanding courage and devotion to duty, Private Benkendorf made possible the continued advance of his platoon. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois. and devotion to duty, Private Benkendorf made possible the continued advance of his platoon. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



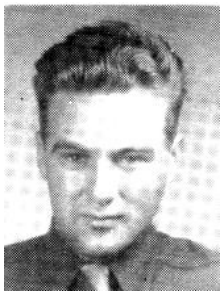
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANKLIN P. BURKETT, 33 558 215, Corporal, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. When the attack on Hill 301, near Reipertsweiller, France, was held up because of lack of ammunition, Corporal Burkett volunteered to lead a patrol in obtraining the vitally-needed ammunition. Making his way across a heavily mined area under intense enemy mortar and artillery fire, he procured the needed ammunition and returned to his company to effect its resupply. Through his indomitable courage and heroic devotion to duty, Corporal Burkett contributed immeasurably to the successful attack.
Entered military service from Ellerslie, Maryland.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD G. MCCRACKEN, 16 177 499, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. During the attack on Hill 301 near Reipertswiller, the rifle platoon to which Private McCracken was attached as aid man was receiving intense mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire that caused numerous casualties. Private McCracken ran out under the increasingly intense fire and began to render first aid to the more seriously wounded. While giving first aid, he was wounded himself in the thigh by mortar fragments, but he continued to work despite his pain. He refused evacuation until all other casualties had been removed from the battle field. Private McCracken's outstanding courage and selfless determination undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his wounded comrades. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN T. INGRIM, 13 189 200, Private First Class, Medical Department, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertsweiller, France. While his company was attacking a hill north of Reipertsweiller, Private Ingrim, constantly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to render first aid to men who had been wounded. Through his courageous action and devotion to duty many of the wounded were quickly evacuated to a rear area where they could receive immediate treatment.
Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BERNARD J. MOORE, 12 010 182, Staff Sergeant (then Technician Fifth Grade) Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. On the mission of clearing out a stretch of woods during the attack on Hill 335 near Reipertswiller, Corporal Moore and the remainder of his platoon were met by intense mortar, machine gun and rifle fire and forced to withdraw. After the platoon had withdrawn, Corporal Moore noticed one of his comrades lying wounded and unconscious in an open area under fire. He quickly and unhesitatingly moved out under the enemy fire and carried the wounded man back to safety and medical attention. Corporal Moore's extremely courageous action saved the wounded soldier from further injury or death. Entered military service from Camden, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE P. BALZ, 35 227 691, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement , on 15 March 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. Disregarding heavy enemy fire, Private Balz stopped in an exposed position to render first aid to a wounded soldier and move him to safety. Later he guided medical aid men and litter bearers down heavily mined slopes and assisted in the evacuation of several casualties under fire. By his courage and determination, Private Balz saved several fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Toledo, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN J. WAKENHUT, 42 095 805, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. When his platoon sergeant was temporarily blinded during a furious enemy attack, Private Wakenhut volunteered to aid the injured man. Without regard for his own safety, under machine gun, rocket launcher, and sniper fire, he dragged the wounded man to a covered place. Private Wakenhut's courage and prompt action saved his fellow soldier from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Buffalo, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT A. SAMP, 36 710 030, Technician Fourth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. When a radio of a forward company had gone out of action, Sergeant Samp voluntarily made his way to the company outpost and repaired the radio under an intense concentration of enemy mortar and small arms fire. Through his skill and courage vital communication was re-established between the front line company and the Battalion Command Post. Sergeant Samp's action reflects the highest standards of the Rainbow Division.
Entered military service from Winnebago County, Illinois.

Company I, reinforced by a platoon from Company K, followed the 222d Infantry in attack, and met resistance on Hill 402 (le Weidenseelerkopf), where it dug in to await further orders. Company L outposted the Second Battalion, 232d Infantry front. One platoon, Company K, outposted the Third Battalion front.



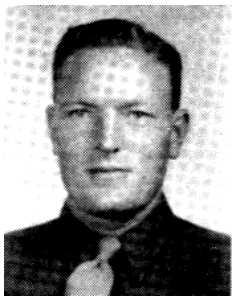
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM T. FINNEGAN, 32 658 959, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. During the attack on Hill 301 near Reipertswiller, Company B was encountering intense enemy machine gun, rifle, and mortar fire from concealed enemy positions. Without regard for his personal safety, Private Finnegan advanced alone to within thirty yards of the enemy positions and, while exposed to the intense fire, directed the fire on his platoon on the enemy installations. Private Finnegan's courageous action enabled his platoon to rout the enemy and inflict many casualties.
Entered military service from Woodside, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLARD KAYS, 38 633 343, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Neustadt France. During the advance into Neustadt, Private Kays went alone to the right flank of his platoon to investigate what he thought was the movement of enemy troops. He encountered four enemy SS armed with machine pistols and rifles. Before the enemy could fire, he opened fire with his automatic

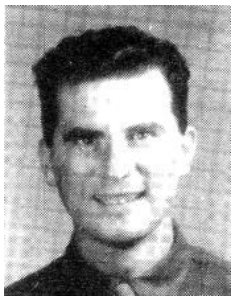
rifle, killing all of the hostile troops. Private Kays' alertness and courage undoubtedly saved his platoon from suffering many casualties from the infiltrating force. Entered military service from Dallas, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WARREN D. HARTER, 37 743 387, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. When his squad leader was seriously wounded during the attack on Hill 305 near Reipertswiller, Private Harter crawled forward, exposed to the intense machine gun and rifle fire, and dragged his wounded comrade to a covered position. He then organized and led his squad in a daring assault which routed the enemy from their positions. Private Harter's fearless and courageous action played a major role in his company's successful capture of the hill. Entered military service from Cassville, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to OTHA K. MALTBIE, 02 006 287, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Cannon Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. As forward observer for Cannon Company, Lieutenant Maltbie advanced with the forward elements of riflemen in the attack on the strong German positions. Repeatedly exposing himself to heavy small arms and mortar fire in order to deliver accurate supporting fire, Lieutenant Maltbie called for effective support that inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and broke up the counterattack. By his skillful location of targets and his courage under fire, Lieutenant Maltbie prevented the Germans from regaining their positions and enabled our advance to continue.
Entered military service from Turlock, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to GORDON V. PETERSEN, 36 274 079, Sergeant, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. During the attack against Reipertswiller, France, all communications from Company I to the rear were severed by intense artillery and mortar concentrations. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Petersen advanced into the murderous fire to locate the breaks and repair the lines. After completing his mission, he was fatally wounded while returning to a position of safety. By his courageous action and heroic self-sacrifice, Sergeant Petersen restored communications vital to the success of the attack. Name and address of nearest relative; Anna V.S. Petersen, 2021 N. 56th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to ANDREW A. JAQUAY, 13 000 912, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. When his squad was pinned down by intense machine gun fire in their attack on Hill 301 near Reipertswiller, France, Sergeant Jaquay advanced alone to neutralize the enemy position. Braving the deadly fire, he routed the enemy with grenades and fire from his rifle, but as he turned to signal his squad to advance he was fatally wounded by an enemy sniper. By his exceptional courage and aggressive determination in the face of superior odds, Sergeant Jaquay enabled his platoon to continue their attack on the strongly held enemy positions. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Anna Jaquay, 58 Mount Wood Road, Wheeling, West Virginia.
Entered military service from Wheeling, West Virginia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARRY E. NEVILLE, 42 113 321, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. During the attack on Hill 301 near Reipertswiller, France, word was received at Company B's ammunition point that the company was running low on ammunition. Corporal Neville voluntarily carried ammunition over the mine infested hill which was under constant enemy mortar and artillery fire. During the trip, two men with him were killed by enemy mines, but he did not falter until the mission was successfully completed. Corporal Neville's courageous action and selfless determination played a major role in the successful attack on Hill 301.
Entered military service from Poughkeepsie, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN PRZYSUCHA, 02 006 227, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. While leading his platoon in an attack on Hill 301 near Reipertswiller, Lieutenant Przysucha and his men were halted by intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire. When the heavy mortar fire began to inflict many casualties, he immediately exposed himself and led his men in an assault on the enemy positions. Although seriously wounded in the shoulder, he continued to lead the attack, remaining with his men until they had taken their objective before he allowed medics to evacuate him. Lieutenant Przysucha's outstanding courage and selfless determination played a major role in the successful completion of his platoon's mission.
Entered military service from Muskegon, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD F. GAGNON, 31 413 326, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiler, France. When his squad was held up by an enemy machine gun during the attack on Hill 301, Private Gagnon crawled to within a few yards of the gun. Firing his rifle into the emplacement, he silenced the gun until his squad could take up new positions out of range. By his courage and determination Private Gagnon enabled his squad to continue its attack and accomplish its mission. Entered military service from Unionville, Connecticut.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ALMAS E. DEFOYD, 38 397 215, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. When the other members of his rifle squad had either been wounded or pinned down by the intense enemy mortar and machine gun fire during the attack on Hill 301, Sergeant DeFoyd assaulted the enemy machine gun position alone. Although hit in the arm, he continued his assault until both his hands were badly injured by mortar fragments. He then carried one of his more seriously wounded comrades to the aid station, and after receiving medical attention, he returned to the top of the hill to care for the remainder of his men. Sergeant DeFoyd's gallant courage and selfless determination to aid his comrades was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. Entered military service from Fredrick, Oklahoma.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to LEWIS H. GALLIEN, 31 111 012, Technical Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. During the fierce and bitter fighting for Hill 301, Sergeant Gallien's squad was pinned down by intense machine gun fire coming from well dug-in positions up the hill directly to the front. Fearlessly advancing up to a machine gun nest, he threw several hand grenades into the

position, silencing the gun and forcing seven nearby enemy soldiers to surrender. He then led his squad in the final, successful assault of the Hill. Sergeant Gallien's exceptional courage and gallantry under fire in the face of the enemy played a major role in the continued advance of our forces against the determined enemy resistance.
Entered military service from Derry, New Hampshire.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JULIUS S. MUENCH, 38 059 563, Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry, for meritorious achievement in action, on 15 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France. Charged with the ammunition supply for a light machine gun squad, Sergeant Muench led his ammunition bearers through heavy enemy fire, mine-fields, and booby traps to maintain a sufficient supply of ammunition for the gun at all times. In addition, Sergeant Muench provided accurate and effective covering fire for his squad while it was assisting in repulsing a strong enemy counter-attack. Sergeant Muench's heroic action, performed without thought of personal safety, contributed materially to the capture of the enemy positions. Entered military service from Bellevue, Washington [amended by hand to read, Sealy, Texas] Photo is from the family of Sgt."Tex" Muench.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN E. SINCLAIR, 39 598 245, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. An enemy counterattack on Hill 335 near Reipertswiller, France, forced the rifle company of which Private Sinclair was a member to withdraw to the company defense line. Private Sinclair remained behind under intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire to provide effective and accurate covering fire for the company with his automatic rifle. Only after the troops were in position did he leave his own forward position and effect a withdrawal. Private Sinclair's extremely courageous action played a major role in the successful withdrawal of his company.
Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to FLOYD L. GREENE, 39 150 942, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. During the attack of our forces against the strongly fortified enemy positions near Lichtenberg, France, Sergeant Greene distinguished himself by his outstanding courage and leadership. In the early phases of the attack, he constantly exposed himself to intense artillery, mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire while leading his squad forward. As he was advancing at the point of the attack to survey the situation and search out enemy positions, he was fatally wounded by artillery fragments. By his aggressive determination and heroic leadership, Sergeant Greene contributed materially to the successful conclusion of the attack. Name and address of nearest relative: Arnold E. Greene (Father), Post Office, Cambridge, Idaho. Entered military service from Wilmington, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to JOE W. HAYNIE, 06 393 450, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When his platoon was pinned down by heavy concentrations of enemy machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire during the fierce fighting around Lichtenberg, France, Private Haynie, with complete disregard for personal safety, moved forward under the barrage to neutralize the hostile emplacements with his automatic rifle. Tenaciously holding his advantageous position, he then provided covering fire for his platoon until he was fatally wounded by fragments from an artillery burst. By

his heroic self-sacrifice, Private Haynie contributed immeasurably to the success of the attack. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Frances Haynie (Mother), Box 54, Braselton, Georgia. Entered military service from Braselton, Georgia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WINSTON H. ELLIOTT, 027 055, First Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142D Engineer Combat Battalion, for meritorious achievement in action on 15 March 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When the enemy placed a mortar barrage upon the bridge site his platoon was repairing, Lieutenant Elliott, disregarding his own safety, made his way through the heavy fire to the bridge and directed his men to cover. After the concentration was partially lifted, he reorganized his crews and completed the bridge in less than the allotted time. Through his outstanding courage and leadership under fire, Lieutenant Elliott played a major role in opening a main supply route to our attacking column. Entered military service from Perrysburg, Ohio. This citation and certificate were received from the family of Winston H. Elliott.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, FEBRUARY 4, 1944
HAS AWARDED

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

TO
Captain (then First Lieutenant) Winston H. Elliott, 027 055
Corps of Engineers
FOR
MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT
IN GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ENEMY
European Theater of Operations, 15 March 1945
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 28th DAY OF January 1948

MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

On **16 March**, all units outposting the Division front were ordered to assemble at dawn in the rear of respective battalion areas. Company C, one platoon Company A, and First Battalion Headquarters Company went by motor truck in the assembly area and from there marched to Hill 336. Company A jumped off from Hill 336 and captured Hill 343. The Company A platoon outposting a sector of the division front, moved west to its company on Hill 343. Company C took up position to the right of Company B, which then placed the rifle companies left to right in alphabetical order. Motorized units of First Battalion Headquarters Company and Company D remained in Reipertswiller, with the machine gun section of Company D on Hill 302. The remainder of first Battalion Headquarters Company were with the forward Battalion Command Group slightly to the rear of Company B. The entire battalion pushed forward through four phase lines from Reipertswiller to the Baerenthal Road, reaching the third phase line at 2115 where it was ordered to organize and hold for the night, occupying the following positions: Company A near Melch (798404); Company B and the Forward Battalion CP near le Huttenberg (818411); Company C near le Muhlberg (823399).



The SILVER STAR is awarded to RHEY C. PALMER JR., 34 810 274, Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 March 1945 near Reipertsweiler, France. As machine gun squad leader, Sergeant Palmer distinguished himself by his outstanding courage when the platoon to which he was attached was held up by enemy mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire. Realizing that poor visibility and intense enemy fire made organized squad action impossible,

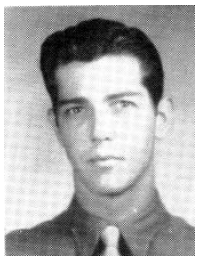
Sergeant Palmer advanced alone with his machine gun and quickly put it into action. His maneuver was so effective that the enemy gun was silenced and the riflemen driven to cover, permitting our forces to take the position. Sergeant Palmer's cool and courageous action was instrumental in the continuous advance of his company.
Entered military service from Greenville, Alabama.



The BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the SILVER STAR is awarded to ALVAN E. SQUIRES, 01 325 347, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 16 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France, when his company was pinned down by intense enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire while attacking Hill 301, Lieutenant Squires left his position behind the 2d Platoon and in the face of enemy fire, charged up the hill shouting for his men to follow him. Inspired by his courageous leadership, in which he personally knocked out one of the enemy positions, the company advanced and took its objective. Entered military service from West Plains, Missouri.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JAMES E. JOHNSON, 20 904 634, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 16 March 1945, near Reipertswiller, France when one of his men located a mortar position over the top of a hill, while his company was setting up security positions for the night after having taken Hills 301, 335, and 346, Sergeant Johnson fired two rounds at the position from a rocket launcher, driving out two Germans who were killed by one of the BAR men of his company. Armed only with a pistol and a hand grenade, he then ran down the hill toward the mortar emplacement. Throwing a hand grenade at the position, Sergeant Johnson drove out a German officer and two enlisted men, one of whom was killed and the officer and the other man captured. His courageous act was responsible for the destruction of the mortar and other weapons at the position, the killing of three Germans, and the capture of a German officer and an enlisted man. Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLYDE S. LEE, 38 185 760, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 March 1945 near Reipertsweiler, France. Leading his section of machine guns in an attack, Sergeant Lee discovered the rear flank of his company exposed to enemy rifle fire. By skillfully directing his machine gun fire, he destroyed these enemy and continued the advance. On finding a group of riflemen pinned down by fire from an enemy roadblock, Sergeant Lee placed his guns in action, organized the men, knocked out the hostile roadblock. Sergeant Lee's skillful leadership and courageous actions, assisted materially in assuring the continued advance of his company.
Entered military service from West Monroe, Louisiana.

Slight opposition during the day consisted of small arms fire and many anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The weather was warm and clear, and the visibility, good.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to EARL E. RUPP, 6 246 015, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. Sergeant Rupp was laying wire for his Company during the attack on Hill 301, near Reipertswiller, France, on 16 March 1945, when the enemy placed a heavy concentration of fire on our troops, causing numerous casualties and retarding the advance. Dropping his roll of wire, Sergeant Rupp joined his Company

Commander and helped him lead the assault in the face of intense enemy mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire. In spite of a severe wound in his left leg from a Schu-mine, Sergeant Rupp attacked and knocked out a German machine gun position. As he was the only available lineman, Sergeant Rupp refused to be evacuated and, remaining with his Company until he was unable to walk further, maintained communications throughout the attack. His courageous leadership and unfailing devotion to duty served to inspire the other members of his Company and reflect distinct credit upon himself and the armed services of the United States.
Entered military service from Pueblo, Colorado.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROY H. BIRD, 39 917 975, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 16 March 1945, near Reipertsweiler, France. Private Bird was serving as radio operator for his platoon during the attack on an enemy-held hill when his radio failed. Observing that two squad leaders were wounded and that one of the squads was becoming disorganized, Private Bird immediately assumed command of that squad, skillfully reorganized it, and redeployed and led his men in continuation of the attack. His initiative and courageous leadership were instrumental in assuring the success of his platoon. Entered military service from Salt Lake City, Utah.

At 0600 on the same date, **16 March**, Company I was ordered to continue the attack on Hill 402. At 1100, Company L moved up Hill 380 about 1000 yards north of Lichtenberg to occupy it for the night. At 1230 Company K attacked Hill 415, 2500 yards east of Melch, without resistance, reaching the top at 1520.

At 1330, the Third Battalion moved out to join Company I just north of Hill 415, and advanced south of Untermuhthal (856392). The Third Battalion Forward CP was established at 1830 in south Untermuhthal. Reaching positions on the second phase line at 2200, all troops began digging in for the night, with Company K at Le Schwartzenberg (842399), and Company I north of Le Katzenkopf (848386).

With six company fronts, the 232d Infantry cleared successive objectives, clearing the area in its zone of advance, and by 2300, holding the high ground south of the Baerenthal-Untermuhthal road (803419-855380). The 411th Infantry was on the right flank, and the 71st Infantry, on the left.

At 0030, **17 March**, the First Battalion was ordered to assemble on the Reipertswiller-Baerenthal Road and attack and secure Baerenthal by dawn; also to secure the road junction east of Baerenthal. At 0320, the battalion started to advance, clearing the objective at 0430, mopping up with slight opposition.

The Third Battalion was ordered to assemble at dawn on the Baerenthal-Untermuhthal Road, and move to an assembly area north of Baerenthal. At 0615 the battalion moved out to assemble at Untermuhthal, and by 0915, moved on foot from Untermuhtal through Baerenthal where, from the assembly area there (843426), it was ordered to attack Phillipsbourg.

The Regimental CP was established at Baerenthal (827724) at 1100. The Third Battalion cleared Phillipsbourg at 1215. Because the heavy bridge was out, the Third Battalion was held up until 1700.

At 1502 the regiment was ordered to attack at once to the fifth phase line before dark, and to capture the towns of Phillipsbourg, Dambach, and Obersteinbach. The Third Battalion advanced on Neunhoffen, clearing that town with little opposition other than sniper fire. Companies L and K moved to Dambach and secured that town.

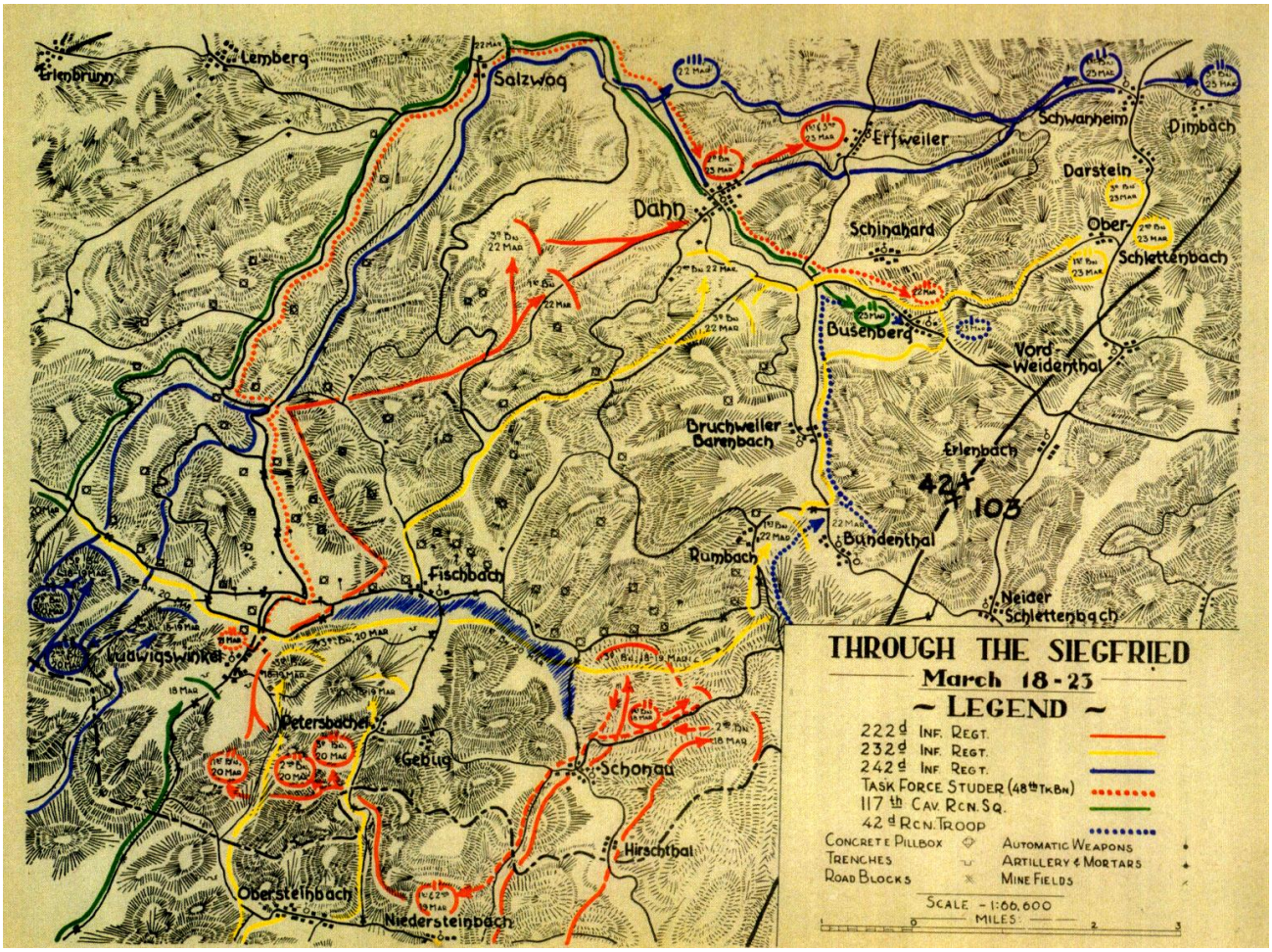
The Regimental CP opened at Phillipsbourg at 1615. The first Battalion was ordered to advance on the rear of the Third Battalion, and displaced forward from Baerenthal at 1630, by motor and foot, arriving at the bivouac area at 1830. The First Battalion CP was established north of Sturzelbronn (896451). At 2035, the First Battalion received the mission to move forward, passing through the Third Battalion, and to occupy and seize positions on the heights south of Obersteinbach. The Third Battalion occupied the line from Neunhoffen to Dambach, with its CP at Neunhoffen (845435). The regiment at this time had the 222d Infantry on the right and the 242d Infantry, on the left.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to OTHA D. HEMBY, 34 914 405, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 March 1945, near Phillipsburg, France. When enemy positions held up the advance of Company I into Phillipsburg, France, Private Hemby joined a combat patrol in an attempt to neutralize them. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he advanced across the open terrain in the face of intense machine gun and small arms fire, spraying the hill upon which the enemy was entrenched with fire from his automatic rifle. After his fire had successfully allowed the remainder of the patrol to flank the enemy, he was fatally wounded by an enemy rifleman. Private Hemby's heroic action reflects the highest credit upon himself and upholds the finest traditions of the United States Army.
Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Novella J. Hemby (Mother), Route 2, Magee, Mississippi.
Entered military service from Magee, Mississippi. PFC Otha B. Hemby rests under the care of Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, St. Avold, Lorraine, France.
Photo is found on Pfc Hemby's find-a-grave.com page

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EMERY L. MINIER, 35 587 738, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 March 1945, near Phillipsburg, France. During the general offensive through the Hardt Mountains, Private Minier was a member of a small combat patrol whose mission was to destroy enemy positions holding up the advance of Company I. As the patrol approached the enemy emplacements, they were met by an intense hail of machine gun and small arms fire which inflicted several casualties and pinned the group down. Private Minier fearlessly braved the murderous fire to aid a wounded comrade and carry him back to the safety of our lines. Once there, the information of the enemy which he transmitted enabled his company to neutralize the positions and continue its advance.
Entered military service from Magadore. Ohio.

Pushing off at 0030, **18 March**, the First Battalion reached its objective, the high ground south of Obersteinbach, at 0720, without opposition. Patrols cleared Obersteinbach. At 1330 the First Battalion was ordered to move with the Third Battalion to higher ground north of Obersteinbach to receive the order to continue the advance on Fischbach. Third Battalion troops entered Germany near Le Husselkopf (866450) at 1434 on the way to Ludwigswinkel. Moving forward, the Third Battalion established a Forward CP near Grosseflorenberg (965535). While the convoy was held up by road blocks and mines, Companies I and L secured the high ground forward of the CP near L'Ochsenhardt (937492), and by 2100, with Company K, secured the ridges forward of the CP (965535).



BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LE MOYNE E. WHITING, 37 152 520, Sergeant, Field Artillery, Reconnaissance Company, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 18 March 1945 near Obersteinbach, Germany. When the approaches to Obersteinbach were blocked by mines and booby traps, Sergeant Whiting volunteered to lead his section in clearing the roads. Despite heavy artillery and mortar fire, he and his men rapidly and skillfully neutralized all of the mines and booby traps. Sergeant Whiting's outstanding ability and leadership enabled his battalion and an infantry battalion to capture the town with a minimum of casualties.
Entered military service from Rose Bud, South Dakota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LOWELL L. OELHEIM, 36 066 410, Sergeant, Field Artillery, Reconnaissance Company, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion for heroic achievement in action on 18 March 1945 near Obersteinbach, Germany. When approaches to Obersteinbach were found blocked by mines and booby traps, Sergeant Oelheim, reconnaissance Sergeant, volunteered to clear the roads with his section. Despite heavy artillery and mortar fire, Sergeant Oelheim and his men rapidly and skillfully neutralized all of the mines and boody traps. As the result of his leadership, and devotion to duty, the tank destroyer and Infantry units captured the town with minimum casualties.
Entered military service from Gallatin, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROY KISSINGER, 37 089 749, Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 18 March 1945 at Fischbach, Germany. Wounded three times by enemy mortar fire, Sergeant Kissinger refused treatment until he had led his squad to cover. When he had succeeded in moving his men into the cover of a wooded area, Sergeant Kissenger submitted to first aid but refused evacuation until he had reorganized his squad and was safely dug in. His courage and leadership enabled his squad to reach cover with minimum casualties. Entered military service from Casselton, North Dakota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PETER A. PLEPEL, 36 323 213, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 March 1945, near Darnstein, France. During the advance of Company I near Darnstein, France, Private Plepel's rifle platoon was given the mission of neutralizing several enemy machine gun positions holding up the company advance. Crawling to the flank of one of the emplacements, he approached in the face of deadly machine gun fire and threw a hand grenade among the crew, killing several and silencing the gun. As he attempted to eliminate the next position, he was seriously wounded in the legs before he could complete his mission. Private Plepel's outstanding courage and unswerving determination contributed materially to the successful advance of his company through this dangerous sector. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN A. URBAIN, 36 161 492, Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 March 1945, near Darstein, France. When the advance of Company I, against well-defended enemy positions near Darstein, France was halted by intense machine gun fire, Sergeant Urbain and another man advanced into the face of the deadly fire to attempt to neutralize the positions. Approaching from the flank, he arose and threw several hand grenades into the enemy, killing and wounding several of them. At this time he was severely wounded in both legs by a sudden burst of fire from a nearby machine gun. Sergeant Urbain's courageous action and aggressiveness enabled his company to continue their advance into the town.
Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to WILLIAM G. MITSCH, 01 288 276, Captain, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. Captain Mitsch personally led his Company across the Sarbach River and established a bridgehead under intense enemy fire. A short time later, when radio communication with his platoons failed, he again braved the German fire, going boldly from one platoon to the next to check their positions and bolster the fighting spirit of the men. When a superior enemy force threatened his position Captain Mitsch led tanks in the face of devastating machine gun and sniper fire to a position from where the tank crews were able to lay down effective fire in support of the bridgehead. Due to his gallantry, leadership and determination the bridgehead was maintained and his Battalion enabled to continue its advance. Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DELMONT D. BROWN, 0 550 766, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, on 18 March 1945, in Germany.
Entered military service from North Baldwin, Ohio.

At 1600 the Regimental Forward CP was established at Obersteinbach (962485). The First Battalion on the right of the Third Battalion, with their right flank on the Obersteinbach-Fischbach Road, crossed the border into Germany at 1445, and at 1830, established the CP and wirehead at Petersbachel where it dug in for the night. There heavy mortar and artillery, small arms and automatic weapons fire was received. The regiment held the line parallel to and south of Fischbach.



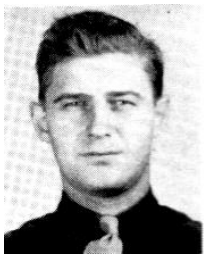
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM L. SMART, 0 547 330, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Fischbach, Germany. During the advance of rifle troops on Fischbach, Germany, sudden and intense machine gun and small arms fire temporarily halted our forces. Quickly organizing an emergency mortar squad from his platoon and company headquarters, Lieutenant Smart set up a mortar and opened fire on the enemy positions. The enemy immediately returned his fire with direct artillery, covering the area with a devastating barrage. Under Lieutenant Smart's skillful control, the squad remained in position and continued to fire until the enemy machine gun and small arms fire had been silenced. By his courageous determination and able leadership, Lieutenant Smart played a major role in the rapid capitulation of the enemy-held town.
Entered military service from Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

At 0530 the Third Battalion was ordered to move from positions in the vicinity (960525) to an assembly area in rear of Hill 343 where it was attached to the 242d Infantry for bridge crossing operations. Company K, under control of the 242d Infantry, attacked north of Ludwigswinkel at 0900.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to KERMIT D. ANDERSON, 02 010 787, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 19 March 1945, at Ludwigswinkel, Germany, while leading his platoon in supporting

the bridgehead, Lieutenant Anderson found the 1st Platoon of his company disorganized. Taking command of both platoons, he placed them in position and then made his way under heavy mortar and small arms fire from one foxhole to another organizing the men. He continuously exposed himself to enemy fire to locate enemy machine gun nests so that the tanks supporting his platoon could fire upon them. When one of his men was wounded, Lieutenant Anderson administered first aid and carried the wounded man to safety through intense enemy small arms and mortar fire.
Entered military service from Holdrege, Nebraska.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH KOCHETTA, 32 509 431, Private First Class (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When Company K's advance into Ludwigswinkel was held up by an enemy machine gun nest three hundred yards to its front, Sergeant Kochetta advanced with three men under the intense fire to destroy the gun. Flanking the enemy position, he and another man killed three of the enemy and captured the fourth. Sergeant Kochetta's courageous leadership silenced the machine gun and enabled his company to advance. Entered military service from Yonkers, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM A. FULCHER, 38 570 952, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 at Ludwigswinkel, Germany. Private Fulcher, with four other infantrymen, was riding on a tank in the attack through the Siegfried line when they were suddenly met by intense machine gun, rifle, and mortar fire from a pill box to their front. As he jumped from the tank, Private Fulcher noticed that his platoon leader had been wounded severely by shell fragments in the legs and stomach. He crawled and ran through the hostile fire across four hundred yards of open terrain to contact a litter squad and guide them back to the wounded officer. Private Fulcher's steadfast courage under fire was directly responsible for saving his platoon leader's life. Entered military service from Wellington, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD F. DUTRO, 35 239 343, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany, Private Dutro exposed himself to intense enemy artillery mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire in order to provide covering fire for five comrades attempting to crawl to a covered position. As the enemy continued to attack their positions in overwhelming strength, he reconnoitered a path through an enemy minefield across which he and the five men withdrew. Fired upon by two riflemen and a machine gun, he dropped to a prone position and silenced the riflemen with his fire, then assisting his comrades to eliminate the machine gun. Private Dutro's courageous action and unflinching determination enabled his group to return to the safety of our lines without a casualty. Entered military service from Zanesville, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MAX E. REDER, 19 211 801, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. During the action near Ludwigswinkel when intense enemy mortar and sniper fire pinned down Private Reder and fifteen other men, he unhesitatingly made his way across an enemy mine field to reconnoiter a route of withdrawal for his comrades. When he had safely crossed the mine field, he reengaged the enemy snipers with rifle fire until the remainder of his group had successfully negotiated their withdrawal. Private Reder's fearless and courageous act was directly responsible for the safe withdrawal of his men. Entered military service from San Francisco, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM H. SLAUGHTER, 15 016 424, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement

in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. As machine gun section sergeant, Sergeant Slaughter organized a patrol to go to the aid of a wounded man a mile in enemy territory. With three others he exposed himself to enemy mortar, machine gun, and sniper fire and evacuated the wounded man on an improvised stretcher across ground constantly under fire. Sergeant Slaughter's heroic action was instrumental in saving this man's life. Entered military service from Buckhannon, West Virginia.



The DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS for extraordinary heroism in action is awarded **POSTHUMOUSLY** to ELLIS M. POPE, 34 258 765, Pvt., Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment. On March 19, 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany, Private Pope, as a rifleman with an Infantry Company, was a member of a platoon that was engaged in an advance on the enemy. Suddenly both his platoon and another were subjected to intense automatic and small arms fire from prepared and well concealed enemy fox holes and pillboxes manned by an estimated 200 Germans. The two platoons had advanced until they were virtually on top of the enemy positions and the close range and intensity of the hostile fire pinned the men to the ground where they were ready targets for the German snipers. Private Pope voluntarily moved forward to assault the enemy positions, exposing himself to concentrated machine gun fire. He destroyed one burp gun with a hand grenade and killed the gunner; then continuing his heroic advance, he killed a sniper with well aimed rifle shots. He continued to lay down a heavy base of fire, forcing one enemy machine gun to cease firing and so harassing the enemy that its overhead fire was lifted for a long enough time that his platoon was able to withdraw to safety under a nearby bridge. Later while seeking cover under the same bridge, he was mortally wounded when it was destroyed. His loyal and courageous efforts reflect the highest credit upon himself and exemplify the finest traditions of the United States Infantryman.
Entered military service from Canton, North Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DALLAS G. NEWMAN, 37 699 264, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. During the fierce fighting for Ludwigswinkel, Germany, Private Newman noticed a wounded infantryman lying exposed to enemy fire and immediately ran to secure aid. Leading a medical aid man and officer over 500 yards of exposed terrain under intense artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, he assisted in carrying the injured man to the safety of our lines. Private Newman's courageous action undoubtedly saved his wounded comrade from suffering further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Mills, Iowa. Photo is contributed by the family of Dallas G. Newman.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EARL H. DAVIS, 35 620 852, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While a demolition squad worked to remove enemy charges at a bridge near Ludwigswinkel, Private Davis, with others, became engaged in a fire fight with the Germans. Though Private Davis and his men were outnumbered by the enemy, who soon increased their fire to include artillery and mortar shells, they held their ground until the demolition squad had completed its work. Private Davis' courageous act was an important contribution to the action in that sector.
Entered military service from Chauncey, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR J. PARKS, 35 068 508, Corporal, Corps of Engineers, Company B, 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. As a member of a volunteer detail of six Engineers who went forward with a platoon of

Infantrymen to secure two roads and bridges over which our troops were required to pass in their attack upon the Siegfried Line, Corporal Parks worked for five hours under enemy mortar and small arms fire to remove the demolition charges which had been placed on and near the bridges by the enemy. The removal of these charges prevented the destruction of the bridges and the blocking of the roads by the enemy and assured the steady progress of the Division in its advance through the Siegfried Line. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JULIUS J. MARCHI, 33 941 278, Private, Corps of Engineers, Company B, 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. As a member of a volunteer detail of six Engineers who went forward with a platoon of Infantrymen to secure two roads and bridges over which our troops were required to pass in their attack upon the Siegfried Line, Private Marchi worked for five hours under enemy mortar and small arms fire to remove demolition charges which had been placed on and near the bridges by the enemy. The removal of these charges prevented the destruction of the bridges and the blocking of the roads by the enemy and assured the steady progress of the Division in its advance through the Siegfried Line. Entered military service from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK M. BROOKS, 33 794 015, Corporal, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When the rifle platoon of which Corporal Brooks was messenger was held up by intense mortar and machine gun fire, the platoon leader attempted to contact the company commander to give him the situation. Finding the radio out of operation, Corporal Brooks volunteered to go and contact the company commander. Exposing himself to the intense enemy fire, he ran across eight hundred yards of open terrain and contacted the company commander. Corporal Brook's action enabled the company commander to employ his troops in such a manner as to overcome the enemy resistance. Entered military service from Wayne, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARLEN G. BJORK, 37 595 592, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. During the fierce fighting around Ludwigswinkel, Germany, the advance of K Company was halted by intense enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire. Upon seeing one man near him seriously wounded, Private Bjork left the cover of his foxhole and gave the man first aid. He then fearlessly helped his comrade back to the medical aid station through the withering enemy fire. Private Bjork's outstanding courage and devotion to his comrades undoubtedly saved the injured man from death. Entered military service form St. Paul, Minnesota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN J. CHERPESH, 36 982 326, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. During the bitter fighting around Ludwigswinkel, Germany, Company G suffered heavy casualties from the murderous fire of the vaunted German West Wall. Private Cherpesh, a medical aid man, braved the withering barrage of machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire to administer first aid to the wounded and direct their evacuation to the rear for further medical treatment. Through his indomitable courage and heroic devotion to duty, Private Cherpesh saved his wounded comrades from further injury or possible death.
Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD F. CIMPL, 36 825 899, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in

action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When radio communication was impossible due to mechanical failures Private Cimpl carried messages to and from the company command post and second platoon over fifty yards of open terrain under heavy machine gun and mortar fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, he continued to maintain communications for three hours, until enemy resistance was reduced. Private Cimpl's courageous actions were directly responsible for the efficient coordination maintained between the troops and Company Commander. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STANLEY V. RAINS, 02 006 333, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While moving through the town of Ludwigswinkel, Lieutenant Rains' company was subjected to such an intense concentration of enemy artillery and mortar fire that the men were forced to seek shelter in the cellars of nearby houses, and the Company Commander, with the leading platoon, was separated from the rest of the company. Despite the heavy shelling and the activity of enemy snipers in the surrounding hills, Lieutenant Rains moved from cellar to cellar organizing the platoons and establishing contact with the forward element. By his heroic action he was able to maintain control of the company and keep his commanding officer informed as to the position and availability of all the units of his command. Entered military service from Fairbury, Nebraska.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR A. KUHLMAN, 36 671 864, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While a member of a force establishing a bridgehead near Ludwigswinkel, Private Kuhlman risked his life by leaving the comparative safety of his foxhole to give aid to a severely wounded comrade who was lying exposed to heavy mortar, artillery, and machine gun fire. After treating the wounded man, he assisted him into town and secured transportation to take him to the aid station. The heroic courage of Private Kuhlman undoubtedly saved the life of the injured infantryman. Entered military service from Maryville, Illinois.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to FRED L. BLACKHURST, 02 010 784, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action, on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While holding a bridgehead with his platoon, Lieutenant Blackhurst constantly exposed himself to intense enemy mortar, artillery, machine gun and rifle fire in order to keep control and direct the fire of his platoon. He personally assaulted a hostile machine gun position and destroyed it with rifle fire and hand grenades. When ordered to withdraw, he set up a route of escape and successfully led his platoon from the area. Lieutenant Blackhurst's outstanding leadership and courage contributed immeasurably to the successful completion of his platoon's mission. Entered military service from New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to WAYNE R. MORGAN, 37 750 303, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When two platoons, having established a bridgehead near Ludwigswinkel, were subjected to an enemy counterattack of heavy mortar and small arms fire and forced to withdraw, Private Morgan covered the withdrawal by firing his automatic rifle point-blank into enemy pillbox embrasures. Though he was under constant German fire, he continued to blaze away at the enemy until he had expended 34 magazines of ammunition and his company had achieved the withdrawal. By his heroic action and undaunted courage, Private Morgan broke up the German counterattack and undoubtedly prevented capture or severe losses in his company. Entered military service from Burton, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK P. PIZZICA, 33 837 155, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. A member of a machine gun section, Private Pizzica volunteered to go to the aid of a wounded man a mile in enemy territory. With three others, he exposed himself to enemy machine gun, mortar, and sniper fire and evacuated the wounded man on an improvised stretcher across ground constantly under fire. Private Pizzica's heroic action was instrumental in saving the wounded man's life.
Entered military service from new Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

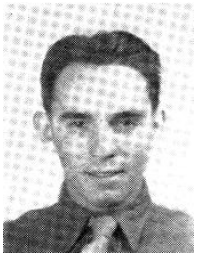


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH N. GLASER JR., 36 806 142, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While holding a bridgehead near Ludwigswinkel, Sergeant Glaser and his squad were pinned down by a heavy concentration of enemy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. Leaving his covered position to contact his platoon leader and learn the plan of defense, he then remained in the open to cover the withdrawal of his men with his rifle. Sergeant Glaser's outstanding courage under fire enabled his men to withdraw to new positions, from which they repulsed the enemy and were later able to continue the attack. Entered military service from Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to J.S. HOLLAND, 38 549 777, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When Private Holland and five comrades were cut off from the remainder of their platoon, he and the small group continued to fight the enemy at close quarters until ordered to withdraw. Crossing a bridge to new defensive positions, Private Holland saw a wounded comrade, and disregarding the intense hostile fire, administered first aid and assisted the wounded man to cover. This courageous and self-sacrificing act saved the wounded man from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Cuero, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE P. PETTINATO, 33 888 912, Sergeant, Infantry, Company G, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When his squad was cut off from the remainder of the platoon, Sergeant Pettinato deployed his men in enemy trenches and directed them in close combat with the enemy. Ordering his men to withdraw when the position became untenable, he succeeded in getting his squad back to the safety of friendly lines although he was wounded during the action. Sergeant Pettinato's extreme courage and devotion to duty contributed materially to the safe withdrawal of his squad with a minimum of casualties.
Entered military service from Washington D.C.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MAX W. HOPF, 38 677 567, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When the enemy launched an attack to eliminate the Sauer River bridgehead which his platoon was holding, Private Hopf was sent to give information of enemy and friendly positions to our supporting forces. Although exposed to intense artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, he made his way to battalion headquarters with the vital information. Private Hopf's courageous action enabled supporting artillery and mortar fire to be directed accurately on the enemy positions. Entered military service from Hondo, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD A. MURPHY, 31 207 321, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, at Ludwigswinkel, Germany. An infantry rifleman, Corporal Murphy volunteered to go to the aid of a wounded man a mile in enemy territory. With three others he exposed himself to enemy machine gun, mortar, and sniper fire, and evacuated the wounded man on an improvised stretcher across ground constantly under fire. Corporal Murphy's heroic action was instrumental in saving the wounded man's life. Entered military service from Haverhill, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONIVAN J. MILLER, 39 470 771, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While assisting in holding a vital bridgehead over the Sauer River near Ludwigswinkel, Private Miller, although under intense machine gun and mortar fire, held his position, exposing himself many times in order to place accurate automatic rifle fire on the enemy. When the company was ordered to withdraw, he assumed an exposed position and covered the withdrawal with effective fire. Private Miller's extreme courage under fire enabled his company to withdraw with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Spokane, Washington.

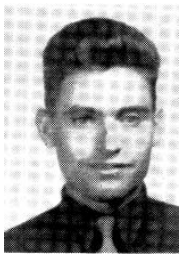
Photo is contributed by family of Donivan J. Miller.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GLENN A. PRESCOTT, 42 093 005, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While holding a vital bridgehead over the Sauer River near Ludwigswinkel, Private Prescott remained at his position throughout the entire engagement, despite intense artillery, mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire. As the company was withdrawing, he covered the withdrawal with his rifle although badly shaken by enemy concussion grenades and wounded in the leg. Private Prescott's courageous action and devotion to duty made an effective contribution to the successful withdrawal of his company.
Entered military service from Buffalo, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH FENSTER, 32 018 821, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire was inflicting heavy casualties on Company C while they were withdrawing from a bridgehead over the Sauer River near Ludwigswinkel, Private Fenster remained behind until the last, treating the wounded and enlisting the aid of other men in evacuating them. When the withdrawal was nearly completed, one wounded man was observed lying beyond the positions just evacuated. With an infantryman, Private Fenster returned under the intense fire in full view of the enemy and carried the wounded man to the safety of our lines. By his outstanding courage and devotion to duty, Private Fenster saved many lives during the withdrawal.
Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROLLIN L. HURD, 39 212 522, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. During the withdrawal of the platoon to which Corporal Hurd was attached as aid man, intense enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire inflicted many casualties.

Remaining behind with the covering force, he unhesitatingly exposed himself to the direct fire in order to treat the wounded and help evacuate them. Corporal Hurd's courageous action and devotion to duty were responsible for saving the lives of many of the wounded men. Entered military service from Hoquiam, Washington.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK E. GREENE, 37 644 801, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When his platoon was withdrawing from their bridgehead over the Sauer River in the face of intense hostile artillery, mortar, machine gun and rifle fire, Private Greene voluntarily remained behind to form part of a rear guard to cover the withdrawal. Despite the enemy fire, he remained in position directing accurate fire on the advancing enemy with his rifle. Private Greene's courageous action played a major role in the successful withdrawal of his platoon. Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri. Photo of PFC Greene postwar Austria is courtesy of Mrs. Frank E. Greene and family.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH KESSELMAN, 31 361 505, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company G, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While occupying a protective flank position with the rest of his platoon, Corporal Kesselman steadfastly held his position despite intense mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire, returning the enemy fire with carefully aimed shots. When ordered to withdraw, he remained in an exposed position and continued to lay down protective fire until his platoon had reached a new defensive position. Corporal Kesselman's courageous devotion to duty was largely responsible for the successful withdrawal of his platoon and the defense of the sector.
Entered military service from Roxbury, Massachusetts.

The First Battalion was ordered to attack Fischbach at 1210, to capture and seize the town, and continue up the draw to the north, to take and hold Hill 417. One platoon, Company B, 142d Engineers, was ordered to Petersbachel to clear mines on the road leading from Petersbachel, to Fischbach, to demine and strengthen bridge (984539) and clear the street of Fischbach of mines. One platoon, 692d Tank Destroyers Battalion, one platoon Company B, 45th Tank Battalion, 14 Armored Division, with its attached platoon from Company B, 232d Infantry, was ordered to Petersbachel to give support of the First Battalion, 232d Infantry. The Regimental CP was established at Petersbachel at 1435.

The First Battalion was then ordered to make a demonstration against Fischbach, develop enemy resistance and to locate enemy positions. Company G was on high ground (978534); Company A at 974523, both positions southwest of Fischbach. Company B moved to the high ground south of Fischbach, on the right of the Petersbachel-Fischbach Road, disposed from vicinity 992539 along the west edge of the woods to vicinity 987527, also securing the right flank.

One platoon of tanks moved to vicinity 982533. Company B sent one platoon into the draw (991539) and received heavy small arms fire. Company C and Company B subjected Fischbach and suspected enemy positions to heavy small

arms fire and light mortars. Observed artillery together with heavy tank fire was brought down on the town on located and suspected enemy positions. 81 mm mortars placed smoke and HE [high explosive(s)] on high ground in the vicinity of north Kleinroseberg (991549). All firing stopped at dark as ordered. The high ground south of Fischbach was secured, and contact with the enemy was maintained by vigorous patrolling. The First Battalion remained in positions to dig in for the night.

Meanwhile, the Second Battalion with attachments organized Task Force COLEMAN, effective 1530, **15 March**, under the command of Lt. Col. F.W. COLEMAN III, and under tactical control of division. Task Force COLEMAN cleared in the bivouac area east of Wimmenau (Q783349) at 1730 and received the mission of moving by prescribed route to seize and hold the division objective. At 2000 the mission was changed, and Task Force COLEMAN was ordered to remain motorized, and to move to the vicinity of Althorn, passing through positions held by the 117th Cavalry, and to attack the enemy presumed to be in grid 7541 to grid square 7942, the pocket of the corner of the left Corps boundary; and to seize the high ground around Mouterhouse at 0730, **16 March**, and to clear the Althorn-Mouterhouse Road.

Task Force COLEMAN continued the attack with little opposition except for the heavily-wooded terrain and mine fields (le Tannekopf Hill to le Leimenkopf). Company G was on the left, and Company F, on the right, with Company E in reserve. A platoon from Company H was with each leading company; the remainder of the company and the mortars followed in the rear. Second Battalion Headquarters Company followed the reserve company.

Leading elements of Company G entered Mouterhouse at approximately 1045. No opposition was encountered, though there were signs that the enemy had been there. At 1845, Company E was detached from Task Force COLEMAN and was joined with Company B, 48th Tank Battalion, to form a separate Task Force.

At 2045 Task Force COLEMAN was alerted for movement to a new assembly area 2000 yards west of Baerenthal (861426) where it became division reserve. The movement started at 0300 and closed at 0630. Companies F and G, under control of the 242d Infantry, with one platoon, Company D, 142d Engineers, were ordered at 2020 to establish a bridgehead to the north and north-west of Ludwigswinkel in front of the Siegfried Line.



awarded to MARTIN L. BYGUM, 20 915 943, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters First Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, 18 March, in Germany. Entered military service from San Francisco, California



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MARTIN L. BYGUM, 20 915 943, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters First Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, 19 March, in France

Photos are provided by the family of PFC Bygum; photo left: PFC Bygum is first Soldier on the left.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to KERMIT E. JONES, 34 146 820, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Barenthal, France. Leading a wire-laying party, Sergeant Jones came upon a heavily mined section of roadway and a partially destroyed bridge also heavily mined. Under Sergeant Jones' direction in total darkness the party neutralized the mines, removed the bridge charges and repaired the bridge sufficiently for their jeep to cross. The squad then continued, to complete its wire mission. By his courage and initiative, Sergeant Jones insured the installation of communications for his Battalion. Entered military service from Lexington, Tennessee.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DON WILLIAMS, 37515755, Corporal, Infantry, Headquarters, First Battalion, 232nd Infantry, for meritorious achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Barenthal, France. When the wire crew to which Corporal Williams was assigned was laying important communications lines, they encountered a heavily mined section of road and a partially destroyed bridge, also mined and booby trapped. Despite the danger of working the total darkness, the men removed and detonated countless Teller and anti-personnel mines from the road and ditches, and repaired the bridge, thereby enabling their jeep to cross. Corporal Williams' courage and devotion to duty were important factors in establishing and maintaining communications vital to the continued Battalion advance.
Entered military service from Appleton City, Missouri.

Two platoons from Company G plus three Engineers crossed the bridge in the sector between Ludwigswinkel-Fischbach (965539) at 0400, 19 March, and held positions on the bridge until 0930, when they were hit by a counterattack by infantry and automatic weapons. The First Platoon, Company G, which was on the right, was driven back to the Second Platoon positions. Some members of the company were forced to withdraw from their initial positions to cover positions on the stream bed. Under intense mortar and artillery fire, the men withdrew to cover underneath the bridge. The bridge was then blown down on top of them.

The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to BEN L. NICOLOSY, 01 822 718, First Lieutenant, Cavalry, Company C, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 18-19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. Lieutenant Nicolosi was commanding a Tank Destroyer platoon on 18 March 1945, when our troops succeeded in capturing intact two bridges in the vicinity of Ludwigswinkel, Germany, attaining a valuable point of entry into the defenses of the Siegfried Line. Anticipating a possible enemy counter-attack to regain the bridges, Lieutenant Nicolosi led his platoon under heavy

enemy artillery mortar and small arms fire to the bridge and established an anti-tank defense. The following morning he learned that fifteen enemy tanks were proceeding toward the bridgehead. Moving his Tank Destroyers from their positions, Lieutenant Nicolosi led them on foot in the face of intense enemy artillery and mortar fire, reconnoitering the route and seeking favorable firing positions for his weapons, in order to stop the impending attack. While proceeding at the head of the platoon, Lieutenant Nicolosi was killed by a mortar burst. His courageous leadership, daring initiative, and gallant self-sacrifice have been an undying inspiration to his men and are worthy of the highest praise. Name and address of nearest relative – Mrs. Mary T. Nicolosi (Wife), 1766 Lockwood Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEM BLEDSOE, 39 083 052, Sergeant, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While holding a vital bridgehead over the Sauer River near Ludwigswinkel, Sergeant Bledsoe alone manned the observation post for his light machine gun squad. Although constantly exposed to intense enemy fire from positions only thirty yards away, he remained at his post throughout the engagement until ordered to withdraw, directing accurate fire on the enemy, then covering the withdrawal with his rifle. Sergeant Bledsoe's heroic action kept the entire left flank of his company intact in the face of determined enemy counterattacks.
Entered military service from Sacramento, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LUIS F. DEL TORO JR., 38 523 708, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company G, 232n Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While defending a newly-won bridge over the Sauer River near Ludwigswinkel, Sergeant Del Toro constantly exposed himself to machine gun, mortar and artillery fire in order to deploy his squad so as to prevent the enemy from breaking through and blowing up the bridge. By his efficient and courageous leadership, Sergent Del Toro's men were able to hold their position against determined and numerically superior forces, thus contributing materially to our successful advance through the West Wall.
Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEWIS F. HANDY, 02 049 806, First Lieutenant, Medical Corps, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When informed that a wounded man was lying in front of our lines without medical aid, Lieutenant Handy and a medical corpsman advanced five hundred yards in the face of heavy artillery and sniper fire to the man's position. Administering first aid, the two men then alternately carried him back to safety across the same fire swept terrain. Lieutenant Handy's extreme courage and devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the injured man from death. Entered military service from Wichita, Kansas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PETER H. EARLY, 42 176 294, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When Private Early and six men were cut off from the remainder of the platoon, he took command and led the men through intense small arms and mortar fire in an effort to reach our lines. Although constantly exposed to the heavy fire which wounded three of his comrades, he stopped to administer first aid and assisted in carrying the wounded to safety. Private Early's courageous action unde fire enabled his men to reach safety with a minimum of casualties.
Entered military service from Bronx, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ERNEST MULVANEY, 32 377 688, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry, for heroic achievement in action, on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When his Company was pinned down by heavy enemy fire and was ordered to withdraw, Sergeant Mulvaney led the men under his command to cover. After a bridge under which they had sought protection was blown up, he carried a wounded man to safety across three hundred yards of open terrain under intense machine gun fire. By his courage and disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Mulvaney saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Beaver Falls, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWIN C. HILL, 34 972 243, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. While delivering vital maps and instructions to the Third Battalion Command Post in Ludwigswinkel, sudden enemy machine gun fire forced Private Hill to abandon his vehicle and proceed to this objective by crawling under the heavy fire. Upon completing his mission he aided a medical soldier in evacuating wounded men across a street swept by machine gun fire. Private Hill's indomitable courage and devotion to his comrades undoubtedly saved many lives. Entered military service from Atlanta, Georgia.

At 0800 Task Force COLEMAN was augmented by the First Battalion, 242d Infantry, and Company C, 142d Engineers. The Task Force was alerted to move at 1430, and was given the mission of exploiting the breakthrough in the Siegfried Line north of Ludwigswinkel. Since the artillery would be unable to move for two hours at 1600, the Task Force Commander sent the information to the Commanding General with the recommendation that the attack be postponed until the following morning. At 2130 Task Force COLEMAN was informed that it would be dissolved at 0700, **20 March**, and that the Second Battalion would revert to control of the 232d Infantry.

On **20 March**, the 232d Infantry was ordered to outpost the entire division sector while the 222d and the 242d Infantries were to attack above Fischbach and Schonau. The 232d Infantry began movement at 0630. The Second Battalion was assigned the sector from Ludwigswinkel northwest approximately 2 ½ miles (Q955534 to Q984533); the First Battalion, south Fischbach to south Rumbach (Q984533 to R040542). The 103d Infantry Division was on the right, and the 71st Infantry Division, on the left.



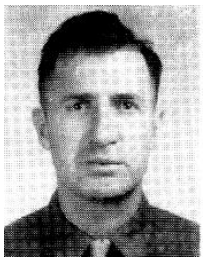
The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROBERT D. SONNEFELD, 35 755 723, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. During the attack on the West Wall, Private Sonnefeld and his squad of four men were receiving intense fire from an enemy pillbox fifty yards to their front. He crawled forward across forty yards of open terrain exposed to the fire until he was within approximately ten yards of the pillbox. He then charged toward the door, firing his automatic rifle as he went, forcing four enemy machine gunners to surrender. Private Sonnefeld then braved continued heavy fire to bring one of his wounded men to the safety of the pillbox where he administered first aid. Private Sonnefeld's gallant and aggressive action silenced a strong enemy gun position which was holding up the advance of our forces. Entered military service from Wheeling, West Virginia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to QUENTIN B. CLINE, 35 871 309, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 March 1945 near Phillipsbourg, France. During the fighting for Phillipsbourg, France, Corporal Cline drove a truckload of ammunition for the Third Battalion into the town. When his truck was observed by the enemy and subjected to a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire, he unhesitatingly ran to his vehicle through a hail of flying fragments and drove the load of high explosives out of enemy range. By his courageous actions, he saved his vehicle and vitally-needed ammunition from certain destruction. Entered military service from Mullins, West Virginia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN BOBICK, 33 111 075, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 March 1945, near Phillipsburg, France. During his company's attack on a heavily fortified hill near Phillipsburg, France, several men were seriously wounded in open areas completely exposed to the intense enemy small arms and machine gun fire. Braving the deadly hail of fire, Sergeant Bobick advanced to two of the more severely wounded, administered first aid, and carried them one at a time through the intense fire to the cover of a nearby house. By his outstanding courage and devotion to his comrades, Sergeant Bobick undoubtedly saved the lives of the injured men. Entered military service from Yatesboro, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS),** is awarded to CHARLES G. BECKWITH, JR.., 36 680 972, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. As Sergeant Beckwith's light machine gun squad was digging defensive positions along the Siegfried Line near Ludwigswinkel, Germany, they were observed by the enemy and subjected to an intense concentration of enemy artillery fire. Immediately moving his men to new and safe positions, he returned alone to pick up the machine gun. As he returned through the deadly fire with the weapon, he was mortally wounded by shell fragments. Sergeant Beckwith's outstanding courage and unswerving devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. Name and address of nearest relative: Mr. Charles G. Beckwith (Father), 127 W. North Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to HENRY A. HERSH, 37 704 217, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters First Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 March 1945, near Fischbach, Germany. When the observation post he was manning came under heavy enemy machine gun fire, Sergeant Hersh dashed out and intentionally exposed himself in order to draw hostile fire and to determine the exact position of the German weapon. At great personal risk, the Sergeant moved among the rocks of the surrounding terrain until the enemy gun emplacement could be located and the information relayed to the supporting artillery, enabling it to bring its fire to bear upon and to silence the German machine gun. Sergeant Hersh's courageous action is in keeping with the highest military tradition of the United States Army.
Entered military service from Denver, Colorado.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES R. HILL, 38 400 389, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 21 March 1945 near Fischbach, Germany. While in a forward observer party, Private Hill crawled to an exposed position under direct hostile machine gun and rifle fire in order to locate the enemy positions. While adjusting fire

on a pillbox, he was wounded in the shoulder, but he continued to direct the fire until the pillbox was destroyed. Private Hill's outstanding courage and determination enabled our artillery to destroy important enemy fortifications that were holding up the progress of our forces. Entered military service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to NORVEL J. FAGALA, 38 555 825, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action 21 March 1945 near Schonau, Germany. When one man was seriously wounded by artillery fire, Sergeant Fagala led his litter squad to the wounded man and carried him to partial cover from the continuing concentrations of enemy fire. After treating him, he once more faced the heavy fire to give blood plasma to another injured soldier, carrying him to a place of safety. Sergeant Fagala's extreme courage and devotion to duty were directly responsible for saving the two men from possible death. Entered military service from San Juan, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD G. GRAVELIN, 31 380 609, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 21 March 1945, near Fischbach, Germany. When the wire line from the observation post to the fire direction center was severed by enemy artillery fire, Sergeant Gravelin voluntarily left the protection of his foxhole and moved out under intense enemy artillery and mortar fire to make the necessary repairs. After repairing the wire he remained exposed to the heavy fire to maintain the line throughout the entire engagement. Sergeant Gravelin's courageous and aggressive action enabled vital mortar and artillery fire to be placed on the enemy positions.
Entered military service from Voluntown, Connecticut.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HOWARD R. PREST, 42 096 610, Private First Class, Infantry Headquarters First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 21 March 1945 near Fischbach, Germany. When the wire line from the observation post to the fire direction center was severed by enemy artillery fire, Private Prest voluntarily left the protection of his foxhole and moved out under intense enemy artillery and mortar fire to make the necessary repairs. After repairing the wire he remained exposed to the heavy fire to maintain the line throughout the entire engagement. Private Prest's courageous and aggressive action enabled vital mortar and artillery fire to be placed on the enemy positions. Entered military service from Albion, New York.

The Regimental Forward CP closed at Petersbachel at 0820, and moved back to the rear CP at Obersteinbach. All supporting troops were released from attachment to the 232d Infantry.

Company G was returned to control of the Second Battalion, 232d Infantry at about 1000. At about 1500 Company F rejoined the battalion, and occupied the left part of the Second Battalion sector. Company E joined the battalion at about 1700 and received orders to remain in reserve in the assembly area near Sturzelbronn.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PHIL M. WILSON, 0 686 681, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 316th Fighter Squadron, 324th Fighter Group, for heroic achievement in action on 21 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. Lieutenant Wilson served as technical air advisor to the Commanding General during the assault upon the Siegfried Line. Remaining in an exposed position within 800 yards of the enemy for two and a half hours and subjected to enemy artillery and mortar fire on 21 March

1945, he so skillfully directed five flights of fighter bombers to targets under his observation that all bombs were placed within the target area without a single casualty to our troops less than 500 yards away. On the following day Lieutenant Wilson accompanied an armored column passing through our lines to cut off the enemy retreat in order to direct aircraft upon targets of opportunity. That night he assisted in the capture, disarming and guarding of over 200 German prisoners of war. The accuracy with which Lieutenant Wilson directed the bombing greatly assisted our troops in breaching the fortifications that made up the Siegfried Line. Entered military service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEE C. GILL, 33 768 688, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action, on 20 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When his squad was pinned down by machine gun and mortar fire, Private Gill exposed himself to draw the enemy's fire so that their positions could be observed. He then flanked the enemy on the right, launching several rifle grenades into a machine gun nest, killing the two enemy gunners. Private Gill's courageous and aggressive action was a major factor in his company's successful advance upon the enemy installations. Entered military service from Lockhaven, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ERNEST POULOS, 35 383 952, Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 March 1945 at Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When a heavy concentration of enemy mortar, rifle, and machine gun fire pinned his company down, Sergeant Poulos remained in an exposed position to fire on the enemy with his automatic rifle. Although wounded in the head by a grenade, he continued to fire, refusing to withdraw until his entire platoon had been safely evacuated to new defensive positions. Sergeant Poulos' courageous and self-sacrificing action undoubtedly saved many lives of his comrades. Entered military service from Akron, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DELMORE N. HALT, 36 471 188, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 20 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When his squad received a violent enemy counterattack, Private Halt came under fire of small arms and concussion grenades at a range of approximately 20 yards. Returning the fire with his automatic rifle, Private Halt remained in full view of the enemy, holding them up until his squad had withdrawn to stronger positions. His courage and determination assisted in halting a threatened enemy penetration. Entered military service from Flint, Michigan.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ALBERT B. MOSHIER, 32 575 621, Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action, on 20 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When his company was subjected to heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Moshier, a squad leader, volunteered to cover its withdrawal to positions where it could reorganize for a counter-attack. Deliberately exposing himself to draw enemy fire upon himself, Sergeant Moshier hurled grenades at enemy positions and laid down rapid and accurate rifle fire. Not until all men of the company had withdrawn did he attempt to reach his own lines. He was unable to return, however, and was taken prisoner. By his courage and devotion to duty he enabled his company to withdraw to covered positions and prepare a successful attack.
Entered military service from Albany, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANGELO LARUSSELL, 32 510 200, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. As driver of his weapons platoon's ammunition truck, Corporal LaRussell was at the Ammunition

Supply Point when he heard heavy small arms and machine gun fire coming from the platoon's position. Realizing that the machine guns would soon be out of ammunition, he immediately set out on foot through a wooded area under artillery and mortar fire and carried ammunition to his platoon thus replenishing their almost exhausted supply. Corporal LaRussell's alertness and courageous action enabled his platoon to continue their successful advance into the city. Entered military service from Rye, New York.

The Third Battalion relieved the 222d Infantry around Ludwigswinkel at 1200, at which time Company K returned to battalion control. While holding the line, the First Battalion received heavy artillery fire in the Company A positions in Schonau. Aggressive patrolling was maintained by all battalions.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROBERT L. WACHTLER, 32 929 488, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 20 March 1945, at Ludwigswinkel, Germany, while serving as company aid man, Private Wachtler rushed out from behind the protection of a tank and, running more than thirty yards under severe mortar, artillery, and small arms fire, administered first aid to a wounded man. After evacuating the man, Private Wachtler ran a similar distance and gave first aid to another soldier. Although shot at continuously by enemy machine guns and small arms, he would not leave the injured men until he had evacuated them and sent them back to the aid station. Entered military service from Passaic, New Jersey.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROBERT H. LEMERE, 31 413 330, Private, Infantry, Headquarters First Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 March 1945 near Schonau, Germany. When a five-man Reconnaissance Patrol of which Private LeMere was a member came under concentrated enemy machine gun fire, four of the men were hit, including Private LeMere. Despite his wound, Private LeMere exposed himself to further hostile fire and crawled to a wounded comrade who lay helpless in the direct line of German observation and after dragging him to a place of comparative safety remained with him for three hours. Private LeMere's heroic act was responsible for saving the life of a comrade. Entered military service from New Haven, Connecticut.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALBERT P. ZUKUNFT, 42 007 025, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 21 March 1945 near Fischbach, Germany. While the anti-tank squad of which he was a member was manning an observation post, Private Zukunft crawled forward under intense hostile fire to gain maximum observation. While in his exposed position, he discovered an enemy pillbox, a machine gun nest and a column of vehicles, upon which he directed effective fire. His courage and skillful adjustment of fire resulted in the destruction of three important targets. Entered military service from Jasonville, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARRY L. DAVIS, 36 765 870, Technician Fifth Grade, Field Artillery, 542nd Field Artillery Battalion, Battery A, for heroic achievement in action on 21 March 1945 at Obersteinbach, France. When the gas check pad of the breech block of one of the 155 mm. howitzers of his battery failed to function properly during the firing of a mission, resulting in the flashback of the entire propelling charge and the igniting of the camouflage net over the piece and adjacent powder increments, Corporal Davis instantly grabbed a fire extinguisher from his tractor and, rushing into the immediate vicinity of the fire, sprayed the powder charges, fuzes, and fuzed projectiles, extinguishing the fire. His quick thinking and heroic action prevented the

explosion of the powder charges and projectiles which were placed near the piece and avoided numerous casualties among the personnel of the battery. Entered military service from Metropolis, Illinois.

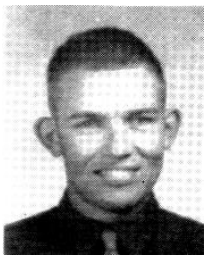


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT W. EVANS, 36 826 408, Private First Class, Infantry , Headquarters First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious achievement in action on 21 March 1945 near Shonau, Germany. A reconnaissance patrol was ambushed deep in enemy territory , suffering several casualties, Private Evans voluntarily drove the jeep with another patrol in an effort to find two of the men who had failed to return. He unhesitatingly motored deep into enemy territory. After locating the wounded men , he delivered them safely and promptly to the aid station . Private Evans ' courageous action played a major role in saving the lives of the two men. Entered military service from Madison, Wisconsin.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LUIS V. SAUCEDO, 38 411 622, Private, Medical Department, Medical Detachment 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 21 March 1945, at Schonau, Germany. As Company A was moving through Schonau, they were suddenly subjected to intense enemy artillery fire that left one man seriously wounded in an open area. Private Saucedo unhesitatingly ran to his aid, gave him medical attention, and summoned litter bearers. Seeing another man struck by the enemy fire, he fearlessly braved the intense fire to treat this soldier also. He shielded the wounded man with his own body until the litter bearers returned to carry him to safety. Private Saucedo's outstanding courage and devotion to his comrades undoubtedly saved the two men's lives. Entered military service from Campo, Texas.

For the next two days, the regiment maintained its positions outposting the division sector, and continued patrolling to develop enemy locations and to maintain contact with the enemy. At 1222, **22 March**, the Regimental Forward CP was established at Ludwigswinkel. The Second and Third Battalions assembled in the vicinity of their respective CP's on division order, the Third Battalion closing at 0740, and the Second Battalion, at 0830. The First Battalion remained in position.

The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN C. CAVIN, 0 362 353, Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry, Headquarters 48th Tank Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 22 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. Colonel Cavin led an attack by tank-riding Infantry which penetrated enemy defenses at Salzwoog and then east and south to Dahn and Busenberg. The attack was made with such perfect coordination and violence that the enemy was completely disorganized. Colonel Cavin personally made a foot reconnaissance through the burning town of Busenberg to insure the momentum of the attacking elements under his command. His professional ability and leadership led to the collapse of enemy resistance at a critical point.
Entered military service from Menlo, Geogia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BENNIE B. WHITTINGTON, 34 871 062, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 21 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. During the fierce fighting near Ludwigswinkel, heavy casualties were being inflicted on our troops by intense enemy mortar concentrations. Private Whittington advanced fifty yards to the side of an injured man, shielded the wounded man with his own body and evacuated him when the mortar fire had lifted slightly. This heroic and self-sacrificing action saved the injured man from certain death.
Entered military service from Crystal Springs, Mississippi.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to EDWARD G. LINDLEY, 38 542 872, Staff Sergeant (then Technician Fifth Grade), Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When the enemy thrust a determined counter attack against our bridgehead near Ludwigswinkel, Germany, Corporal Lindley, despite intense concentrations of machine gun, rifle and artillery fire, and with complete disregard for personal safety, rushed the oncoming forces. Hurling several grenades into the hostile troops, he killed six and forced the remaining Germans to withdraw. He then led his men in a successful withdrawal from their precarious position. Through his outstanding leadership and gallant actions, Corporal Lindley enabled his patrol to return to the main line of resistance without casualties. Entered military service from Houston, Texas.

The 232d Infantry minus the First Battalion and Company F formed in the vicinity of Ludwigswinkel and attacked in a column of battalions, the Third Battalion leading, and secured the ground in the vicinity of 035598. Combat patrols were sent out by the Third Battalion to contact elements of the 242d Infantry at Dahn.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HOMER T. DOOLEY, 18 004 802, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 22 March 1945, near Dahn, Germany. Serving as a lineman on the Regimental wire team, Private Dooley's fortitude and tireless energy greatly aided in maintaining vital signal communications between the Regimental Command Post and the rapidly advancing battalions. When his wire vehicle became mired, Private Dooley hand-carried over 3,000 yards of wire to the forward battalions. Despite the mountainous terrain, road blocks and the presence of enemy snipers, he accomplished his mission. Private Dooley's courage and unfaltering devotion to duty reflect the highest standards of the Rainbow Division. Entered military service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD E. STOUT, 35 614 643, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 22 March 1945, near Dahn, Germany. Serving as a lineman on the Regimental wire team, Corporal Stout's fortitude and tireless energy greatly aided in maintaining vital signal communications between the Regimental Command Post and the rapidly advancing battalions. When his wire vehicle became mired, Corporal Stout hand-carried over 3,000 yards of wire to the forward battalions. Despite the mountainous terrain, road blocks and the presence of enemy snipers, he accomplished his mission. Corporal Stout's courage and unfaltering devotion to duty reflect the highest standards of the Rainbow Division. Entered military service from Dayton, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILSON R. TURNER, 34 973 196, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 22 March 1945, near Dahn, Germany. Serving as a lineman on the Regimental wire team, Private Turner's fortitude and tireless energy greatly aided in maintaining vital signal communications between the Regimental Command Post and the rapidly advancing battalions. When his wire vehicle became mired, Private Turner hand-carried over 3,000 yards of wire to the forward battalions. Despite the mountainous terrains, road blocks and the presence of enemy snipers, he accomplished his mission. Private Turner's courage and unfaltering devotion to duty reflect the highest standards of the Rainbow Division. Entered military service from Birmingham, Alabama.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CALVIN L. FORD, JR., 38 687 830, Private First Class, Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 22 March 1945, near Dahn, Germany. When his squad was halted by intense enemy sniper fire, Private Ford maneuvered his automatic rifle quickly and personally eliminated the major portion of the enemy fire, killing two, wounding two, and forcing others to surrender. Private Ford's prompt and decisive action prevented any delay to the Battalion's advance, and contributed materially to the seizure of the Battalion objective on schedule. Entered military service from San Augustine, Texas.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM V. HUFF, 34 734 836, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 22 March 1945, near Dahn, Germany. When his platoon approached Dahn in the attack on the town, heavy enemy sniper fire was encountered threatening to halt the advance of the Battalion. Sergeant Huff, acting as Platoon Sergeant, took two squads and by rapid and efficient maneuvering eliminated the snipers, permitting the Battalion to continue on its assigned mission. His initiative and leadership were instrumental in effecting the capture of the town with minimum casualties. Entered military service from Knoxville, Tennessee.

The First Battalion, under division control as Task Force CUSTER, under the command of Lt. Col. B. C.W. CUSTER, assembled in the vicinity of Schonau at 1558 and advanced along the route Schonau-Rothweiler to Rumbach.

The Third Battalion had the following attachments in support: two squads from the Anti-Tank platoon; the third Platoon, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyers Battalion; one platoon, Company A, 142d Engineers. In support of the Second Battalion were one squad, Anti-Tank mine platoon; the second platoon, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyers Battalion.

Company F, 232d Infantry, and Company B, 48th Tank Battalion, organized Task Force STUDER, commanded by Major STUDER, and under division control, cleared the main road network in the cities as follows: Ludwigswinkel to Salswoog, Hintersweindenthel, Dahn, Erfweiler, Schindhard, stopping for the night at Busenberg.

The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awrded to
JOHN C. CAVIN, 0 362 353, Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry, Headquarters 48thTank Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 22 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. Colonel Cavin led an attack by tank-riding Infantry which penetrated enemy defenses at Salzwoog and then east and south to Dahn and Busenberg. The attack was made with such perfect coordination and violence that the enemy was completely disorganized. Colonel Cavin personally made a spot reconnaissance through the burning town of Busenberg to inspire the momentum of the attacking elements under his command. His professional ability and leadership led to the collapse of enemy resistance at a critical point. Entered military service from Menlo, Georgia.



The SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM G. MITSCH, 01 288 276, Captain, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 22 March 1945 near Dahn, Germany. During the attack on Dahn, Captain Mitsch was leading his company in a tank-supported attack on

the flank of the city. Though the intense fire from hostile machine guns and rifles had forced his men to dismount and proceed on foot, he remained on one of the leading tanks in full view of the enemy to direct the movements of his company. By his heroic example and courageous leadership, Captain Mitsch played a major role in the capture of the town together with more than two thousand prisoners. Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLAUDE R. BROWN, JR., 12 211 918, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 22 March 1945, near Dahn and Busenberg, Germany. When a task force of infantry and tanks were held up by panzerfaust and small arms fire, Private Brown manned a machine gun on top of one of the tanks and fired into the enemy positions. Although small arms fire was immediately concentrated on him, Private Brown continued to fire, permitting others in the platoon to flank the enemy and force their surrender. By his unhesitating and courageous action, Private Brown contributed materially to the successful advance of our forces. Entered military service from Camden, New Jersey.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to CHARLES L. BENNETT, 36 979 322, Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 near Stein, Germany. Sergeant Bennett was riding on the lead tank of an advance patrol when the vehicle was struck by a panzerfaust, throwing him to the ground. Racing to a covered firing position under constant sniper fire, he engaged the retreating enemy bazooka team, killing all of them. He then noticed several snipers harassing the tank crews, shifted his fire, and killed or wounded at least ten of them. Sergeant Bennett's skill and extreme courage were important factors in the success of his company in this action. Entered military service from Hamburg, Michigan.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to NORMAN C. OPP, 02 006 235, Second Lieutenant, Allied Military Government, 42d Division, for heroic achievement in action, 22 March 1945, near Dahn, Germany. While leading his platoon in a tank-supported attack on the town of Dahn, Lieutenant Opp remained in an exposed position on the lead tank in order to direct the movements of his men. Despite the intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire, he moved forward into the town alone to question the natives, thus aiding materially in ferreting out enemy pockets of resistance. By his heroic example and aggressive leadership, Lieutenant Opp played a major role in the successful capture of the town. Entered military service from Eureka, South Dakota.

At 1810 the Third Battalion front received air support in the form of bombardment and strafing in the enemy territory in front of Ludwigswinkel. Opposition during the day consisted of sporadic artillery, mortar, small arms fire, and small enemy patrols. The 232d Infantry cleared the area of advance and captured the high ground near Dahn.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GILES R. CARPENTER, 014 915, Colonel, Field Artillery, 42d Infantry Division Artillery, for meritorious service in action during the period 13 March 1945 to 22 March 1945, inclusive. As Commanding Officer, 42d Infantry Division Artillery, during the attack on the Siegfried Line and the exploitation of the breakthrough, Colonel Carpenter so employed his artillery battalions as to give maximum support to the attacking infantry elements. In spite of

the fact that artillery positions in the Hardt Mountains were almost non-existent, Colonel Carpenter's constant personal reconnaissance, close supervision, and superior planning made possible the development of well placed artillery concentrations, both in the initial attack and in support of the breakthrough and pursuit that followed, which resulted in the complete destruction of the artillery components of two German Infantry Divisions in the vicinity of Busonberg, Dahn, and Erfweiler, Germany.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN MEADE, 016 338, Colonel, Field Artillery, Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, for meritorious service in action during the period 24 December 1944 to 5 February 1945 and 13 March 1945 to 22 March 1945, inclusive. Colonel Meade served as Chief of Staff of Task Force Linden from 24 December 1944 to 5 February 1945 during the enemy attack on Alsace. The establishment of the Gambsheim bridgehead and concentration of enemy strength along the front occupied by our troops posed a definite threat to our lines of communication. Although operating with a skeleton staff and with troops experiencing combat for the first time, Colonel Meade's untiring efforts in conducting necessary liaison with adjoining French Forces and his aid in organizing the extremely large and difficult defensive sector were important factors in the successful defense of the area. During the period 13 March to 22 March 1945, Colonel Meade served as Executive Officer, 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, when the Division made its attack through the Hardt Mountains and breached the Siegfried Line. Although the mountainous terrain and inadequacy of the road net made the movement and employment of artillery exceedingly difficult, the skillful assistance rendered to the Division Artillery Commander by Colonel Meade in the location of battalion positions, reconnaissance of routes, and coordination of fires of the artillery battalions and his indefatigable energy and superior professional ability contributed greatly to the outstanding support rendered by the Division Artillery and to the successful accomplishments of its missions during the entire operations. Entered military service from New Orleans, Louisiana.

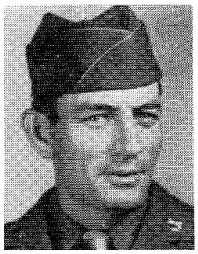


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RALPH B. COFFIN, 0 309 442, Lieutenant Colonel, Artillery, Headquarters, 42d Infantry Division Artillery, for meritorious service in action during the period 24 December 1944 to 1 February 1945 and the period 13 March 1945 to 22 March 1945, inclusive. During the period 24 December 1944 – 1 February 1945 Colonel Coffin acted as Artillery Officer of Task Force Linden, which had the mission of defending the Gambsheim, Herrlisheim, Hatten, Rittershoffen sector without organic or attached artillery. By his skillful planning of fires and efficient liaison with VI Corps Artillery, Colonel Coffin obtained highly effective artillery support for our infantry in spite of the difficulties encountered by reason of the dispersion of our forces over a wide area and the overwhelming strength of the enemy. As S-3, 42d Infantry Division Artillery during the period 13 March 1945 to 22 March 1945, Colonel Coffin carefully planned and coordinated the fires of the Division Artillery which supported the attack through the Hardt Mountains and the breakthreough of the Siegfried Line. His untiring efforts and superior professional knowledge were largely responsible for the effective fire plans used during the attack and the coordination and supervision of the execution of such plans.
Entered military service from Hutchinson, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALTER J. RANKIN, 0 024 455, Major, Field Artillery, 392d Field Artillery Battalion, for meritorious achievement in action during the period 13 March 1945 to 22 March 1945, inclusive. As commanding officer, 392d Field Artillery Battalion, Major Rankin so successfully employed his battalion during the attack upon and breaching of the Siegfried Line that it was able to render direct support of one of the attacking infantry regiments in a superior manner. His thorough reconnaissance was responsible for the location of his battery positions in unusually difficult terrain. The skillful organization of the preparation fired in the initial phases of

the attack on the Siegfried Line and the accuracy and effectiveness of the fires of the battalion throughout the entire attack were largely due to Major Rankin's untiring efforts, outstanding leadership, and professional ability. Entered military service from Columbus, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR C. WYNN, 6 266 951, Master Sergeant, Artillery, Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, for meritorious service in action during the period 24 December 1944 to 1 February 1945 and 13 March 1945 to 22 March 1945, inclusive. During the period 24 December 1944 to 1 February 1945, Sergeant Wynn acted as Operations Sergeant of the Artillery Section of Task Force Linden, which had the mission of defending the Gambsheim, Herrlisheim, Hatten, Rittershoffen sector without organic or attached artillery. When the Germans attacked in great strength and succeeded in establishing the Gambsheim bridgehead, Sergeant Wynn was of exceptional assistance in the preparation of fire plans which were fired by VI Corps Artillery. As Operation Sergeant, 42nd Infantry Division Artillery during the period 13 March 1945 to 22 March 1945, Sergeant Wynn assisted in the planning and co-ordination of the fires of the Division Artillery, which supported the attack through the Hardt Mountains and the break through of the Siegfried Line. Frequently called upon to perform the duties usually assigned to an officer, his ability and untiring effort kept the command post and fire direction center functioning effectively and contributed materially to the successful accomplishment of the mission of the Division Artillery.
Entered military service from Argyle, Texas.

On **23 March** the regiment continued on order its advance reducing all enemy resistance in the zone of action. Company F and the First Battalion were released from division control for this operation. At 0630, the first elements of foot troops from the First Battalion were on the road to Bruchweiler, through which they passed, and into the town of Busenberg, were they established a temporary CP. At 1117 the First Battalion received the order to go into Corps Reserve, and displaced to Oberschlettenbach, establishing the CP in that town at 1335.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARNOLD B. ALPERT, 0 401 905, Captain, Infantry, Headquarters First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 March 1945 near Oberschlettenbach, Germany. Directed to go forward and establish a command post in the town of Oberschlettenbach, Captain Alpert discovered that the town had not yet been entered by our forward elements. Bluffing his way through the long lines of wounded left behind by the retreating enemy, he entered the town. Leading his two men, he succeeded in capturing 57 enemy soldiers and completely clearing the town before our attacking elements moved in. Captain Alpert's daring and courageous action played a major role in the rapid advance of his Battalion through this area. Entered military service from Denver, Colorado.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK GENOVA, 32 106 324, Technician Fourth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 March 1945 near Auernheim, Germany. While a convoy was halted awaiting further orders, the enemy placed a heavy artillery concentration on its position. After the personnel had taken cover, Sergeant Genova exposed himself to the intense enemy fire and ran to the front of the convoy where he secured a radio and carried it back to the Headquarters

Company Commander. His prompt and extremely courageous action enabled a counter-artillery barrage to be placed on the enemy guns, silencing them and saving many lives and valuable equipment from destruction. Entered military service from New York, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHESTER H. RAKOW, 33 753 964, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 23 March 1945, at Oberschlettenbach, Germany. Upon entering the town of Oberschlettenbach to establish a forward Command Post, it was learned that our forces had not yet occupied the town. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Rakow started to search the buildings, encountering and disarming eight enemy in the first house. He then proceeded to help the remainder of the party in clearing the town and later established a stockade for the forty prisoners captured by the party. Private Rakow's outstanding courage and initiative played a major role in clearing the town for the Command Post personnel.
Entered military service from Mt. Ranier, Maryland.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAUL J. FUSZNER, 37 622 899, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 March 1945 at Oberschlettenbach, Germany. Upon entering the town of Oberschlettenbach, to establish a forward Command Post, it was learned that our forces had not yet occupied the town. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Corporal Fuszner entered one of the buildings armed only with a .45 caliber pistol and emerged a few minutes later with six prisoners. Corporal Fuszner's outstanding courage and aggressiveness played a major role in clearing the town for the Command Post personnel.
Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.

The Third Battalion moved forward at 0230 to the vicinity of Schindhard (055606) and established a CP there at 0800. At 0756 the rear CP closed, moving forward in motorized convoy, reaching Dahn at 1045, with very little opposition. At 1445 the convoy reached Dorstein, set up a CP there at 1530.

Closing in the battalion assembly area at 0830, the Second Battalion was ordered to move to a new assembly area in the woods. The CP was in the vicinity between Ludwigswinkel and Petersbachel (968521), east of the Third Battalion assembly area. The Second Battalion, by truck movement, closed the new area at 1230. Then the orders were received to move by foot following the Third Battalion through the Siegfried Line, with the mission of clearing up any opposition, capturing any prisoners that they might encounter or that might be bypassed by the Third Battalion; and to seize and hold the high ground north of Berindhard. The initial movement started at 1500. Little opposition was encountered. The battalion flushed out part of a 75 mount howitzer battery and took prisoners.

The Regimental Forward CP elements arrived at Schindhard at 1000; from there they moved to Oberschlettenbach, arriving there at 1800.

The leading elements of the Second Battalion reached their objective at 0800, **24 March**, and then received orders to proceed by cross country march to the

town of Oberschlettenbach, to continue mopping-up operations throughout the area, to occupy that town and go into an assembly area north of town. Company F established and maintained a PC [prisoner compound] enclosure, roving patrol and road blocks in Oberschlettenbach. The First and Third Battalions organized and occupied defensive positions.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALTER J. KILGALLON, 36 684 555, Corporal, Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action 24 and 25 March 1945, at Reipertsweiller, France. On 24 March 1945, near Reipertsweiller, France, Corporal Kilgallon, Graves Registration non-commissioned officer, walked into a heavily mined area on a hill to remove our dead so they could be buried. The mines had not been cleared and removing the bodies of those men was an extremely dangerous undertaking over approximately 1,000 yards of difficult terrain. Corporal Kilgallon made the several trips necessary to remove all the bodies, displaying outstanding courage and faithful devotion to his comrades in arms. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELLIS O. DAVIS, 019 387, Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers, 142 Engineer Combat Battalion, for meritorious service in action during the period 15 March 1945 to 24 March 1945, inclusive. As Division Engineer, Colonel Davis supervised and co-ordinated the activities of two Combat Engineer Battalions during the preparation for and the attack upon the Siegfried Line. Operating among the leading elements of the advance and frequently well ahead of friendly troops, Colonel Davis conducted reconnaissance for routes of advance and directed the removal of enemy abatis, minefields, booby traps, demolished bridges, and other obstacles, in the midst of manned enemy fortifications and under heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. His skillful planning, rapid judgement and detailed supervision of engineer operations made possible the opening and maintaining of lines of communication for the troops, supplies and equipment needed to continue the advance and the exploitation of the breakthrough. Entered military service from Lansing, Michigan.

On **25 March**, Companies E, G, and H were assigned sectors within the regimental zone of advance to recheck the area for location of pillboxes and enemy in hiding who might have been bypassed. The companies assisted the Engineers and the Anti-Tank platoons in locating field pieces, food stores, and ammunition dumps; also in blowing up pillboxes.



The SOLDIER'S MEDAL is awarded to EDWIN A. GERLIKOWSKI, 0 548 773, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy on 25 March 1945 near Rumbach, Germany. When another officer was overcome by poisonous fumes in a Siegfried Line pillbox which had recently been dynamited, Lieutenant Gerlikowski entered the fortification and carried out the unconscious officer. Lieutenant Gerlikowski then successfully administered artificial respiration. By his heroic act Lieutenant Gerlikowski saved the life of a fellow officer. Entered military service from Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The regiment continued in defensive occupation of positions, and established contacts with adjacent units. The Third Battalion maintained a perimeter defense

of Darstein. The 103rd Infantry Division was on the right flank, and the 242d Infantry Regiment, on the left.

On **26 March** all battalions withdrew to an assembly area and closed at 1200. A period of reorganization and consolidation was conducted. On 27 March, the regiment began a training program stressing physical conditioning and small unit tactics. First echelon maintenance of all vehicles and equipment was maintained.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD G. WIDEEN, 37 024 524, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 29 March 1945 at Stein, Germany. While Sergeant Wideen was riding on a tank which was part of one of our advance patrols, an enemy panzerfaust scored a direct hit, knocking him to the ground. Although wounded he advanced to a favorable position from which he opened fire on the enemy, killing and wounding several, and kept up acontinuous concentration of rifle fire until reinforcements arrived. Sergeant Wideen's courage and devotion to duty despite his wound were important contributions to the successful entry of the town.
Entered military service from Minneapolis, Minnesota.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to MAX M. MROTEK, 36 981 864, Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 March 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the advance of our forces toward the city of Wurzburg, Germany, the leading elements of Company C were attacked by a strong enemy force which inflicted numerous casualties on our troops. Sergeant Mrotek, with complete disregard for his personal safety, advanced through the intense machine gun, small arms, and grenade fire to the side of one of the casualties and brought him back to a waiting truck. Then, making another trip down a fire-swept street, he carried one more of the wounded back to safety. Sergeant Mrotek's exceptional courage and selfless determination undoubtedly saved the lives of the two men and reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces. Entered military service from Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

During the month of March, a total of 2,733 prisoners of war were captured.

To fill vacancies caused by casualties, and in recognition of outstanding service and leadership ability, 14 enlisted men received battlefield promotions to the rank of Second Lieutenant.

The 232d Infantry was commended for its activities during the month of March by the Commanding General as follows:

APO 411, U.S. Army **26 March 1945**



SUBJECT: Commendation
TO: The Infantry

1. These outstanding combat successes accomplished by the Infantry in the Division's recent operation are worthy of high praise, and I take this opportunity to congratulate and commend you upon your accomplishments and a job well done.

2. In a large measure, this success can be attributed to the active patrolling performed on our first defensive position, and the determination on the part of officers and men to carry through. The active patrolling performed on our first defensive position was done primarily to give our troops the confidence that they could close with and defeat the enemy, and secondarily to determine enemy dispositions both as to personnel and mines, and to determine the weak spots in his defensive position. Both were successful. Every officer and man on every patrol that <u>accomplished its mission</u> (both combat and reconnaissance patrols) enabled this Division to drive through the soft spots in the enemy position and accomplish this remarkably successful operation with the absolute minimum of casualties. To those who were members of these successful patrols and to those who made sound tactical use of this information and drove through with esprit and the will-to-do, I give my heartfelt thanks and congratulations. Through their efforts the Division has accomplished an outstanding job which has cost the enemy severely in prisoners, killed and wounded and materiel and at the same time saving thousands of lives of our own Rainbowers. The successful accomplishment by the Division of its mission was a definite factor in the success of the VI Corps attack.

3. Another chapter has been written in our history, and I know we will continue to add success after success in future operations in the European Theatre. Again, congratulations and nice going!

HARRY J. COLLINS
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

[From the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3: Operations of 42D Infantry Division – 1 April 1945 – 31 April 1945]

During the latter days of March, the 42d Infantry Division crossed the RHINE River at WORMS, and entered the lines along the MAIN River thirty-three (33) miles west of WURZBURG. With the 222d Infantry on the right, and 232d Infantry on the left, the Regiments moved forward as far as possible on motors, and then detrucked, deployed along a line extending from WEILBACH north to WORTH, and continued fighting the enemy. The enemy continued to withdraw, and the Infantry followed closely. This was the beginning of a rapid hard month of fighting for the Division, and it proved to be a disastrous month for the enemy.

Departing the vicinity of Oberschlettenbach on **31 March**, the 232d Infantry moved by motor across the Rhine River to relieve elements of the 3rd Infantry Division. The convoy traveled approximately 206 kilometers, following a route east to Landau, north to Neustadt, north to Grunstadt, east to Frankenthal, north to Worms crossing the Rhein River there, then east to Bürstadt, southeast to Viernheim, east to Weinheim, southeast to Schonau, crossing the Main River at Worth. At 1447 hours the Regimental CP was established at Monchberg (1033)., with all units in their assigned assembly areas in the regimental sector except the Third Battalion, which had its CP in Rollbach.

I. CAPTURE OF WURZBURG.

The 42d Infantry Division was still attached to XXI Corps at the beginning of the month, and the Division CP was located at KLEIN-HEUBACH, a small town on the MAIN River approximately thirty-three miles west of WURZBURG. The 222d Infantry was deployed on the right of the MAIN River, and the 232d on the left of the MAIN River. The Division zone extended from WEIL-BACH north to WORTH. The 4th Infantry Division was on the right and the 3d Infantry Division on the left of the 42d Division. After vigorous patrolling during the night 1 April, it was determined that the enemy was withdrawing rapidly. At 1000A the 222d Infantry attacked with 2 battalions abreast, 1st Bn on the left and 2d Bn on the right, both Bns shuttling with motors. The mission was to advance and capture WERTHEIM, a strong delaying position located on the MAIN River. The advance was very rapid against light and spotty resistance until the near vicinity of WERTHEIM was reached. Since the surrounding high ground was a very strategic location, the enemy opposed very strongly. After hard fighting, the town was cleared by 2100A, and the advance continued toward WURZBURG. The 3d Bn, reinforced by 2 platoons of TDs [tank destroyers] from 692d TD Bn, was motorized, and ordered by XXI Corps to move rapidly NE to join Task

Force 1 of CCA, 12th Armored Division, in HETTSTADT (N4835). The 3d Bn of 232d Infantry closed in regimental area at 0700A. The 1st and 2d Bns attacked at 1400A with the objective of MARKT-HEIDENFELD. Both Bns encountered strong enemy resistance Vic of HASSLOCH River, and the advance was slow and difficult over very rough mountainous terrain and a poor road net. The 3d Bn was organized as Division Reserve and assembled at LAUDENBACH (N0328). The 242d Infantry, less the 3d Bn that remained West of the RHINE River, moved by motors to an assembly area in rear of 222d Infantry.

At 0700, **1 April**, the Third Battalion closed in the regimental assembly area. The Third Division had side stepped and was on the left flank, and the 222d Infantry Regiment, on the right. Company B, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the regiment, with one platoon assigned to each attacking battalion.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES O. CLANTON, 14 203 726, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 April 1945, near Breitenbrunn, Germany. When his platoon was ambushed by a superior enemy force in Breitenbrunn, Germany, Private Clanton was seriously wounded by the initial burst of enemy fire. Despite his wound, he remained in a position exposed to the intense small arms and machine gun fire in order to protect the platoon's left flank. When the order to withdraw was given, he remained behind until the last man had moved out covering the movement with his automatic rifle. Private Clanton's courageous action and aggressive determination contributed materially to his comrades' successful withdrawal from their precarious position. Entered military service from Birmingham, Alabama.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STEPHEN H. OPAZDA, 31 227 234, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 April 1945, near Knudstein, Germany. Advancing as first scout into the town of Knudstein, Private Opazda spotted the well-concealed and dug-in enemy positions. He immediately fired into them and deliberately drew the enemy attention and fire upon himself. Despite a serious bullet wound in the right arm, Private Opazda continued firing into the enemy positions until the remainder of the platoon flanked the enemy. Through his outstanding act of superior bravery and initiative the enemy was taken completely by surprise and was quickly eliminated. Entered military service from New Bedford, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES A. ALMAGUER, 39 585 926, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While acting as platoon runner, Private Almaguer performed his duties under constant enemy observation and fire. On one occasion when his platoon had been pinned down by sniper fire in Wurzburg, Private Almaguer, picked his way through the rubble of the city despite the enemy fire, located the snipers, killing or wounding them. Through his courageous action his platoon was enabled to continue moving forward in the attack. Entered military service from Moorpark, California.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to JOSEPH F. WOOD, 33 482 592, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When his company was held up by enemy fire from well hidden snipers, Corporal Wood deliberately exposed himself to spot the enemy positions. After he had drawn the German fire, he worked his way

forward of the company to a position from which he was able to definitely locate the enemy. Corporal Wood then returned and directed machine gun fire on the hostile emplacements, enabling a platoon of riflemen to attack and overrun the positions and capture forty prisoners. His outstanding courage and devotion to duty were responsible for the success of his company in completing its mission.
Entered military service from Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.

The 232d Infantry resumed the attack, advancing to the east in the vicinity of Markt-Heidenfeld. The Third Battalion reverted to Division reserve in the vicinity of Laudenbach. The First Battalion encountered enemy delaying action in the vicinity of the Hassloch River. Released to regimental control, the Third Battalion followed the Second Battalion by bounds to an assembly area near Oberaltenbuch, where the Regimental CP was located.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DORCY L. H. WATLER, 0 558 412, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 1 April 1945 near Breitenbrunn, Germany. When his company was fired upon by small arms and panzerfaust fire and forced to withdraw, Lieutenant Watler advanced through the heavy fire to the aid of a seriously wounded man, carrying him to safety. Although wounded by another panzerfaust explosion, he refused evacuation until all his men had withdrawn to safety. Lieutenant Watler's courage and leadership were important factors in the safe and rapid withdrawal of his men.
Entered military service from Port Arthur, Texas.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to RICHARD L. FAULKNER, 31 380 476, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 1 April 1945 near Breitenbrunn, Germany. When forward elements of his company drew rifle and automatic weapons fire, Corporal Faulkner manned a jeep-mounted 50 caliber machine gun and returned the fire. A panzerfaust exploded near the jeep, wounding the driver and knocking Corporal Faulkner to the ground. Despite the force of the concussion, he ran to the aid of the driver and dragged him to a place of safety, returned to his gun and alone covered the withdrawal of the other troops, remaining in his exposed position until ordered to withdraw by the company commander. He then carried the driver to cover where he assisted in caring for his wounds and aided other men wounded in the withdrawal. Corporal Faulkner's prompt and courageous action permitted his company to make an organized withdrawal and saved several wounded men from possible death or capture.
Entered military service from New London, Connecticut.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM F. SALLEY, 38 663 969, Private, Field Artillery, Battery A, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 1 April 1945, near Breitenbrunn, Germany. As a member of the Forward Observer Section attached to Company C of the 232d Infantry, Private Salley on 1 April 1945, near Breitenbrunn, Germany, crossed a two-hundred yard clearing under concentrated enemy sniper fire to get his radio from a vehicle. Then, still exposed to hostile action, he returned to the forward observer position and set up communication with supporting artillery. Private Salley's courageous act enabled the artillery battery to effectively adjust fire on the German positions. Entered military service from Benton, Arkansas.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THOMAS B. GIBONEY JR. 0 556 795, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company D, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 1 April 1945, near Faulbach, Germany. When the attacking First Battalion was met by heavy machine gun and small

arms fire, Lt. Giboney exposed himself to enemy fire and observation to lead his heavy machine gun platoon to a firing position. While still exposed to intense enemy fire, he set up the machine guns and directed their fire on the enemy positions. Lieutenant Giboney's outstanding courage and leadership enabled the rifle troops to advance and successfully assault the enemy installations. Entered military service from Tulsa, Oklahoma.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to WILLIAM R. OLIVER, 01 179 559, 1st Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 1-2 April 1945, at Breitenbrunn, Germany. While acting as Forward Observer with Company C, 232d Infantry, at Breitenbrunn, Germany, on 1 April 1945, Lieutenant Oliver was adjusting fire on enemy weapons in the town when he was caught in a cross fire from hostile small arms. Leaving his observation post, he immediately moved to a new position in an open field, from where, under heavy German machine gun and small arms fire, he brought artillery fire to bear upon the enemy, effectively supporting the Infantry in its attack upon the town. The following day, pinned down by fire from hostile machine guns less than fifty yards from his observation post, Lieutenant Oliver effectively directed the fire from his Battalion upon the enemy positions, neutralizing the fire and enabling our Infantry to advance through the town with a minimum of casualties. The skill exhibited by Lieutenant Oliver as an Artillery Observer and his coolness and courage under fire reflect distinct credit upon himself and the armed services of the United States. Entered military service from North Garden, Virginia.
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists 1st Lt. Oliver as killed in action on 04/09/45].
1LT William R. Oliver rests under the care of Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, St. Avold, Lorraine, France.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN B. MCKENNA, 15 317 428, Private, Field Artillery, Battery A, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 1 April 1945, near Breitenbrunn, Germany. As a member of the Forward Observer Section attached to Company C of the 232d Infantry, Private McKenna on 1 April 1945, near Breiterbroun, Germany, crossed a two-hundred yard clearing under concentrated enemy sniper fire to get his radio from a vehicle. Then, still exposed to hostile action, he returned to the forward observer position and set up communication with supporting artillery. Private McKenna's courageous act enabled the artillery battery to effectively adjust fire on the German positions. Entered military service from Cincinnati, Ohio.



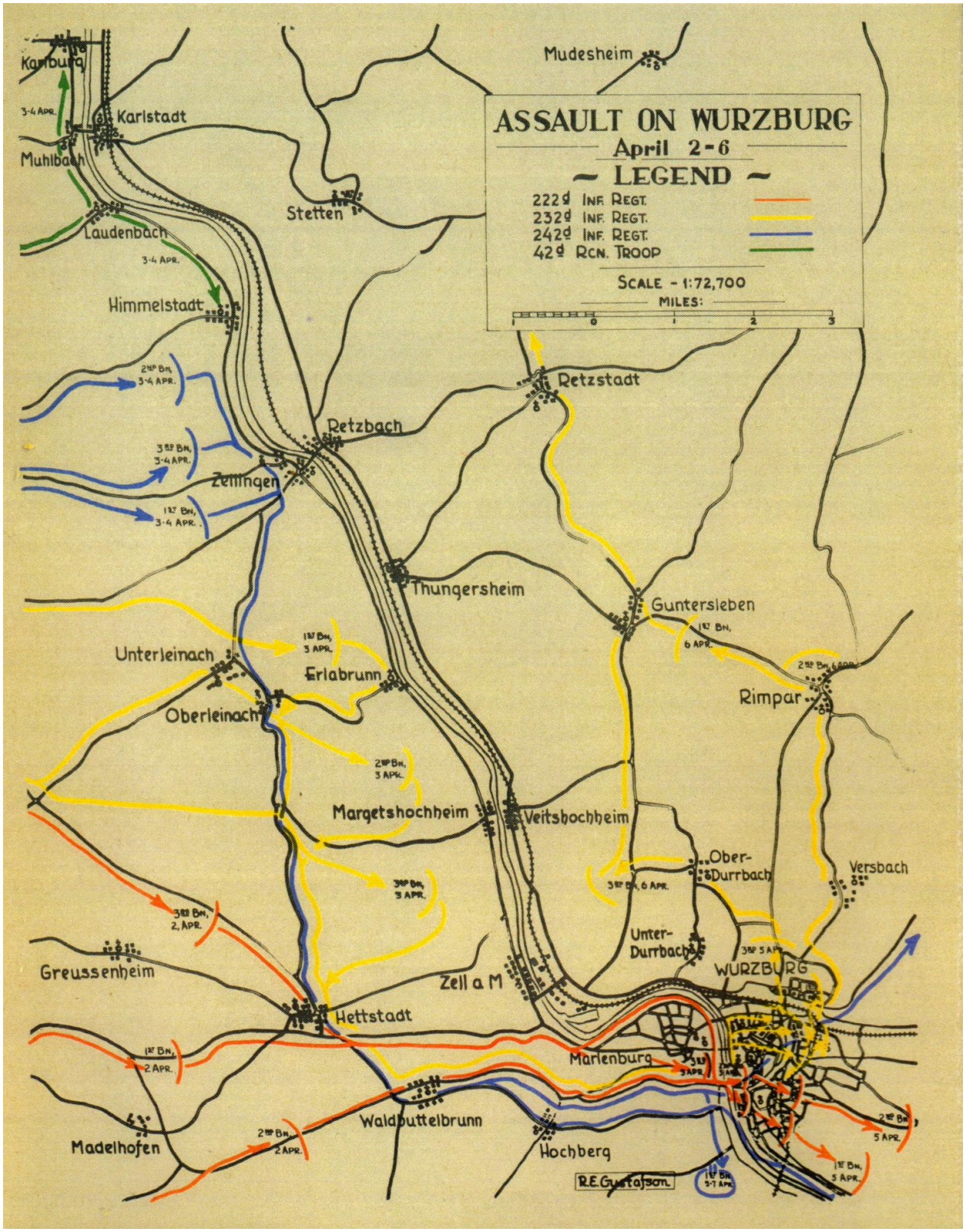
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RAYMOND A. GUSTAFSON, 12 161 153, Technician Fifth Grade, Field Artillery, Battery A, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 1 April 1945, near Breitenbrunn, Germany. As radio operator for the Forward Observer Section attached to Company C of the 232d Infantry Regiment, Corporal Gustafson on 1 April 1945, near Breitenbrunn, Germany, crossed a two-hundred yard clearing under concentrated enemy sniper fire and got his radio from a vehicle. Then, still exposed to hostile action, he returned to the forward observer position and set up communication with supporting artillery. Corporal Gustafson's courageous act enabled the artillery battery to effectively adjust fire on the German positions. Entered military service from Newark, New Jersey.



The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to RAYMOND R. ZOLANDZ, 42 006 807, Technician Fifth Grade, Field Artillery, Battery A, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 17 February to 26 April 1945, in France and Germany. As a radio operator with a forward observer section during the period of combat operations, Corporal Zolandz performed his duties in a consistently superior and commendable

manner. On numerous occasions, with utter disregard for his own safety, he exposed himself to enemy fire in order to assist the forward observer to adjust artillery fire on the enemy. Near Schweinfurt, Germany, when an adjacent infantry company was unable to get a radio operator to an extremely hazardous position, Corporal Zolandz volunteered for the mission and artillery fire was promptly and accurately directed on strongpoints in the enemy line. By his outstanding ability and courageous devotion to duty, Corporal Zolandz contributed materially to the combat effectiveness of his battery and battalion.
Entered military service from North Plainfield, New Jersey.

The attack by the 222d Infantry continued toward WURZBURG on 2 April against scattered machine gun and sniper fire. The 222d Inf was attached to CCA, 12th Armored Division, and cleared MARIENBURG, a small town on the west bank of the MAIN River in vicinity of WURZBURG. The 232d Infantry continued the attack over very difficult terrain and encountered heavy resistance. Attacking with a mission to clear the area along the North bank of the MAIN River and clear the enemy from the sector North of WERTHEIM (N280305), the 1st Bn met small arms fire early in the day at BREITENBRUNN. A coordinated attack from the West, South, and East of the town by Companies A, C, and D drove the enemy from the positions, and inflicted heavy casualties. The 2d Bn was returned to Regtl control and placed on the left flank. After daylight, the Regt moved steadily forward, meeting only scattered opposition by so-called "alarm units". Near darkness, all battalions reached the MAIN River fourteen (14) miles West of WURZBURG and began patrolling for possible crossing sites. A location was found at HOMBURG and the regiment forced a river crossing and continued the advance. Early 2 April, the 242d Infantry, including the 3d Bn, which was last to cross the RHINE, closed in an assembly area in vicinity of WERTHEIM. To overcome enemy strength East of the MAIN River, the 242d Inf was directed to move from its assembly area and attack North. The Regt attacked with 3 Bns abreast, and reached the objective just North of the BRONN River. This maneuver greatly confused the enemy, and 563 prisoners were captured. The Division CP moved to WERTHEIM.


ASSAULT ON WURZBURG
April 2-6
~ LEGEND ~
222d INF. REGT.
232d INF. REGT.
242d INF. REGT.
42d RCN. TROOP
SCALE - 1:72,700
MILES:
0 1 2 3
Mudesheim
Karlstadt
Muhlbach
Stetten
Laudenbach
Himmelstadt
Retzstadt
Retzbach
Zellingen
Thungersheim
Guntersleben
Unterleinach
Erlabrunn
Oberleinach
Rimpar
Margetshochheim
Veitshochheim
Ober-Durrbach
Versbach
Unter-Durrbach
WURZBURG
Greussenheim
Zell a M
Hettstadt
Marienburg
Waldbuttelbrunn
Madelhofen
Hochberg
R.E. Gustafson.

On **2 April**, the regiment continued to attack with the mission of clearing the area along the north bank of the Main River, clearing the enemy from the sector north of Wertheim (N280305).



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DANIEL LUPA, 33 855 187, Private First Class, (the Private), Medical Department, Company A, 122d Medical Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 2 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. On the above date Private Lupa, as ambulance orderly, was evacuating casualties from the Main River bridgehead at Wurzburg. The injured were transported across the river on boats and placed on the ambulance right at the river bank where heavy enemy fire was encountered from depressed flak guns and snipers. Throughout the entire day, Private Lupa braved the intense enemy fire to give medical treatment and speedy evacuation to wounded personnel. His valiant work at a critical point in the evacuation system aided greatly in the close medical support rendered by the company.
Entered military service from New York, New York.

The First Battalion was ordered to secure the high ground west of the Main River, with Company A on the left, moving from Breitenbrunn south to Michelrieth; Company B on the right moving from Hasselberg to capture Rottbach; Company C with elements of Company B, 692d TD's, to move via the river road to capture and secure the bridge at Markt-Heidenfeld. The Second Battalion was ordered to secure the high ground west of the Main River via Oberndorf, Esselbach, Steinmark, Glasofen, Marienbrunn. The Third Battalion was given the order to capture Bischbrunn and the high ground west of the Main River, with the mission of protecting the Division left flank by establishing road blocks on principal roads leading into the sector, and to establish contact with the 7th Infantry on the left.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT E. BENNETT, 31 380 723, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 2 April 1945, near Breitenbrunn, Germany. As the forward elements of his company reached the edge of Breitenbrunn, they encountered intense enemy small arms fire from the front and both flanks. The hostile fire from the left flank became so strong that it threatened to halt the advance of the unit. Sergeant Bennett, Mortar Platoon Sergeant, immediately called a mortar squad into action and personally took charge. Exposing himself to the enemy fire, he observed, issued orders and laid the first round exactly on the target. He continued to remain in this exposed position directing the fire of his squad until the enemy fire from the flank had been completely neutralized.
Entered military service from Hartford, Connecticut.

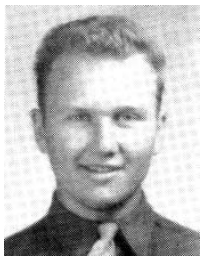


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD B. MC CLOSKEY, 33 699 435, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 2 April 1945 near Breitenbrunn, Germany. When his platoon's supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted during the attack on the city, Sergeant McCloskey unhesitatingly volunteered to secure the ammunition needed to continue the assault. Crossing open terrain under intense enemy fire, he secured the ammunition and returned over the same route to distribute it among his men. Sergeant McCloskey's courageous action enabled his platoon to continue their successful attack against the enemy. Entered military service from McKeesport, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to J. WALKER JUHAN, 38 151 388, First Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 2 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When Sergeant Juhan's company was encircled by the enemy and had nearly expended its ammunition, he volunteered to take a small detachment and attempt to procure more. Picking its way through the sniper infested streets, Sergeant Juhan's party assisted two wounded men to safety. After locating ammunition, Sergeant Juhan led his men back through heavy small arms fire to their unit, enabling it to launch a successful counter attack. His courage and devotion to duty saved two fellow soldiers from possible death or capture and enabled his Company to accomplish its mission. Entered military service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LESTER G. KISSINGER, 02 010 780, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 2 April 1945, near Breitenbrunn, Germany. Lieutenant Kissinger was leading his platoon in an attack upon Breitenbrunn, Germany, when the enemy suddenly opened up with a heavy concentration of small arms fire from both flanks and the front. Deploying his men to give them the maximum protection, he led an attack on the enemy positions, killing and capturing many of the enemy, without sustaining any casualties among members of his platoon. His courageous action and aggressive leadership contributed to the successful accomplishments of his Company. Entered military service from Tower City, Pennsylvania.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to WILLIAM A. GRUNWALD, 36 655 316, Staff Sergeant, (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 April 1945, near Schollbrunn, Germany. When his company was held up by enemy machine gun fire from a woods, Sergeant Grunwald, a squad leader, led a patrol into the woods toward the hostile positions until it drew fire from an enemy machine gun. Ordering his men to take cover on either side of a road, Sergeant Grunwald, armed only with his rifle, advanced towards the enemy gun. When he was fired upon he returned the fire with his rifle and continued to advance. One of the machine gunners was wounded by his fire and the remaining two surrendered. By his courage and devotion to duty his company was able to continue its advance without casualties.
Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

The Third Battalion, placed on the left flank of the regiment after reverting to regimental control, cleared successive objectives in its zone to the Main River.

At about 0600 the First Battalion received small arms fire from approximately 150-200 enemy in the town of Breitenbrunn. A coordinated attack from the west, south, and east of the town by Companies C, D, A, drove the enemy north. During daylight the battalions moved steadily forward in their zone meeting only scattered resistance from small enemy groups.

All battalions patrolled and reconnoitered the high ground east of the Main for possible crossing sites. The Regimental CP was at Unteraltenbach; Company A, Michelrieth, Company B and the First Battalion CP, Ober-Wittbach; Company C, Wittbach-Rettersheim. The Second Battalion occupied Glasofen and Marienbrunn, with the reserve company and Second Battalion CP in Esselbach. The Third Battalion established its Forward CP just outside the town of Hafenlohr (318448).

Company I took and held Bergrothenfels, Rothenfels, and Hafenlohr, and Company L captured Windheim.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR W. ALLEN, 01 755 583, Captain, Medical Corps, Headquarters First Battalion, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action at Wurzburg, Germany on 1 and 2 April 1945. When the Infantry Battalion to which he was assigned as surgeon was clearing Wurzburg of hostile forces, Captain Allen repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to perform his duties, in many instances volunteering as emergency litter bearer. Through two days and nights, during which casualties were sustained among his assistants, Captain Allen devoted his skill unsparingly to relief of the wounded entrusted to his care. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

Early in the morning of 3 April, the 2d Bn, 222d Inf, forced a crossing of the MAIN River and entered the west edge of WURZBURG. The initial crossing was made by the 2d Bn Rainbow Rangers in two (2) small canoes. The canoes were sunk, but the men established a small bridgehead. The 2d Bn, supported by Co A, 142d Engr Combat Bn, crossed the MAIN River in seven (7) assault boats and two (2) rafts in the face of heavy mortar, small arms, machine gun, and 20mm anti-aircraft fire. By 1530B, the 2d Bn had established a bridgehead in WURZBURG 6 blocks wide and 7 blocks deep. The 1st Bn, 222d Inf, then crossed the river and expanded the bridgehead on the right of the 2d Bn. By 1800B, a firm bridgehead had been established. The enemy had been pushed back, and construction of a Bailey Bridge across a blown span was begun after dark. In the meantime, the 232d Inf moved by motors to the vicinity of MARIENBURG and marched to the MAIN River, prepared to cross the river when the bridge was completed. The 242d Inf moved to the MAIN River approximately ten (10) miles north of WURZBURG, patrolled the area north from the BRONN River to ANSBACH (N3548), URSPRINGEN (N3946), and DUTTENBRUNN (N4246), and encountered no resistance. As the river line was further reconnoitered for possible crossing sites, enemy resistance was encountered and overcome at LAUDENBACH (N4561), MUHLBACH (N4553), and KARLBURG (N4555). The Division CP moved to REMLINGEN.

At 0830, **3 April**, the regiment moved by motor across the Main River at Homburg to an assembly area approximately four kilometers northeast to Remlingen (N4339). From there foot elements proceeded to the vicinity of Marienburg, and prepared to move across the Main River. The Regimental Forward CP opened at Greussenheim (4637) at 1500. Reconnaissance patrols were sent out to reconnoiter the sector east of the regimental area. At 1930 advance elements of the Regimental CP arrived at Höchberg. At 2215 the Regimental Commander issued an attack order in the forest west of Würzburg

which included a march from the assembly area at 447400 to the city of Würzburg.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOE W. RHEA, 6 292 502, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. When the forward switchboard of the Observation Post which he was attending was surrounded by enemy forces on the night of 3 April 1945, Private Rhea, realizing the importance of maintaining communications to the rear, stuck steadfastly to his post. Though he was under a constant enemy concentration of mortar, small arms and rocket fire, he continued to send urgent calls depicting the serious position of the forward Observation Post. As a result of the valuable information courageously furnished by Private Rhea, reinforcements were sent and drove off the enemy attacks.
Entered military service from Houston, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MELVIN C. WILLE, 36 299 452, Private First Class, Field Artillery, Company B, 692 Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. While voluntarily laying wire between his platoon and an infantry unit, Private Wille was observed and shelled by enemy mortars. Though this fire forced him to work intermittently, he completed his mission and established communications. Later just after a German counterattack was reported, the lines went dead and Private Wille disregarding his own safety, went out to repair them. As he completed this task, he was informed that enemy troops were between him and his platoon. Starting back he was held up by fire from two enemy machine guns until friendly artillery eliminated them and he could reach his unit. Private Wille's heroic actions maintained communications between the infantry and the tank destroyers and enabled them to work together to crush the enemy attack with heavy losses. Entered military service from Juneau, Wisconsin.

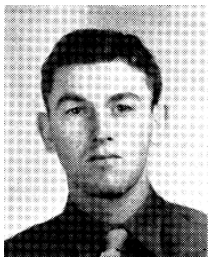
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WARREN J. SULLIVAN, 36 186 740, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on Wurzburg, the rifle company to which Private Sullivan was attached was receiving heavy machine gun and small arms fire from enemy concealed behind grave markers in a cemetery. When two infantrymen were seriously wounded by panzerfaust fire, he crawled over seventy-five yards under withering enemy fire to reach them. After treating one man who had lost his right arm, he moved to the second and after giving him first aid, remained at his side until the rifle troops had succeeded in routing the enemy. His courageous and selfless act saved the injured men from possible death. Entered military service from Byron Center, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RALPH C. BECKER, 37 311 311, Private First Class, Medical Department, Company B, 122nd Medical Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During the bitter house to house fighting for Wurzburg, Germany, Private Becker learned of a seriously wounded infantryman in a house where the front elements were fighting. Despite intense machine gun and rifle fire, he unhesitatingly moved forward to where the wounded man lay, administered first aid, and then later evacuated him. Private Becker's outstanding courage and devotion to his fellow soldiers undoubtedly saved the injured man's life.
Entered military service from Onamia, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDGAR I. ROSS, JR., 02 010 783, Second Lieutenant, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. Lieutenant Ross, as Assistant Communications Officer, personally supervised and directed the laying of three

forward communication lines of the Observation Post into Wurzburg, Germany, on the night of 3 April 1945. Later, two of the lines failed. As those wires were vitally important to the contemplated attacks upon the city, Lieutenant Ross, with others, located and repaired the damaged wires despite a heavy concentration of small arms and unlocated sniper fire. As a result of Lieutenant Ross' determination, vital communications were maintained during a critical period.
Entered military service from Menemonic, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN R. CARFIELD, 15 383, 242, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When two of the three communication lines which ran from the forward Regimental Command Post into the City of Wurzburg, Germany, failed on the night of 3 April 1945, Private Carfield drove the wire maintenance crew to the source of the trouble. Throughout the night he worked with the crew in maintaining and repairing the wires. As a result of his courageous act and devotion to duty, Private Carfield's Company Commander was able to keep in touch with his attacking elements at a critical time.
Entered military service from Greenfield, Indiana.

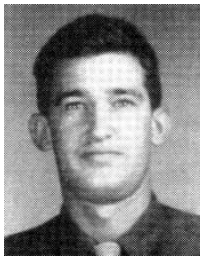


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELMER W. COFFMAN, 17 015 227, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When two of the three communications lines which ran from the forward Regimental Command Post into the City of Wurzburg, Germany, failed on the night of 3 April 1945, Corporal Coffman, as chief of the maintenance crew, led his men to the source of the trouble. Throughout the night he worked diligently in repairing and maintaining those vital wire communications. As a result of his determination and devotion to duty, Corporal Coffman's Company Commander was able to keep in touch with his attacking elements at a critical time. Entered military service from Kansas City, Kansas.

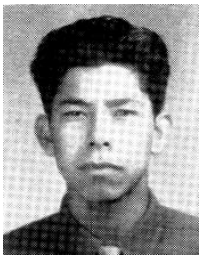
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LILE D. BURNS, 37 739 540, Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When sniper fire had produced many casualties in his platoon Private Burns volunteered to return to secure medical aid for the wounded men. Without regard for his own safety, he made his way through the heavy fire and directed medical aid men to the casualties, returning with a medium tank to give his platoon badly needed support. Private Burns' courage and devotion to duty was instrumental in saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. Entered military service from Perrin, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JEROME KOHN, 36 873 120, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945 near Kronungen, Germany. During the attack on the town, many men of the attacking platoon were seriously wounded by the intense machine gun and small arms fire. In spite of the enemy fire, Corporal Kohn made his way to each of the wounded men, administering first aid and supervising their evacuation. After all the wounded had been evacuated, he continued to expose himself, treating and evacuating both friendly and enemy casualties throughout the entire attack. Corporal Kohn's extreme courage and devotion to duty saved many lives during the engagement. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH E. KREUTZBERGER, 33 573 032, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. Leading a four man patrol, Sergeant Kreutzberger displayed utter disregard for his own safety as he sought to clean out a building from which numerous snipers were firing. Discovering an unguarded doorway, he returned and led his patrol into the building, where they opened fire on the enemy, killing and capturing a large number. By Sergeant Kreutzberger's courage and leadership, his battalion was enabled to continue their advance into the city.
Entered military service from Portage, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to VICENTI T. MORENO, 38 580 300, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the fight for Wurzburg, Private Moreno exposed himself to the heavy sniper fire which was harassing his company and fired five rounds from his rocket launcher into a section of a building housing the enemy. Private Moreno's fire held the enemy down, allowing riflemen to enter the building and destroy them. Through Private Moreno's courageous and determined action his company was enabled to continue its advance.
Entered military service from Anthony, New Mexico.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS) is awarded to EMMETT C. HORSCHMANN, 37 636 608, Private, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142D Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. As a member of an assault boat crew, Private Horschmenn participated in several crossings of the Main River under intense machine gun, sniper, and artillery fire. Although the enemy field of fire was excellent, he volunteered unhesitatingly for each trip, completely disregarding his personal safety, until, on the eighth crossing, he was mortally wounded. Private Horschmann's indomitable courage and unselfish devotion to duty were instrumental in establishing the bridgehead.
Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Doria Amelia Horschmann (Wife), 5204 Gilmore Avenue, St. Louis 20, Missouri. Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WINSTON H. ELLIOTT, 027 055, First Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142D Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During the crossing of the Main River prior to the assault on Wurzburg, Lieutenant Elliott organized and directed the operations of his platoon in transporting men and supplies across the river in assault boats. Despite intense enemy artillery machine gun and small arms fire, he unhesitatingly crossed the river to organize operations on the opposite bank. He exposed himself constantly while personally encouraging the men of his platoon at those times when the enemy fire was heaviest. Lieutenant Elliott's



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, FEBRUARY 4, 1944
HAS AWARDED

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
First Oak Leaf Cluster

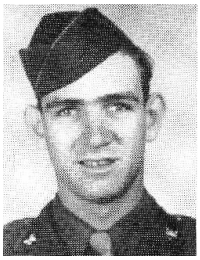
TO
Captain (then First Lieutenant) Winston H. Elliott, 027 055
Corps of Engineers
FOR
HEROISM IN GROUND COMBAT
Wurzburg Germany, 3 April 1945

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 28th DAY OF January 1949

MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

SECRETARY OF WAR

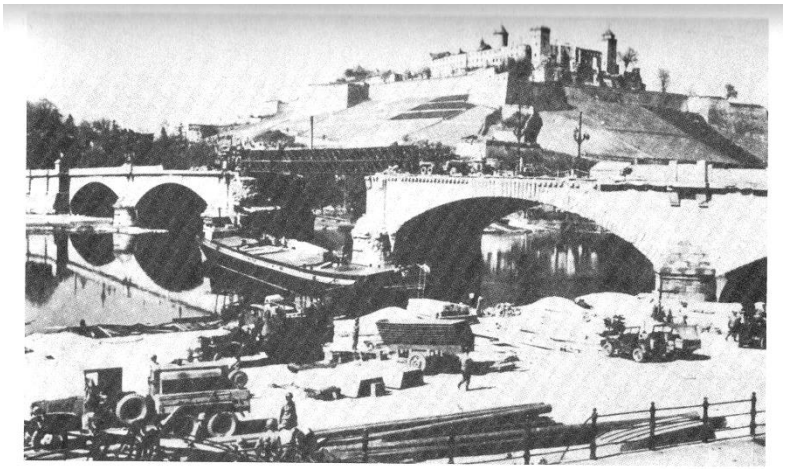
courageous leadership and unswerving devotion to duty expedited establishment of a bridgehead which eventually led to the capture of the city of Wurzburg, Germany. Entered military service from Toledo, Ohio. The citation and certificate were contributed by the family of Winston H. Elliott.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN A. BOMBEK, 38 677 766, Private, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142D Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. As a member of an engineer assault boat crew during the crossing of the Main River at Wurzburg, Private Bombec, under heavy machine gun and flak fire, continued to man his boat, ferrying assault troops to the far shore and bringing wounded and prisoners back. Although it was his first time under fire, he never hesitated to make the crossings without smoke or concealment until the mission was completed and the bridgehead was firmly established. By his untiring effort and fearless devotion to duty, Private Bombek made an effective contribution to the rapid capitulation of the key city of Wurzburg and enabled the division to continue its relentless pursuit of the enemy toward Nurnberg. Entered military service from Beaumont, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THOMAS E. HOLLEY, 38 631 518, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 3 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When the advance of his platoon through Wurzburg was held up by intense sniper fire, Private Holley exposed himself to the direct fire to crawl forward in an attempt to locate the enemy positions. As he entered a building in which he observed two snipers, one of the enemy attempted to fire on him but he swiftly killed him with one shot from his rifle. The other enemy soldier surrendered immediately without firing a shot. Private Holley's courageous determination eliminated a serious threat to his platoon's advance. Entered military service from Roanoke, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PETER DENNIS, 31 115 088, Private First Class, Medical Department, Company C, 122nd Medical Battalion, for heroic achievement in action from 3 April to 18 April 1945, inclusive, in Germany. While serving as an ambulance orderly, Private Dennis was captured when his ambulance was ambushed 3 April 1945, near Birkenfeld. Enroute to Bamberg, Private Dennis escaped when the train on which he was a prisoner was strafed by Allied aircraft, and avoided recapture for five days until rescued by the 45th Infantry Division. Although suffering from exhaustion and trench foot, he refused evacuation and after five more days made his way back to his company. By his courage, loyalty, devotion to duty and uncompromising fortitude, Private Dennis exemplified the finest traditions of the Rainbow Division. Entered military service from Burlington, Vermont.



View of the Bailey bridge which brought the 692nd destroyers and other armor across the Main River to support the "Rainbow" conquest of the great Franconian city of Würzburg. The episcopal fortress of Marienberg, which once defied conquest of the city, placidly waits for a new season of tourist admirers.

The Regiment, with Company C as the leading element, crossed the Main River at Würzburg at 0500, **4 April**, moving north through the town in their assigned zones, the Third Battalion on the left of the First Battalion, and the Second Battalion on the right of the First Battalion, the battalions began clearing the city. Stiff enemy resistance was encountered in the form of snipers, machine guns, small arms, and road blocks. [photo from "Journey To

Dachau" by 692D TD veteran, Charles H. George, 1996]

[The Bailey Bridge across the blown bridge over the MAIN River was completed early <u>4 April.</u> The 232d Infantry foot elements immediately began crossing the bridge, and all elements were across by daylight. The 232d Infantry moved into the area cleared by the 222d Infantry turned left, and fought into the northwestern portion of the city against strong resistance. Elements of the 692d TD Bn supported the attack from the west bank of the river. The regiment then turned East again with the 3d Bn on the left, 1st Bn in the center, and the 2d Bn on the right. With the aid of excellent artillery support, the regiment maintained a slow, but steady advance, and cleared approximately 55 blocks in the northern half of WURZBURG by nightfall. The 222d Infantry also resumed the attack at daylight on 4 April with the 1st and 2d Bns advancing in the southern portion of WURZBURG against strong enemy resistance. Approximately 45 additional blocks were cleared, and the regiment had advanced across the North-South Railroad and cleared the factory building on the east of the tracks by dark. The 3d Bn, 222d Infantry, designated as "T" Force, moved into Wurzburg and seized 15 of the 45 special targets designated for them. The 242d Infantry continued aggressive reconnaissance along the MAIN River north of WURZBURG. The Division CP moved into the outskirts of WURZBURG west of the MAIN River in the near vicinity of the large ancient WURZBURG CASTLE. The 168th Chemical Smoke Generator Co (-), under the supervision of the Division Chemical Officer, smoked the Bailey Bridge across the MAIN while foot troops and vehicles crossed. A bridge site approximately 1000 yards north of the Bailey Bridge also was smoked, and the supporting engineers constructed a Heavy Ponton Treadway Bridge. This enabled CCA, 12th Armored Division, and the 692d TD Bn to send supporting armor across this bridge, as well as the Bailey Bridge. WURZBURG was once a magnificent ancient city with a population of approximately 170,000, but prior to the entrance by the Rainbow, much of the city had been bombed to rubble.

The resistance was fanatical. Civilians, city police, and firemen joined the German soldiers in a desperate attempt to hold the city. A series of underground tunnels and the destroyed stone buildings afforded the enemy an opportunity to establish a very strong defense. As the city was cleared block by block, the enemy would go into tunnels, and pop up again behind the Infantry]



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN I.H. FARLEY, 36 862 273, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. When the rifle company to which he was attached was held up by heavy rifle fire, Sergeant Farley made a quick reconnaissance and placed his mortars into position. Despite direct enemy fire placed

on his position, he remained forward to observe and adjust the fire of his mortars on the enemy. Sergeant Farley's courage and the accuracy of his fire were instrumental in enabling the attack to proceed without further delay or casualties.
Entered military service from Bay City, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT S. BLANTON, 01 014 649, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. After leading an assault on enemy positions in Wurzburg, Germany, Lieutenant Blanton, upon withdrawing his platoon for reorganization, discovered that four of his men were missing. Organizing a rescue party, he exposed himself to a raging fire fight for over an hour, finally reaching the injured soldiers and supervising their evacuation. By his aggressive leadership and intrepid devotion to duty, Lieutenant Blanton saved four of his men from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Bound Brook, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRED C. GRANTLEY, 33 794 023, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry for meritorious achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. Advancing to the crest of a hill to establish a radio relay station Sergeant Grantley and his driver were fired upon by enemy machine guns and small arms. Returning fire with his rifle, Sergeant Grantley killed two of the enemy and, after a short battle, forced twenty others to surrender. Sergeant Grantley's courage and prompt action established a vital link in the communications between the three battalions and regimental headquarters.
Entered military service from Yeadon, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM T.J. DEMPSEY, 31 309 878, Corporal, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When a superior enemy force infiltrated our lines and attacked our mortar positions, Corporal Dempsey, armed with only a .45 caliber pistol and a captured enemy rifle, moved into a position from which he could block the enemy's avenue of approach. Although exposed to intense enemy automatic weapons fire coming from the forces only twenty yards away, he tenaciously held his position and halted two attempts of the enemy charge across the street killing two and wounding several more with his deadly fire. Corporal Dempsey's prompt and courageous action eliminated a dangerous threat to the rear element of our advancing forces. Entered military service from Malden, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK D. JOHNSON, 32 428 670, Corporal, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. As instrument Corporal, Corporal Johnson exposed himself to heavy enemy machine gun and small arms fire to make many trips carrying messages and maintaining contact between his heavy machine gun platoon and the command post of the rifle company it was supporting. When the riflemen were held up by intense German fire, he went forward to help set up two of his platoon's guns in strong positions. The guns then neutralized the enemy fire and permitted the rifle troops to continue their advance and capture a great number of enemy troops. By his courage and devotion to duty, Corporal Johnson effectively contributed to the capture of Wurzburg.
Entered military service from Flushing, New York.

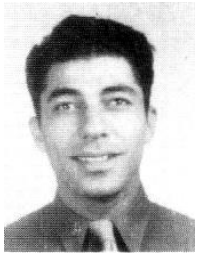


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to VICTOR E. SCHAEFER, 42 033 372, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When the platoon to which his machine gun squad was attached was held up by enemy sniper and automatic weapons fire from a church steeple, Private Schaefer took command when his squad leader fell mortally wounded. Disregarding his own safety, he exposed himself to the intense fire to maneuver his men into firing positions and directed their fire. By his courage and prompt thinking, Private Schaefer enabled the rifle platoon to advance under protective fire to take the enemy position.
Entered military service from Woodhaven, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOE MYERS JR., 38 486 645, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While Private Myers was on guard in an office building in the city of Wurzburg, Germany, suspicious noises in the basement drew him in that direction to investigate. Cautiously descending into the cellar, he was suddenly confronted by three Germans armed with machine pistols. Guided only by the flashes of their guns as they fired at him, he killed two and seriously wounded the third with his carbine. Private Myers' courageous action and aggressive determination eliminated a serious threat to the security of the men in the building.
Entered military service from Salt Lake City, Utah.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEONARD W. MCCULLEY, 33 815 624, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on Wurzburg, when his platoon was pinned down by intense machine gun and sniper fire, Private McCulley advanced across an open street to get into firing position. The enemy immediately opened fire on him with a machine gun from fifty yards, but he replied with several anti-tank grenades on the position, enabling his platoon to advance and capture the position. Private McCulley then advanced toward a church from which snipers had killed several of his comrades and threw a grenade among the enemy, killing one and forcing the others to surrender. Private McCulley's outstanding courage and aggressive action contributed materially to the capture of the city. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



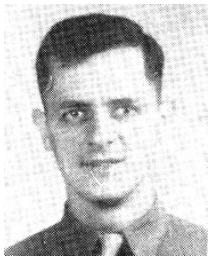
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN N. ORLANDO, 32 382 155, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. Private Orlando was advancing with the Command Group of Company I through the sniper infested streets of Wurzburg when the entire company was pinned down by intense machine gun fire coming from a strongpoint in a ruined building. Private Orlando unhesitatingly went out under the heavy fire to locate a route by which two platoons could by-pass the strongpoint and surround it. He then led the two platoons along this route, returning to bring up vitally-needed grenades which assisted in wiping out the enemy positions. Private Orlando's courageous action and alertness enabled his company to neutralize the enemy position while suffering only one casualty. Entered military service from Buffalo, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SIMEON K. LIEBER, 01 043 702, Captain, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. During the fierce engagement for Wurzburg, Germany, the advance of Company A was halted by withering enemy machine gun and sniper fire. When a litter squad rushed forward to evacuate a wounded infantryman, enemy fire hit one of the litterbearers, forcing the rest to cover. Without hesitation, Captain Lieber fearlessly advanced into the vicious fire and dragged the wounded

man to safety. By his prompt and heroic action, Captain Lieber saved the life of the injured soldier and was an inspiration to the men under his command. Entered military service from Monroe, Louisiana.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to EDGAR J. BERSHEIM, 33 784 056, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company A. 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action, on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When four litter bearers carrying a wounded man were fired on by enemy machine guns and small arms, the litter was dropped and the wounded man exposed to the intense fire. Sergeant Bersheim, without hesitation or regard for his own safety, faced the heavy fire in the open area and dragged the wounded man to a place of safety 25 yards away. Sergeant Bersheim's gallant action saved the life of the wounded man and helped to encourage his platoon in the action that followed. Entered military service from Yeadon, Pennsylvania.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to DOMINIC P. FRATUS, 11 049 359, Sergeant, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action, on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While Sergeant Fratus was leading his squad in the street fighting at Wurzburg, a burst of fire wounded five members of the squad. Four were able to crawl to cover but the fifth was seriously wounded and was unable to move. In spite of intense sniper fire, Sergeant Fratus made two attempts to rescue the man, finally reaching him and dragging him to safety. By his courage and determination, Sergeant Fratus saved a fellow soldier and from almost certain death or capture. Entered military service from Plymouth, Massachusetts.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to MIKE ZABEK, 02 010 781, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the fierce fighting for Wurzburg, Germany, Lieutenant Zabek's rifle platoon encountered an enemy strongpoint in the city park. Realizing the importance of a quick assault, he quickly reorganized his forces and placed his machine gunners in position. Lieutenant Zabek then ran forward alone through the murderous hail of enemy machine gun, machine pistol, and small arms fire, throwing grenades as he ran and shouting for his men to follow. He alone killed five of the enemy, captured nine, and knocked out an enemy machine gun nest. Lieutenant Zabek's display of indomitable courage was an inspiration to his men to follow him, and the enemy strongpoint was soon neutralized. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALVIN D. WHITE, 01 054 867, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. When the enemy had encircled his company, Lieutenant White, executive officer, went to the aid of a wounded man. Although wounded himself and in an exposed position, Lieutenant White administered first aid and then directed the man's evacuation. While the wounded man was being carried to safety, Lieutenant White stood by and covered the litter bearers. His courage and disregard for his own welfare saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Entered military service from Pittsburg, Pennslyvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT M. HOAGLAND, 39 341 549, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. Private Hoagland exposed himself to heavy enemy sniper fire to cover the withdrawal of five men preparatory to flanking a hostile force which had held up his platoon. Immediately afterward, he killed two enemy operating an automatic weapon, enabling the platoon to

continue its advance. By his courage and aggressiveness, Private Hoagland contributed to the success of his platoon's attack.
Entered military service from Monroe, Oregon.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SHERMIN I. JOWELL, 6 289 807, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When sniper fire held up his platoon in an open street, Sergeant Jowell, platoon guide, reorganized the men and then attacked the enemy positions with an anti-tank grenade. Killing one German and forcing the others to withdraw, he neutralized the strong-point and permitted his platoon to continue its advance. By his courage and leadership, Sergeant Jowell contributed to the success of his platoon. Entered military service from Palestine, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARL B. WEST, 33 858 010, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When a violent enemy counterattack forced his company to withdraw to stronger positions, Private West voluntarily remained behind to cover the movement. Despite heavy enemy fire he held his ground with his rifle until the last man in his company had reached safety, when he himself withdrew. By his courageous act, Private West enabled his company to avoid heavy casualties and repulse an enemy counterattack. Entered military service from Higden, Alabama.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DEWEY GAMBLE, 6 986 231, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the fierce fighting for Wurzburg, the advance of our forces was held up by intense machine gun and sniper fire coming from a nearby church steeple. Private Gamble forged his way through the intense hail of enemy fire, and with his automatic rifle succeeded in knocking out three of the enemy positions. He then occupied the positions alone and held them until reinforcements came forward and aided him in eliminating the remainder of the enemy emplacements. Private Gamble's indomitable courage made a material contribution to the successful capture of the city. Entered military service from Pineville, Kentucky.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES C. GENTRY, 44 040 670, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When Private Gentry's mortar squad had almost exhausted their ammunition supply during the action at Wurzburg, he voluntarily left his position of cover to carry ammunition to the forward gun positions. His route exposed him to heavy small arms fire from close range. Despite his personal danger, Private Gentry courageously continued to supply the guns with ammunition, enabling them to place a heavy volume of accurate fire on the enemy installations.
Entered military service from Franklin, Tennessee.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JAMES F. NUGENT, 13 022 101, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. During the fierce fighting for Wurzburg, Germany, when his squad encountered intense enemy machine gun, machine pistol, and small arms fire, Sergeant Nugent led his men to within fifty yards of the house which was the central point of enemy resistance. Rather than subject his entire squad to the heavy fire, he crawled across open terrain exposed to the enemy fire to a point within ten yards of the house. He then threw two grenades through a window and fearlessly charged into the house, finding three of the enemy fatally wounded and five others so stunned that he succeeded in taking them prisoner. By his indomitable courage and gallant action, a serious threat to his squad's advance was eliminated without casualties.

Entered military service from Williamsport, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to RANDOLPH B. MCDAVID, 34 842 555, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. Sergeant McDavid, in command of a light machine-gun squad, became a casualty while observing the fire of his own gun. However, the gun position chosen by him was so effective that a rifle platoon was able to advance under the fire of his gun and clear out a nest of snipers. By his courage and self-sacrifice he made possible the avoidance of heavy future casualties. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Virginia McDavid, (Mother), Route 3, Pelger, South Carolina.
Entered military service from Simpson, South Carolina. SGT Randolph B. McDanid rests under the care of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.





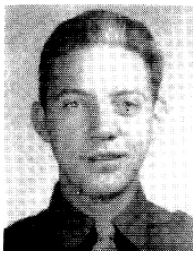
The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ORVILLE G. ANDERSON, 35 839 521, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the advance of our forces through the fire-swept streets of Wurzburg, Germany, Sergeant Anderson and his squad were suddenly pinned down by machine pistol and small arms fire coming from enemy positions two hundred yards up the street. Unhesitatingly advancing alone behind several houses to a vantage point, Sergeant Anderson directed such a devastating volume of fire into the enemy that the fire was completely silenced and one of the enemy was killed and three captured. By his prompt and courageous action, Sergeant Anderson enabled his squad to make further advances against the determined enemy resistance. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN H. MAYFIELD 18 083 162, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During the street fighting in the city of Wurzburg, Private Mayfield's platoon was pinned down by accurate machine gun and sniper fire. Undaunted by the fact that six other men had been driven back while trying to reach a house concealing a sniper, Private Mayfield ran across fifty yards of open terrain under heavy machine gun and small arms fire to reach the house. He then made his way through the building to the sniper's location and killed him with his rifle. Private Mayfield's outstanding courage permitted his platoon to resume their advance into town.
Entered military service from Corsicana, Texas.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PAUL W. LABELLA, 32 511 410, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the bitter street fighting in Wurzburg, Sergeant LaBella's rifle platoon was held up by intense sniper fire coming from a church to their immediate front. Without regard for his personal safety, he fearlessly set out for the church through an intense hail of enemy fire. Entering the church he killed one sniper, wounded another, and captured a third. Sergeant LaBella's indomitable courage and initiative eliminated a serious threat to the advance of his platoon through the city.
Entered military service from Port Chester, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LLOYD A. RIVARD, 36 979 064, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When Private Rivard's platoon sergeant was seriously wounded by sniper fire during the bitter street fighting for Wurzburg, the aid men were forced to cross 150 yards of open terrain under intense mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire to reach the wounded man. As the litter bearers started across the open area, Private Rivard ran into an exposed position and deliberately drew the enemy fire on himself, diverting attention from the litter bearers. He remained in this exposed position, firing his rifle, until the wounded man was successfully evacuated. Private Rivard's outstanding courage and fearless act undoubtedly saved the wounded man's life.
Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRED W. BOSSINGER, 33 938 307, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on Wurzburg, Private Bossinger and two comrades were trapped in a house by heavy machine gun and sniper fire from a neighboring building. Two enemy bazooka rounds entered the house, killing one of his comrades and wounding the other. Disregarding his personal safety, Private Bossinger exposed himself to the hostile fire, and with two rifle grenades, knocked out the enemy machine gun. He then further exposed himself to direct the fire of his platoon on the bazooka position. Private Bossinger's extremely courageous action under fire played a major role in the capture of the town.
Entered military service from New Cumberland, Pa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLAUDE N. CANTU, 38 364 561, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. Encountering fire from enemy positions in a wooded section near Wurzburg, Private Cantu guided the men of his squad to the protection of a partially ruined building. During this encounter his platoon sergeant was seriously wounded. As soon as the medical aid men entered the exposed area where the wounded man lay, Private Cantu, with several others, jumped out of the doorway and deliberately exposed himself to draw fire from the medics. He fearlessly remained in this exposed position, laying down a steady protective fire with his rifle until the wounded sergeant had been treated and safely evacuated. Entered military service from Woodsboro, Texas.
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists PFC Cantu as killed in action on 04/08/45].



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HOWARD R. KELMAN, 12 219 409, Corporal, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. When the advance of our forces through Wurzburg was halted by determined enemy resistance, Corporal Kelman moved his heavy machine gun to the upper floor of a building to give riflemen overhead supporting fire. From a completely exposed position he continued to fire his gun for more than an hour, killing eight of the enemy, forcing the surrender of fifty, and making it possible for our wounded to be evacuated. Corporal Kelman's courageous action in the face of intense resistance, made a material contribution to the eventual capture of the fanatically defended city. Entered military service from New York, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEON H. BURLINGAME, 33 616 123, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During the advance into Wurzburg, the light machine gun section attached to Private Burlingame's rifle platoon exhausted its supply of ammunition. After seeing one man start after ammunition and fall dead from a sniper's bullet, he voluntarily set out under the heavy machine gun and

sniper fire. He secured a double load of ammunition and returned over the same route under the continued intense hostile fire. Private Burlingame's courageous action enabled the machine gun section to continue to support the rifle troops with a heavy volume of accurate and effective fire. Entered military service from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DOUGLAS J. PLUMMER, 36 979 646, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When a rifleman was wounded seriously in the stomach, Private Plummer led his litter bearers through intense sniper fire to carry the man to safety. It was essential that the wounded man be evacuated immediately, so he helped carry the injured man through the sniper-infested streets to the aid station on the opposite edge of town. Private Plummer's courageous devotion to duty was instrumental in saving the man's life. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ADAM H. LEGENO, 32 097 351, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When the company to which he was attached as aid man was surrounded by snipers who were inflicting heavy casualties, Corporal Legeno moved from one position to another administering first aid to the wounded. With utter disregard for his own safety, he continually exposed himself to direct fire to carry wounded men to cover. Corporal Legeno's heroic actions saved many lives during the action which culminated in the capture of the city. Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PERRY B. DELO, 39 130 318, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When two members of his platoon were seriously wounded during the attack on Wurzburg and were lying helpless in open terrain, Private Delo ran forward through intense machine gun and sniper fire to their assistance. He administered first aid to the men, and then carried them one at a time to a position of safety from which they could be evacuated. Private Delo's courageous action under fire undoubtedly saved the lives of the two men. Entered military service from Seattle, Washington.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DUANE A. MCLELLAND, 37 575 749, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. As company aid man, Private McLelland repeatedly left his position under heavy enemy fire to give medical aid to Infantrymen wounded in the streets of Wurzburg. Not only did he administer to the wounded, but personally loaded them on vehicles, assuring their speedy evacuation to a point where further medical treatment could be given. By his courage and devotion to duty, Private McLelland saved several fellow soldiers from possible death or capture.
Entered military service from Williston, North Dakota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM P. FISCHER, 36 472 243, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. Private Fischer was lead scout for a squad that encountered heavy enemy rocket launcher fire during an attack near Wurzburg. When the pressure of German fire became so great that the squad was forced to withdraw, Private Fischer held his ground and, while the platoon was

maneuvering to flank the enemy, he covered the movement with his fire. His courageous action in the face of incessant hostile fire assisted materially in the reduction of the enemy position.
Entered military service from Ann Arbor, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN W. STEBBINS, 39 585 887, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the advance on Wurzburg, Private Stebbins' company was encircled and cut off by the enemy. In the fight that followed, Private Stebbins exposed himself to the hostile fire while he operated his radio in the attempt to call for reinforcements from the battalion command post. When his radio antenna was shot off, he quickly repaired the damage and continued its operation. Private Stebbins' courage in maintaining communications was directly responsible for saving his company from annihilation by superior enemy forces.
Entered military service from Phoenix, Arizona.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LESTER E. NUETZEL, 36 983 060, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. While six men of his company had taken cover from sniper fire behind a brick wall, Private Nuetzel noticed two of the enemy, armed with panzerfausts, moving into a position from which they could fire on the wall. Exposing himself to the snipers, he moved out into the open with his automatic rifle and laid down an accurate fire that forced the enemy to withdraw. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MICHAEL MULI, 32 806 128, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When a member of his company was seriously wounded by heavy sniper fire that forced the company to withdraw from its positions, Private Muli assisted in the man's evacuation. Exposing himself to the enemy fire, he helped to carry the wounded man two blocks to a place of safety where he could be given medical treatment. By his courage and determination, Private Muli saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Woodside, Long Island, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to REUBEN BOUZA, 32 702 461, Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When his company was encircled by the enemy, Sergeant Bouza volunteered to reconnoiter a route for vehicles to reach the position. While performing this mission he found two wounded soldiers whom he moved to safety. Despite the intensity of enemy fire, Sergeant Bouza located a suitable route and guided the supporting tanks and vehicles to the aid of his company. By his courage and determination he enabled his company to fight its way out of a critical position. Entered military service from Long Island, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE L. FERRA, 39 585 909, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When a member of his company had been wounded by sniper fire at a street intersection, Private Ferra stood over the man to pin down the enemy snipers with his automatic rifle. He remained in this exposed position until a tank came up to cover the evacuation of the injured man. By his courage and determination, Private Ferra saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Phoenix, Arizona.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRED C. SPANER, 37 671 446, Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. When his company came under intense enemy small arms fire from well dug-in positions under a bridge, Sergeant Spaner's mortar squad was called upon for immediate support. Deploying his squad, Sergeant Spaner moved to an exposed position from which he could effectively direct and correct its fire. While doing so he received a wound in the face but, refusing medical attention, remained at his post until the German fire had been completely neutralized. By his courage and determination, Sergeant Spaner enabled his squad to effectively support the Infantry assault. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MERLE L. FISER, 37 645 045, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. As ammunition bearer, Private Fiser repeatedly exposed himself to sniper fire to keep his light machine gun supplied with ammunition. When sniper fire threatened to hold up the gun crew, he took a position on a flank and covered the gunners throughout the action. By his courage and aggressiveness, Private Fiser enabled his gun to continue supporting the Infantry assault. Entered military service from Montezuma, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to NICHOLAS J. PAGANO, 32 717 385, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. When the advance of our forces through Wurzburg was halted by determined enemy resistance, Private Pagano moved his heavy machine gun to the upper floor of a building to give riflemen overhead supporting fire. From a completely exposed position he continued to fire his gun for more than an hour, killing eight of the enemy, forcing the surrender of fifty, and making it possible for our wounded to be evacuated. Private Pagano's courageous action in the face of intense resistance, made a material contribution to the eventual capture of the fanatically defended city. Entered military service from New York, New York.

By early afternoon units had reached the railroad tracks on the north side of the town. The regimental zone was subdivided into nine general areas with one company given the mission of clearing each respective area. At 2230 the rear elements of the Regimental CP arrived at Höchberg while the advance elements established the Forward CP at Würzburg. The battalions continued to clear in their respective zones of advance and established perimeter defenses for the night.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ATHA D. PRINCE, 18 003 890, Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. As squad leader, Sergeant Prince fearlessly exposed himself to enemy sniper and machine gun fire in leading his squad in the attack on the city. When it was necessary to scale a wall to attain the objective, he dashed across the street in full view of the enemy and assisted all the men in his squad in getting over the wall before he took cover himself. Sergeant Prince's leadership and devotion to duty in this action enabled his men to go through the entire attack without a casualty. Entered military service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROLAND C. TROMBLY, 31 376 946, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. As ammunition bearer for a heavy machine gun squad, Private Trombly repeatedly exposed himself to heavy fire to keep his gun supplied with ammunition. When friendly rifle

troops were held up by hostile fire, he worked forward with more ammunition, enabling his gun to continue firing and neutralize the enemy positions. The riflemen then advanced and took their objective. By his courage and determination, Private Trombly enabled his squad to affort adequate support to the rifle troops. Entered military service from Hillsboro, New Hampshire.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARNOLD A. SANDERS, 42 063 245, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. During the fighting through the fire-swept streets of Wurzburg, Germany, Private Sanders voluntarily exposed himself to locate and repair breaks in the communication lines to his mortar section. Fearlessly braving intense artillery and sniper fire for over an hour, he checked and repaired the severed wires. By his exceptional courage and unswerving determination, Private Sanders enabled his section to continue to direct accurate and devastating fire upon the enemy positions in the city.
Entered military service from New York, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLARENCE COLE, 16 010 474, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. While firing close support missions, Sergeant Cole's 81mm mortar squad was attacked by infiltrating German infantry. In the face of heavy enemy machine gun and sniper fire he successfully held off the enemy by effectively firing his M-1 rifle and kept his position until reinforcements arrived. His courageous act was responsible for the killing and wounding of several of the enemy.
Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALAN M. BRICKMAN, 32 898 318, private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When Private Brickman's heavy machine gun squad was advancing through Wurzburg, it was pinned down by intense enemy machine gun fire at a time when its ammunition was nearly exhausted. Private Brickman moved out under the heavy fire across fifty years of open ground and, although wounded in the arm by shrapnel, secured and returned with the critically needed ammunition. Private Brickman's courage and selfless determination enabled his squad to continue firing and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.
Entered military service from New York, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE G. MCDANIELS, 33 716 702, Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action of 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When a strong enemy patrol infiltrated through the lines and threatened his platoon's mortar positions, Sergeant McDaniels stationed himself at the entrance to a street and, remaining at his post in the face of intense enemy rifle, machine gun and Panzerfaust fire, withstood the enemy assault until help arrived. Through Sergeant McDaniels' heroic action his platoon escaped almost certain capture or death. Entered military service from Brentwood, Maryland.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WARREN F. WESTBELD, 35 844 693, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. As platoon messenger during the fight for Wurzburg, Private Westbeld frequently exposed himself to heavy enemy fire. When the rifle troops were held up, Private Westbeld quickly established contact with the supporting heavy weapons platoon, which drove the enemy back, enabling the riflemen to advance. His courage and devotion to duty contributed to the success of his Battalion in the attack on Wurzburg. Entered military service from Kalida, Ohio.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to IRVING LEVINE, 32 991 836, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. Private Levine, a medical aid man, was advancing with his Ranger Platoon in house to house fighting when the platoon was held up by heavy small arms fire and one of the members was wounded. Disregarding the fire, Private Levine made his way to the wounded man and administered first aid. His courage and devotion to duty enabled the man to receive immediate medical aid without which death might have ensued.
Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD C. OEDER, 39 581 395, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. In the face of intense enemy small arms and sniper fire, Private Oeder, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, stuck to his exposed machine gun position, in support of his company during the attack on Wurzburg, laying down a withering barrage until he had destroyed all German resistance in his zone of fire. This heroic act is exemplary of the highest traditions of the Rainbow. Entered military service from Sheldon, North Dakota.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to RAY D. SUMMERS, 35 235 325, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When his platoon met terrific small arms fire, Sergeant Summers exposed himself to direct enemy fire while maneuvering his men into covered firing positions. Though seriously wounded in the back while crawling from one man to another, he refused medical aid until he had directed his platoon's fire so effectively that the enemy surrendered. Sergeant Summers' courage and aggressive leadership enabled his platoon to capture over 70 prisoners, while suffering only two casualties. Entered military service from Toronto, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to VIRGIL S. SEAMON, 37 049 904, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When his platoon had been pinned down by enemy sniper fire in their advance through Wurzburg, Germany, Private Seamon deliberately exposed himself to draw the fire of the snipers, thereby locating their positions. When the snipers had been located he killed two of them and his platoon continued to advance through the city.
Entered military service from Union, Missouri.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WARREN W. PARSLEY, 37 734 888, Sergeant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. Advancing alone in the face of heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Parsley laid down a base of fire which pinned down the enemy and enabled his squad to overrun their positions with only one casualty. Disregarding his personal safety, he advanced twice more, exposing himself, to cover the maneuvering elements of his squad. Sergeant Parsley's courage and devotion to duty made an effective contribution to the successful attack of his squad. Entered military service from Castana, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES R. PETTUS, JR., 37 617 986, Staff Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. Private Pettus, an automatic rifleman, constantly exposed himself to enemy fire in

order to destroy enemy sniper positions in Wurzburg. Entering a basement where three snipers were hiding, he courageously advanced and killed all of them before they could fire. Private Pettus' extreme courage and disregard for his safety were important factors in the successful completion of the day's engagement. Entered military service from Bonne Terre, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RAYMOND ZEBROWSKI, 36 982 321, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. Leading his squad in an attack on enemy positions at Wurzburg, Sergeant Zebrowski constantly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire. Firing as he advanced, he personally captured one machine gun position and aided in the capture of two 20mm cannons. Sergeant Zebrowski's leadership and aggressiveness contributed materially to the capture of a large number of the enemy and the destruction of many pieces of equipment. Entered military service from Hamtramck, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE S. MARINO, 20 904 444, Corporal, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. Under direct enemy observation, Corporal Marino, first scout, advanced into an open field to establish an observation post. When he was held up by hostile fire, Corporal Marino called for mortar fire on the enemy, though aware the shells would fall within a few yards of his own position, and under cover of this fire established the observation post. His courage and disregard for his own safety enabled a vulnerable flank to be protected by mortar fire.
Entered military service from Compton, California.

At 0515B, 5 April, the enemy launched a counterattack from the north portion of WURZBURG with approximately 200 men in a fanatical attempt to reach and destroy the two bridges across the MAIN River. The 3d Bn of the 232d Infantry, supported by elements of the 1st and 2d Bns, met the attack and stopped it after it had penetrated to within 100 yards of the North Bridge. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy and 80 prisoners were captured. After reorganizing, the 3d Bn, 222d Infantry, attacked, crossed the railroad in the northeast portion of the city, and cleared the remaining buildings to the North. The 1st and 2d Bns, 232d Infantry, continued the attack to the East and cleared the remaining portion of the city in its zone against strong resistance including panzerfaust. The 232d Infantry was supported by elements of CCA, 12th Armored Division. The 222d Infantry continued the attack and reached the high ground on the eastern outskirts of WURZBURG. The 242d Infantry crossed the MAIN River into WURZBURG and systematically searched all buildings, cellars, tunnels, and areas for by-passed enemy resistance. After 3 days of difficult bloody fighting against fanatical resistance, the Rainbow cleared the skeleton city of WURZBURG on 5 April 1945.

At 0420, **5 April**, Company K, with five tank destroyers from the 692d TD's, attacked on the high ground above Würzburg, reached the objective at 0700, and took prisoners. Stiff enemy resistance was found in various areas into which the

enemy infiltrated during the night. At 0410 approximately 150-200 enemy approaching from the high ground, counterattacked at a road block in the left or northern section of the town. A heavy fire-fight lasting about forty minutes, resulted in driving back the enemy which had surrounded the Company I and Third Battalion CP's.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE R. COPPENRATH, 01 049 449, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When two panzerfausts were fired into the Company Command Post wounding the Company Commander and another officer, Lieutenant Coppenrath immediately ordered the Command Post to be evacuated. In the face of intense grenade, machine gun, and small arms fire coming from the attacking enemy forces, he made repeated trips to secure ammunition stored in the building in order to distribute it to elements of the company. Although stunned by a grenade, he continued until the task was accomplished. Lieutenant Coppenrath's outstanding courage and leadership was instrumental in repulsing the determined enemy attack.
Entered military service from Clinton, Massachusetts.
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths database lists 1LT Coppenrath as killed in action on 04/09/45]
1LT George R. Coppenrath rests under the care of Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avold, Lorraine, France.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WENDELL G. VAN AUKEN, JR., 026 269, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When his commanding officer was wounded just before the assault of Wurzburg, Lieutenant Van Auken, Executive Officer, took immediate command, completed the organization for the attack under constant enemy sniper and automatic weapons fire, then personally led the company forward. Under Lieutenant Van Auken's aggressive command, the company objective was taken despite severe enemy resistance. Entered military service from Buffalo, Wyoming.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT T. FRATCHER, 35 931 588, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. During the battle for Wurzburg, Germany, Private Fratcher's platoon found itself faced with superior enemy firepower and unable to hold its positions. He immediately volunteered to go back and bring up the supporting platoon. Picking his way through the debris-filled streets under constant sniper fire, he surprised an enemy machine gun crew behind our positions. Before the enemy could fire, he killed or wounded all of the crew, continuing on to contact the support platoon. Private Fratcher's outstanding courage and unswerving determination played a major role in the successful capture of the town. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RAYMOND G. ESPLAN, 37 600 125, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. Upon returning from delivering prisoners to the rear, Private Esplan found his squad pinned down by intense enemy machine gun and small arms fire. Moving to one flank, he advanced into the hail of fire, firing his automatic rifle from the hip, until he was twenty yards from the enemy position. With bullets striking all about him, he then threw two grenades into the emplacement, completely silencing the machine gun and killing the crew. Private Esplan's heroic action enabled his squad to continue to advance and successfully wipe out the remaining enemy positions. Entered military service from Baudette, Minnesota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DWANE W. ESPLIN, 39 932 899, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While Private Esplin's platoon was advancing through the streets of Wurzburg, Germany, it was suddenly pinned down by intense enemy sniper fire. Private Esplin unhesitatingly crept into an exposed position in order to place fire on the snipers, pinning them down and allowing his platoon to seek cover. Remaining in the exposed position under deadly fire, he continued to fire on the snipers until elements of his platoon maneuvered round the building and eliminated the enemy. As a result of his courageous action, thirteen enemy snipers were killed without a casualty to his platoon. Entered military service from St. George, Utah.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to NUNZIE J. NIGRO, 12 148 121, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While advancing through Wurzburg, Corporal Nigro's platoon was held up by intense and accurate sniper fire. Exposing himself to the heavy fire, he located the positions of several of the snipers, and then went back to his platoon's position. There he obtained an automatic rifle, crawled forward alone under the intense fire, and placed automatic rifle fire on the positions, killing three of the enemy. Corporal Nigro's courageous and aggressive action enabled his platoon to continue forward to the successful accomplishment of their mission.
Entered military service from Long Island, New York.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN N. PETRO, 39 542 822, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When the Second Battalion encountered heavy machine gun, rifle, and bazooka fire while advancing into Wurzburg, Sergeant Petro led his squad in the direction of the heaviest enemy fire. Approaching a church tower from which the heaviest sniper fire was pouring, he led his squad into the tower, killing five of the enemy with his rifle. Encouraged by his aggressive and courageous action, the squad killed fifteen and wounded twenty of the enemy, thereby removing a serious pocket of resistance tht had been holding up the battalion advance. Entered military service from Burbank, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to NORMAN E. LIPSCHULTZ, 36 674 581, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the battle for Wurzburg, a pocket of enemy resistance halted the advance of the Second and Third Battalions. Private Lipschultz's Ranger squad advanced to overcome the resistance. When the Rangers opened fire, the enemy began a withdrawal which Private Lipschultz attempted to block although in doing so he was forced to expose himself to the enemy fire. He killed five of the retreating enemy with his rifle before receiving a fatal wound. As a result of Private Lipschultz's heroic sacrifice, the two battalions were enabled to continue their advance into the city. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Ruth Krasne (mother), 1646 South Homan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PHILLIP A. PREBECK, 36 909 998, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the fierce fighting for Wurzburg, Germany, Private Prebeck's rifle squad was held up by intense enemy machine gun fire coming from a building to their immediate front. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Prebeck fearlessly crawled through the intense barrage to within fifty yards of the enemy position. Then, exposing himself to the full view of the enemy, he stood up and fired an accurate bazooka round into the machine gun nest, silencing it and killing

several of the crew. Private Prebeck's courageous action enabled his squad to continue their further successful advance through the city. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



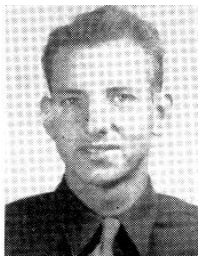
The SILVER STAR is awarded to WALDO G. ANDREWS, 39 291 623, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. As squad leader, Sergeant Andrews acted with exceptional bravery and leadership during the attack on Wurzburg when, under heavy machine gun and small arms fire, he led a bazooka team in an attack on a concrete bunker, forcing the enemy to surrender after two well-directed rounds had been fired point-blank into the enemy position. Sergeant Andrews' courageous action and intelligent leadership resulted in the capture of one general and twenty-five other high ranking enemy officers. Entered military service from San Diego, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE E. THOMPSON, 36 979 248, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When an enemy strong point seventy five yards from his position was holding up the Battalion advance in Wurzburg, Sergeant Thompson advanced through the debris-filled streets to a position from which he delivered a heavy volume of fire on the installation with his rifle, completely silencing the enemy fire. He then directed his fire at enemy snipers, killing one and silencing the fire of several others. Sergeant Thompson's courageous and fearless action played a major role in the successful attack on the city.
Entered military service from Holt, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK TRIPOLI, 37 411 362, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. During the advance through Wurzburg, Private Tripoli noticed three members of his rifle squad trapped by the fire of an enemy sniper, who was in an advantageous position high in a nearby building. He unhesitatingly exposed himself to the sniper's fire to maneuver into a position from which he could direct fire on the enemy position. He succeeded in placing accurate fire on the sniper's position, enabled his comrades to escape out of range and thereafter was successful in killing the enemy rifleman. Private Tripoli's courageous and skillful action undoubtedly saved the lives of the three soldiers. Entered military service from San Diego, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEONARD W. MCCULLEY, 33 815 624, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on Wurzburg, when his platoon was pinned down by intense machine gun and sniper fire, Private McCulley advanced across an open street to get into firing position. The enemy immediately opened fire on him with a machine gun from fifty yards, but he replied with several anti-tank grenades on the position, enabling his platoon to advance and capture the position. Private McCulley then advanced toward a church from which snipers had killed several of his comrades and threw a grenade among the enemy, killing one and forcing the others to surrender. Private McCulley's outstanding courage and aggressive action contributed materially to the capture of the city. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD E. JULIAN, 35 694 263, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. Although rifle troops were forced to leave their positions because of intense enemy sniper and machine gun fire, Private Julian remained at his light machine gun, directing heavy fire upon the enemy. Moving to a completely exposed position, he brought accurate fire to bear on a bazooka and

machine gun position only 35 yards away, silencing both enemy weapons. Private Julian's courage and disregard for his own safety made an effective contribution to the successful advance of our troops. Entered military service from Scottsburg, Indiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to REGINALD H. GREENFIELD, 13 000 229, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When a pocket of intense sniper fire killed and wounded several of the advancing infantrymen, Sergeant Greenfield advanced in the face of the enemy fire to a point of vantage. Engaging the enemy with rifle fire, he killed and wounded several, and sealed a number of others in a tunnel with hand grenades. Sergeant Greenfield's courageous actions under fire enabled his men to continue to advance and overrun the enemy positions.
Entered military service from Martinsburg, West Virginia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to NORMAN D. WHEELER, 37 482 667, Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. During the battle for Wurzburg, the platoons of Company F were cut off from the ammunition dump by infiltrating enemy forces. Sergeant Wheeler's 60mm mortar squad was running out of ammunition. Sergeant Wheeler made his way through the enemy lines through intense sniper fire back to the ammunition point and returned with a heavy load of ammunition to his squad. By his courageous action under fire, his squad was able to effectively support rifle troops in liquidating infiltrating enemy forces. Entered military service from Allen, Nebraska.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MITCHELL J. KRAJEWSKI, 36 585 784, Private first Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the bitter fighting for Wurzburg, Company F was cut off and surrounded by infiltrating enemy forces. When his mortar ammunition was almost exhausted, Private Krajewski made his way through the infiltrating enemy under intense machine gun and sniper fire, found the supply point, and fearlessly returned over the same route with a heavy load of ammunition. Private Krajewski's prompt and courageous action was largely responsible for the successful containing of the sector against the counter-attacking enemy.
Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WARREN J. EARP, 34 666 508, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When the advance section of 81mm mortars became surrounded by infiltrating enemy patrols and all communications were severed, Private Earp unhesitatingly volunteered to lay wire to the surrounded section. Despite heavy enemy sniper fire, he succeeded in laying the wire and establishing communications. Simultaneously the enemy patrol was driven off. Private Earp's heroic action in the face of great danger was instrumental in the combat success of his platoon. Entered military service from Durham, North Carolina.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to THEODORE A. JOHNSON, 37 673 799, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During bitter street fighting in Wurzburg, Germany, Sergeant Johnson left his mortar section and without regard for his personal safety, accompanied a medical aid man across fifty yards of open terrain to the aid of a wounded tanker. Under heavy hostile fire, he helped administer first aid to the wounded man and assisted the aid man in carrying him back across the same open

area. He then returned to his section where he aided in repulsing a sudden enemy counter-attack. By his outstanding courage and devotion to duty, Sergeant Johnson assisted in saving a fellow soldier from possible death or capture and in supporting the assault on Wurzburg.
Entered military service from Fayette, Iowa.



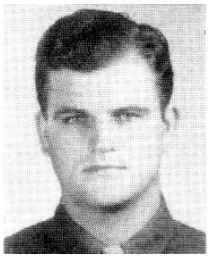
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN A. CHACHERE, 38 488 210, Corporal, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When a column of jeeps under his command was momentarily thrown into confusion by enemy small arms and machine gun fire, Corporal Chachere displayed unusual courage and leadership. Realizing the importance of his vehicles to the success of the operation, he motioned the other drivers to return to their vehicles and led them through the fire of the enemy to a place of safety. Corporal Chachere's prompt and daring action under fire saved the four vehicles thus contributing to the success of his company.
Entered military service from Lafayette, Louisiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEWIS D. KEMRY, 37 708 275, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. As jeep driver in a heavy machine gun squad, Private Kemry made many trips through enemy fire to bring ammunition and supplies to his platoon. Trapped for four hours during one trip by enemy troops who had infiltrated through friendly lines, he engaged them in a firefight until he was able to continue with his mission. By his courage and devotion to duty, Private Kemry enabled his squad's gun to support a successful Infantry attack. Entered military service from Steamboat Springs, Colorado.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THOMAS E. RYAN, 35 088 632, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While securing ammunition for his squad, Private Ryan was fired upon by enemy automatic weapons and rifles and was pinned down. Continuing to advance despite the heavy fire, he secured the ammunition and returned over the same route, once more crawling under the intense fire to complete his mission. Private Ryan's courageous action under fire supplied his squad with vitally needed ammunition and enabled them to continue supporting the attack through the city. Entered military service from West Union, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD G. CRAWFORD, 37 219 345, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. While Sergeant Crawford and three other men were on outpost guard in Wurzburg, Germany, the enemy launched a strong counterattack against our positions. Rapidly deploying his men, he led them in a fierce exchange of fire with the advancing enemy forces, holding them off until his company could prepare a defense line to the rear. Although wounded in the leg, he continued to fire at the enemy until they had overrun the position. Sergeant Crawford's courageous and aggressive leadership contributed materially to eventually repulsing the determined attack. Entered military service from Sedwich, Kansas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD L. WEGNER, JR., 36 992 067, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When the advance of Company I was halted on the outskirts of Wurzburg, Germany by intense small arms, machine gun, and anti-aircraft artillery fire, Private Wegner led his rifle

squad to silence the enemy positions. Constantly exposing himself as he advanced, he located the well-concealed positions and opened fire on them. As he advanced he was seriously wounded, but, despite his wound, he pointed out the positions to his comrades, enabling the squad to continue their assault. Private Wegner's courageous determination contributed materially to the eventual capitulation of the heavily defended city. Entered military service from Linden, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ERNEST J. BOSSARD, 37 574 284, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. Early on the morning of 5 April 1945, Sergeant Bossard and his light machine gun section were placed on the alert in preparation for an enemy counterattack. When the attack started, he exposed himself to intense machine gun, rifle, and automatic weapons fire to direct the fire of his section and keep them supplied with ammunition, making one trip through the intense enemy fire to the supply point for vitally needed ammunition. By his outstanding courage and leadership, Sergeant Bossard's section was able to completely halt the determined counter-attack, while inflicting a large number of casualties.
Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to CHARLES E. SEVIER, 13 197 179, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. Private Sevier and two comrades were manning an outpost in Wurzburg, Germany when a strong enemy counterattack under cover of intense machine gun and small arms fire quickly overran the position. Seeing that his two fellow soldiers were severely wounded, he made a desperate attempt to escape from the enemy to warn his company of the presence of the attacking force. As he broke away from his captors, he was fatally wounded by enemy rifle fire. Private Sevier's courageous and gallant self-sacrifice reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Name and address of naerest relative: Mrs. Lillian Wellener (Mother), 330 S. Rolling Road, Springfield, Pennsylvania. Entered military service from Springfield, Pennsylvania. PFC Charles E. Sevier rests under the care of Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, St. Avold, Lorraine, France.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT J. GROUND, 36 684 376, First Sergeant (then Technical Sergeant), Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When a strong enemy force counterattacked the positions of Company I in Wurzburg, Germany, Sergeant Ground immediately called a light machine gun section forward and placed them alongside his platoon. As the enemy forces approached, he exposed himself to intense grenade, panzerfaust, machine gun, and rifle fire in order to maintain contact between his rifle platoon and the machine gun section. Upon coming face to face with an enemy SS officer, Sergeant Ground killed him with one shot from his rifle. Sergeant Ground's outstanding courage, alertness, and leadership contributed materially to his Company's success in repelling the determined attack.
Entered military service from Springfield, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELTON L. JOHNSON, 39 599 180, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During the enemy counter-attack at Wurzburg, Private Johnson, light machine gunner, was engaging the enemy in a terrific exchange of fire. Although burned by white phosphorous grenades thrown into his position, he continued to fire his gun at the oncoming enemy. Then two concussion grenades exploded beside him, wounding him severely. Despite his pain and serious bleeding, Private Johnson courageously remained at his gun and continued to fire until his assistant gunner came forward to relieve him. Entered military service from Handley, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEWIS F. HOLMES, 0 552 670, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During an enemy counter-attack on Wurzburg, a superior enemy force had completely surrounded two platoons of Company I and was inflicting numerous casualties. Lieutenant Holmes, weapons platoon leader, constantly exposed himself to intense machine gun and rifle fire in order to deploy his weapons most effectively. Throughout the entire action he was ranging along his platoon's front, directing their fire and placing his men in more advantageous positions. By his courageous action and aggressive leadership, Lieutenant Holmes was able to repulse the enemy force and free the rifle troops from their precarious position.
Entered military service from Trenton, South Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEE ALLRED, 39 929 826, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the enemy counter-attack on Wurzburg, Private Allred manned a light machine gun after the gunner became seriously wounded. While firing at the approaching enemy, he was severely burned by white phosphorous grenades thrown into his position. He unhesitatingly moved out under intense enemy fire with his machine gun and placed it in a doorway of a ruined building. He then ran into the street at various intervals to fire his gun from the hip at enemy positions up the fire swept street. Private Allred's courageous action and selfless determination halted all advances of the enemy up the street and played a large part in successfully repulsing the counter-attack. Entered military service from Roosevelt, Utah.

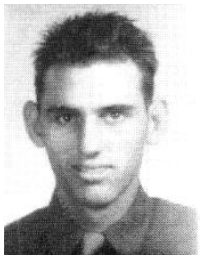
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DEAN D. HEISER, 37 749 645, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. Private Heiser, light machine gun ammunition bearer, was with his platoon advancing through Wurzburg when the enemy launched a counter-attack against our positions. He constantly exposed himself to heavy enemy machine gun, rifle, panzerfaust, and grenade fire in his tireless efforts to keep his gun supplied with sufficient ammunition to hold off the enemy forces. Private Heiser's courageous action and devotion to duty enabled his squad to continuously fire a heavy volume of fire at the enemy, repulsing their determined counter-attack. Entered military service from Osborne, Kansas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEANDER L. KRUSE, 37 750 179, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. Private Kruse and two comrades were manning an outpost in Wurzburg, Germany, when a strong enemy force counterattacked under cover of intense machine gun and small arms fire and quickly overran their position. Disregarding the deadly barrage, Private Kruse opened fire on the enemy with his automatic rifle in a desperate attempt to halt the advance. After killing two of the enemy, he was seriously wounded and the outpost was captured by the superior force. As a result of his heroic and aggressive action, our troops to the rear were enabled to set up a successful defense and repulse the attacking enemy. Entered military service from Selden, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES S. BAKER, 17 092 464, Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. During a determined enemy counter-attack on Wurzburg, Sergeant Baker fearlessly exposed himself to intense machine gun and rifle fire to direct the fire of his light machine gun on the advancing enemy. When his squad suffered several casualties, he went back through the intense fire to lead an aid man to the wounded men. Through his outstanding courage and leadership, Sergeant Baker's squad was able to completely halt the counter-attack and kill many of the

attacking enemy. Entered military service from Montclair, New Jersey.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HOWARD L. WILLET, 18 171 880, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. As light machine gunner for his squad, Private Willet was in position alerted for an expected enemy counter attack. He observed the approach of enemy soldiers and immediately opened fire on them, receiving in return a heavy concentration of machine gun, machine pistol, rifle, grenade, and panzerfaust fire. Although he suffered painful burns from white phosphorous grenades thrown into his position, he held his ground fearlessly until friendly rifle troops reinforced his position and drove the enemy back.
Entered military service from Pineville, Louisiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RALPH S. JACOBSEN, 36 470 805, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the advance through Wurzburg, Private Jacobsen's rifle platoon was halted by intense enemy sniper fire. Determining the location of the snipers, he ran into the street, fully exposed to the fire, and directed a heavy volume of rifle fire into the sniper's position. This act brought the location of the enemy to the attention of machine gunners who quickly silenced the snipers. Private Jacobsen's courage and determination enabled his platoon to continue their advance through the city.
Entered military service from Grand Rapids, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to MARION J. COX, 35 129 912, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. During the bitter house-to-house fighting in Wurzburg, Germany, Private Cox was sent on a mission of laying communication lines to his company's forward positions in preparation for an attack on a German-held hill. Braving the deadly sniper fire covering the area, he accomplished his mission and was returning to his company with six prisoners of war when he was mortally wounded by an enemy sniper. Through his heroic self-sacrifice, Private Cox contributed immeasurably to the rapid capitulation of the key city of Wurzburg. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Margaret J. Cox (Mother), Ripley, Ohio.
Entered military service from Ripley, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM R. NICHOLSON, 36 469 107, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. While laying wire near Wurzburg under intense sniper fire, Private Nicholson saw a wireman seriously wounded by a sniper's bullet. He advanced across one hundred yards of open terrain under the heavy fire to summon aid men. He then led an aid man across the same area and assisted him in administering first aid and evacuating the casualty. Private Nicholson's outstanding courage under fire undoubtedly saved the injured soldier's life.
Entered military service from Alpena, Michigan.

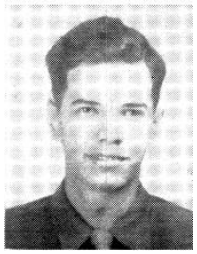


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLARK P. HOLCOMBE, 34 813 871, Sergeant, Infantry, Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action 5 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on the high ground north of Wurzburg, where aid men were unable to reach a wounded soldier because of intense sniper fire, Sergeant Holcombe exposed himself to the fire to enable his mortar squad to bring accurate fire to bear on the enemy positions. Remaining in this exposed position, Sergeant Holcombe adjusted the fire of his mortars until the German positions were neutralized, permitting the medical aid men to go to the

injured soldier, administer aid and bring him back to safety.
Entered military service from Trafford, Alabama.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RALPH W. NUSBAUM, 15 122 130, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. After taking a strongly defended hill, Private Nusbaum's company was subjected to extremely heavy and accurate sniper fire that his mortar squad was directed to neutralize. Finding no position offering mask clearance in the woods, the squad moved into an open field in front of the riflemen, where Private Nusbaum set up his mortar in a location exposed to the direct fire of the enemy snipers. In spite of this fire, his accurately placed rounds silenced the Germans and caused several of them to surrender. By his courage and devotion to duty, Private Nusbaum was instrumental in covering the continued advance of his Company. Entered military service from Lima, Ohio.

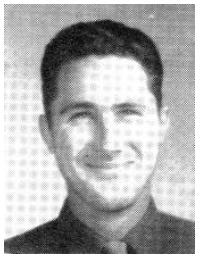


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LLOYD T. SOULE, 13 135 216, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When a call was made for litter bearers during the fierce fighting through the fireswept streets of Wurzburg, Germany, Private Soule, with utter disregard for his own safety, made his way forward to the wounded soldiers. Braving heavy machine gun and mortar fire, he administered first aid and then supervised the evacuation of the injured men to the rear for medical treatment. Through his indomitable courage and heroic devotion to duty, Private Soule saved two wounded comrades from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BUFORD P. JOHNSON, 38 022 801, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When two officers and one enlisted man were wounded during the early fighting in Wurzburg, Sergeant Johnson braved intense small arms and sniper to go to the aid of the wounded men. After dressing their wounds under the continuous fire, he enlisted the aid of several litter bearers and assisted in evacuating the casualties. Sergeant Johnson's heroic devotion to his comrades was a major factor in saving their lives. Entered military service from Ornaf, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM H. OWENS, 38 185 171, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. As a litter bearer Private Owens proceeded alone to the aid of a tank crew whose vehicle had been wrecked by panzerfaust fire. Completely disregarding his own safety, Private Owens directed several nearby infantrymen to provide covering fire, and advanced to the tank where he found an officer and two enlisted men. Private Owens administered first aid and with the assistance of other aid men carried the three wounded men to safety. By his courage and initiative, Private Owens was responsible for saving three wounded men from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Choudrant, Louisiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD J. BARTHOLOMEW, 36 678 928, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. After an American tank destroyer had been knocked out by enemy action, Corporal Bartholomew drove his quarter-ton litter vehicle up to the burning destroyer under

German sniper and automatic weapons fire from positions 150 yards away. Disregarding the heavy fire that was directed at him, he treated the wounds of two injured men and successfully evacuated them to a place of safety. By his courage and determination, Corporal Bartholomew saved two fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Arcola, Illinois.

At the same time in the northwest section of the town near the railroad tracks a fire-fight developed between an enemy patrol and mortar section of Company M.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH WILLIAMS, 35 893 492, Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. Sergeant Williams was the leader of a heavy machine gun squad supporting attacking rifle troops in the hills north of Wurzburg, Germany. When enemy 20mm cannon and small arms fire threatened to halt the advance, he moved his gun to an exposed but advantageous position to place fire on the enemy guns. Without any cover from the hail of enemy fire, Sergeant Williams skillfully directed and controlled the fire of his gun so effectively that he assisted in destroying two machine gun nests, a 20mm cannon, and in forcing enemy troops to retreat in disorder.
Entered military service from Indianapolis, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE J. KEAHY, 39 861 162, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. When his mortar platoon was attacked by infiltrating enemy forces at Wurzburg, Private Keahy moved forward firing his rifle, forcing the enemy to disperse. Throughout the ensuing battle he remained in his advanced, vulnerable position under the intense fire until he was cut off from the remainder of his platoon. Private Keahy then pretended to be dead while the enemy removed his trench knife and bayoneted his gas mask. After the enemy had passed him he again engaged them with his rifle until they had been completely driven off.
Entered military service from Phoenix, Arizona.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GENE C. SIMONSON, 39 293 661, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When a rifleman was wounded seriously in the stomach, Corporal Simonson led his litter bearers through intense sniper fire to carry the man to safety. It was essential that the wounded man be evacuated immediately, so he helped carry the injured man through the sniper-infested streets to the aid station on the opposite edge of town. Corporal Simonson's courageous devotion to duty was instrumental in saving the man's life. Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH SKVARLA, 36 966 778, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regimnent, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. Private Skvarla, member of a mortar platoon, was on guard when he sighted and fired on a 60-man German patrol advancing on his position. Though wounded almost immediately, Private Skvarla made his way back to his platoon and gave warning. During the engagement which followed, and despite his injury, he remained with his unit and continued fighting. Private Skvarla's courageous act was largely responsible for inflicting heavy casualties upon the Germans and breaking up the attack.
Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

The First Battalion, billeted in the large Arbeitsamt building, received sniper, burp gun and panzerfaust fire in a counterattack that was soon repelled. At 1215 the Regimental Forward CP was established at Würzburg. The Second Battalion was ordered to establish contact with the 222d Infantry on the right as all companies pushed forward. Tank destroyers and high velocity weapons were employed to demolish obstacles. The regiment continued to clear the enemy from the city, destroying enemy equipment, rifles, automobiles, demolitions and explosives, and occupied the high ground on the perimeter.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JOHN W. BARRETT, 024 448, Major, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. Major Barrett was acting as Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, during the attack upon Wurzburg, Germany, when the battalion became disorganized as a result of heavy casualties sustained from enemy sniper fire. Learning that the Company Commander of one of the attacking companies and the Executive Officer of the other Company were both casualties, Major Barrett proceeded in the face of intense enemy small arms and panzerfaust fire to the Companies, apprised the platoon leaders of the situation, reorganized the battalion and issued orders for the resumption of the attack. Running more than one hundred yards to a command tank, he directed the tanks to continue the assault and reestablished contact with the regiment by radio. His outstanding courage and aggressive leadership were responsible for the continuation of the attack by his battalion and contributed greatly to the successful accomplishments of the regiment.
Entered military service from Reno, Nevada

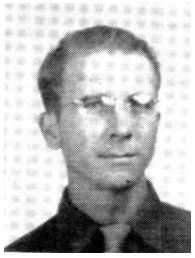


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GERALD A. DIBARTOLOMEO, 31 324 968, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When his platoon was pinned down by heavy machine gun, rifle and panzerfaust fire, Private DiBartolomeo unhesitatingly moving forward through the enemy fire to place his light machine gun in a good firing position. Facing the heavy volume of fire, he then directed such accurate fire on the enemy that they were routed from their positions. Private DiBartolomeo's courageous action under fire enabled his platoon to continue their advance and overrun the enemy. Entered military service from East Hartford, Connecticut.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DAVID H. JAMES JR., 44 040 479, Private First Class, Infantry Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When the supply of mortar ammunition was almost exhausted, Private James volunteered to go back for more shells. Although surrounded by enemy pockets of resistance, he exposed himself to machine gun, mortar and sniper fire, crept through the enemy lines, and returned with the ammunition. Private James' courageous action was directly responsible for the effective support provided by the weapons platoon during the action.
Entered military service from Memphis, Tennessee.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES V. ESTES, SR., 44 040 566, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. As ammunition bearer for a light machine gun section during the fighting for Wurzburg, Private Estes disregarded his personal safety to make many trips for ammunition through enemy automatic, rifle, machine gun, and panzerfaust fire. As a direct result of Private Estes'

courageous action, the machine guns were able to maintain a steady volume of fire, aiding materially in repelling a counterattacking force of more than 100 heavily-armed enemy.
Entered military service from Jackson, Tennessee.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH P. SOMERS, 42 005 550, Corporal, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 5 April in Wurzburg, Germany. When the First Battalion aid station was surrounded by enemy troops, a panzerfaust was fired into one of the rooms, causing six casualties. Corporal Somers went into the room, and despite heavy enemy machine gun and rifle fire coming through the windows, succeeded in evacuating the six men to a more secure position where he administered further treatment. Corporal Somer's extreme courage under fire undoubtedly saved the six men from further injury or death. Entered military service from Woodbridge, New Jersey.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD C. TIMBERLAKE, 0 363 779, Captain, C.A.C., Headquarters Battery, 431st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (Mobile), for meritorious service in action during the period 1 June 1944 to 5 April 1945, inclusive. As Battalion Motor Transportation Officer since 1 June 1944, Captain Timberlake exercised supervision over 123 motorized vehicles, 64 mobile gun mounts, and 42 trailers, many of which have been in combat for 32 months. Encouraging initiative among his mechanics and drivers and emphasizing systematic inspections and preventative maintenance he avoided higher echelon repair work and kept the number of deadlined vehicles to a minimum in spite of the scarcity of parts and lack of time for repairs. His efficient supervision of vehicle maintenance and operation enabled him to furnish the transportation required by the frequent and rapid movements of the battalion through the difficult terrain of the Vosges and Hardt Mountains and to provide anti-aircraft protection wherever required.
Entered military service from Ellerson, Virginia.

II <u>CAPTURE OF SCHWEINFURT</u>

After the capture of WURZBURG, the Rainbowmen had no rest. They immediately changed direction to the northeast and headed toward SCHWEINFURT. The 42d Inf Div remained the left flank unit in XXI Corps with the 4th Inf Div on the right of the Division zone, 3d Inf Div on the left of the Division zone, and CCA, 12th Armored Div operation in the Division zone. The Rainbow continued the advance 6 April with the 222d Inf on the right flank, 232d Inf on the left flank, and 242d Inf following CCA, 12th Armored Division in the center. The 1st and 2d Bns advanced to the towns of BEBERGANT (N7036) and EFFELDORF (N6935) respectively against light opposition consisting mainly of occasional sniper fire. Patrols, during the hours of darkness, advanced to DETTELBACH (N7436). The 232d Inf attacked the high dominating ground north of WURZBURG at 1200 B after regrouping with the 3 Bns abreast. The 1st and 2d Bns moved forward steadily against sniper and machine gun fire, but the 3d Bn encountered heavy small arms and 20mm AA fire. Maneuvering elements were sent to attack the hill from the East, Northeast, and North. The 1st Bn of the 242d Inf remained in WURZBURG as security for bridges and supply lines. The 2d Bn, 242d Inf attached to CCA, 12th Armored Division, advanced very rapidly on the WURZBURG-SCHWEINFURT highway. The 3d Bn, 242d Inf, followed closely behind the 2d Bn.

On **6 April** the battalions maintained aggressive patrolling to the front, jumping off at 1505 north to secure the high ground in the zone of advance of the regiment. Little enemy resistance was encountered by the First and Second Battalions as they advanced towards their objectives. The Third Battalion met considerable resistance, receiving mortar fire from the vicinity of Hill 303, northwest of Würzburg. At 1720 Company L attacked Hill 303, and at 1725 Company K attacked the town of Unter-Durrbach. The Second Battalion reached their objective and established a CP at Rimpar at 2240.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to CHESTER P. NOVAK, 37 703 189, Private First Class, Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During the battle for Wurzburg, Private Novak, light machine gunner, was firing his machine gun in support of rifle troops moving forward to envelop and knock out enemy machine gun and anti-aircraft positions which were holding up the progress of his unit. Firing from an exposed position on an embankment, Private Novak was hit by an enemy twenty-millimeter anti-aircraft artillery shell and was knocked down from the embankment. Although his left arm was completely useless, Private Novak unhesitatingly crawled back up to his embankment and continued to fire his machine gun. His accurate fire silenced a large part of the enemy fire and enabled rifle troops to continue in a further successful advance. Entered military service from Denver, Colorado.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANTHONY HARDEN, 12 242 308, Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When his company was held up by fire from enemy 20 mm flak guns, Private Harden, a light machine gunner, moved his weapon into an exposed position and directed fire against the hostile weapons. His position was immediately discovered by the enemy, who turned the fire of several guns upon him. Although hurled from his post by one enemy burst, Private Harden returned and continued firing, diverting the enemy until the flak positions were overrun by friendly rifle troops. His courage and determination were major factors in the successful advance of his company. Entered military service from Utica, New York



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GLENWOOD R. GRIM, 33 289 363, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When twenty millimeter and small arms fire threatened to halt our advance into Wurzburg, Germany, Private Grim moved his heavy machine gun into an exposed position to bring fire on the enemy guns. With no available cover, he fearlessly maintained a heavy volume of fire despite the intense fire directed at his open position. Private Grim's courage and aggressiveness played a major role in the continued advance of our forces into the city. Entered military service from Dallastown, Pennsylvania.

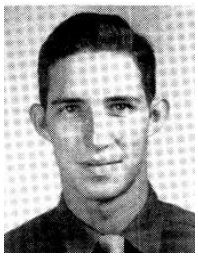


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDGAR L. SIMPSON, 20 828 898, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While on outpost guard for his anti-tank platoon, Private Simpson observed an enemy bazooka man knock out one of two friendly tanks advancing through the town, and then head for the other tank. He quickly ran to the street, exposing himself to enemy machine gun and rifle fire, and went to the spot where he had seen the enemy soldier. Spotting the enemy, Private Simpson killed him with his carbine. By his courageous action and alertness he saved

one of our tanks and its crew from destruction or damage.
Entered military service from Hugo, Oklahoma.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GARNET A. NICHOLLS, 39 111 674, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When enemy 20mm and small arms fire threatened to halt our attack on Wurzburg, Germany Private Nicholls moved his heavy machine gun to an exposed position to bring fire on the enemy guns. With no available cover he manipulated and fired his gun under the hail of enemy fire. After forcing the enemy to withdraw, he moved his weapon forward over the open terrain and continued to direct effective fire on the enemy. Private Nicholls' outstanding courage under fire assisted in the destruction of two enemy machine guns, a 20mm cannon, and in the disorderly retreat of enemy forces. Entered military service from Oakland California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MALCOLM D. BARKER, 38 459 414, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. During the bitter fighting around Wurzburg, 100 heavily armed enemy troops launched a counterattack against the positions held by Private Barker's machine gun section. Private Barker moved into a position exposed to intense machine gun and rifle fire in order to observe and direct the fire of the gunners. Encouraged by his calmness and courage under fire, the section refused to yield ground to the fiercely attacking enemy, completely stopping the German effort. Entered military service from Crystal City, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HOWARD E. HENDERSON, 44 040 168, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on Wurzburg, an enemy sniper was harassing Company I's supply route and the route over which the wounded were being evacuated. Private Henderson exposed himself to the sniper fire and maneuvered into a position from which he was able to kill the enemy sniper. His courageous and skillful action enabled ammunition and litter bearers to resume their operations with comparative safety. Entered military service from Knoxville, Tennessee.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE E. HEINER, 35 775 615, Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on Wurzburg, Sergeant Heiner was leading a heavy machine gun squad in support of an attacking rifle company when enemy 20 mm cannon and machine gun fire threatened to halt our advance. He moved his gun to an exposed position to bring fire on the enemy, and although he had no cover he effectively directed the fire of his gun while under enemy fire. Sergeant Heiner's courage and leadership contributed materially to the destruction of many enemy weapons and the enemy retreat in this sector.
Entered military service from Huntington, West Virginia.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to RICHARD J. STEENO, 0 545 732, 2d Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 6 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. Lieutenant Steeno was acting as Forward Observer with Company B, 232d Infantry on 6 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany, when the building in which the Company was located was surrounded by the enemy. Using a 1/100,000 map, Lieutenant Steeno immediately called for protective artillery fire, the first round of which landed within ten yards of his position. To obtain better observation, Lieutenant Steeno moved to the roof of the building, from where, exposed to hostile machine gun

and small arms fire, he adjusted the fire of his Battalion on the enemy positions across to the street, completely destroying them and killing more than fifteen Germans. By his courageous action and skillful adjustment of fire, Lieutenant Steeno prevented numerous casualties among our troops and contributed materially to the capture of the City of Wurzburg.
Entered military service from Maple Heights, Ohio.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN, 33 311 085, Technician Fourth Grade, Field Artillery, Battery A, 232d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 6 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. Sergeant Sullivan was acting as radio operator for the Forward Observer with Company B, 232d Infantry on 6 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany, when the building in which the Company was located was surrounded by the enemy. Exposing himself to enemy machine gun and small arms fire Sergeant Sullivan carried his radio to the roof of the building, remaining with the Forward Observer until wounded in the leg by enemy machine gun fire. His courageous action and unfailing devotion to duty made possible the prompt and accurate transmission of data and contributed greatly to the destruction of the German positions and the death of more than fifteen Germans. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LLOYD W. SHELTON, 02 006 236, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When his platoon was pinned down by intense machine gun, rifle and panzerfaust fire, Lieutenant Shelton exposed himself to the fire to locate the enemy positions. He then led his men in an assault on the enemy positions, completely routing the defenders and forcing them to withdraw. Lieutenant Shelton's courageous and aggressive action eliminated a dangerous pocket of resistance from the advance of our troops.
Entered military service from New Boston, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES P. BROOME, 39 050 380, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack of our forces on the high ground around Wurzburg, Private Broome, driver for a heavy machine gun squad, learned that his platoon was in need of ammunition. Without hesitation, he drove his truck loaded with ammunition across 1000 yards of open terrain under intense enemy 20mm and machine gun fire to the forward positions of his platoon. Private Broome's courage and determination made possible the continuous firing of his platoon in their support of the advancing rifle troops.
Entered military service from Marysville, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ERNEST C. HAYWARD, 37 750 242, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack of our forces on Wurzburg, Private Hayward, driver for a heavy machine gun squad, received word that his platoon was engaged in a fire fight and was running low on ammunition. Without hesitation, he drove his vehicle loaded with ammunition across 1000 yards of open terrain under intense machine gun and 20mm cannon fire. Private Hayward's courage and determination enabled his platoon to successfully cover the advance of the rifle troops.
Entered military service from Corning, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HOWARD W. PARKS, 37 585 589, Private first Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on the high

ground around Wurzburg, Private Parks, transportation corporal for a heavy machine gun platoon, received word that his platoon was in need of ammunition. Without hesitation, he carried a heavy load of ammunition across 1000 yards of open terrain under intense machine gun and 20mm cannon fire to the guns of his platoon. Private Parks' courage and determination aided his platoon to give effective support to advancing rifle troops. Entered military service from Cloquet, Minnesota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WARREN O. PETERS, 34 498 406, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on Wurzburg, Private Peters was a driver for a heavy machine gun squad when he learned that his platoon was in need of ammunition. He unhesitatingly drove a truck and trailer load of ammunition across 1000 yards of open terrain under intense 20mm, machine gun, and rifle fire. Private Peters' outstanding courage and determination enabled his platoon to continue firing and complete their assigned mission. Entered military service from Knotsville, Georgia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MERLIN J. FROHMADER, 36 982 686, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack of our forces on the high ground around Wurzburg, Private Frohmader, driver for a heavy machine gun squad, learned that his platoon was in need of ammunition. Without hesitation, he drove his truck loaded with ammunition across 1000 yards of open terrain under intense enemy 20mm and machine gun fire to the forward positions of his platoon. Private Frohmader's courage and determination made possible the continuous firing of his platoon in their support of the advancing rifle troops.
Entered military service from Jefferson, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALTER J. HAYMANN, 32 998 138, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 April 1945 near Unter-Durrbach, Germany. As the platoon to which Private Haymann was attached advanced across an open field, they were suddenly fired upon by enemy 20 mm weapons and heavy machine guns, which inflicted several casualties. Noticing a wounded man who was helpless, Private Haymann unhesitatingly left his position and under increasing enemy fire, crawled to the man and administered first aid. A short time later, under the cover of partial darkness, he successfully evacuated the wounded man. Private Haymann's extreme courage and devotion to his comrades saved the wounded man from possible death.
Entered military service from Long, Island, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WYMAN MOSSHOLDER, 36 832 262, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 April 1945 near Durrbach, Germany. In the attack on Durrbach, two men were seriously wounded by machine gun fire and were lying in an exposed area. Private Mossholder unhesitatingly went to their aid, took the injured men back to a defiladed position where he administered first aid. This courageous act undoubtedly saved the two men from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Westby, Wisconsin.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EUGENE T. ROBERTS, 0 552 715, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 April 1945, near Wesser, Germany. During the attack against Wesser, Germany, Lieutenant Roberts was acting as mortar observer for his company. When his messenger and radio operator were seriously wounded by mortar fire, he took the radio himself and proceeded with the assault troops.

Remaining with the forward elements for twenty-four hours, he directed and adjusted mortar fire with deadly accuracy. Personally killing twelve of the enemy with his submachine gun. Lieutenant Roberts' exceptional courage and aggressive determination contributed materially to the successful conclusion of the attack. Entered military service from Amory, Mississippi.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT G. SHERRARD, JR., 0 19 922, Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff Corps, Headquarters 42nd Infantry Division, for meritorious achievement in action during the period 6 March 1945 to 6 April 1945, inclusive. Colonel Sherrard served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, of the Division during the preparation for and attack through the Hardt Mountains and the breaching of the Siegfried Line as well as the subsequent operations east of the Rhine. Although the rugged mountainous terrain and heavily armed fortifications of the German defensive lines presented many extremely difficult problems of planning, Colonel sherrard so effectively prepared each phase of the operations that the execution by the troops was greatly facilitated and the objectives reached with a minimum of casualties. During the movement of the Division across the Rhine, the attack in the Main River sector, and the capture of the City of Wurzburg, Colonel Sherrard again drafted the plans for the employment of the Division and attached troops with extraordinary skill and thoroughness. His superior professional ability, attention to details and infinite diligence were important factors in the attainment of the Division's objectives.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD W. SWIHART, 0 240 322, Major, General Staff Corps, Headquarters, 42d Infantry Division, for meritorious achievement in action during the period 14 March 1945 to 6 April 1945, inclusive. As Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, during the attack through the Hardt Mountains and the breaching of the Siegfried Line, Major Swihart's skillful supervision and planning were largely responsible for the flow of adequate supplies to the Division, in spite of the difficulties presented by the mountainous terrain and the unusual requirements called for by the tactical situation. Although the rapid movement of the Division across the Rhine, the drive to the east in the Main River sector, and the attack on the City of Wurzburg, created new and additional problems of supply and transportation, made more difficult by the lengthening of the distances to the source of supplies and the shortage of available trucks, his diligence, thoroughness, and outstanding ability brought about a high degree of proficiency in the co-ordination of the supply agencies and the maintenance of an efficient supply system. Entered military service from Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROGER W. CUTLER, 01 295 346, Captain, General Staff Corps (Infantry), Headquarters 42nd Infantry Division, for meritorious service in action during the period 2 January 1945 to 6 April 1945, inclusive. Captain Cutler served as Assistant G-4 of Task Force Linden during the period 2 January to 5 February 1945 and has served as Assistant G-4, 42nd Infantry Division, since that date. In both capacities he has repeatedly demonstrated unusual ability and devotion to duty. His close attention to detail, careful planning, and thorough supervision of supply and transportation matters greatly facilitated the defensive action of Task Force Linden in the Haguenau-Hatten area in January 1945 and the attack of the Division through the Hardt Mountains, the breaching of the Siegfried Line, and the subsequent operations in the Main River Sector. During all of these engagements, supply and traffic control were of primary importance and required the exercise of great skill. Captain Cutler's actions in coordinating these matters greatly contributed to the successful accomplishments of the Division. Entered military service from Boston, Massachusetts.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BURNS BEALL, 0 12 598, Colonel, General Staff Corps, Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division, for meritorious achievement in action during the period 6 February 1945 to 6 April 1945, inclusive. As Chief of

Staff, 42nd Infantry Division, Colonel Beall, by his devotion to duty, unfailing energy and superior professional ability so coordinated the activities of the General and special Staff sections of the Division as to perfect a smooth functioning and well organized group. During the attack through the Hardt Mountains, the breaching of the Siegfried Line and the subsequent drive through the Main River sector including the capture of the cities of Miltenberg, Wertheim, Wurzburg and Schweinfurt, Colonel Beall personally supervised the preparation of all staff plans and so thoroughly coordinated the activities of all branches of the staff as to insure maximum effectiveness of both the combat and service elements of the Division. His cheerfulness, patience and consideration have inspired and encouraged every member of the staff while his superior professional ability, devotion to duty and unlimited energy were major contributions to the successful accomplishment of the Division.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROY N. WALKER, 0 301 835, Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff Corps, Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division, for meritorious achievement in action during the period 6 February 1945 to 6 April 1945, inclusive. As Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, prior to and during the attack through the Hardt Mountains and the breaching of the Siegfried Line, Colonel Walker by his skillful planning and close supervision, maintained the administrative processes of the division at the highest level, thus insuring the necessary fighting and supporting strength that was required for the operation. His untiring devotion to duty and his ability to accomplish all tasks assigned him was a contributing factor toward the exceptionally high morale of the division during this period. The rapid but thorough processing of reinforcements and evacuation of prisoners of war can be contributed to a great extent to his untiring efforts in that direction, and the effective operation of all administrative functions of the division was brought about by his ability to coordinate the agencies under his supervision.

On <u>7 April</u>, the 42d Inf Div was given the mission of capturing SCHWEINFURT by XXI Corps. CCA, 12th Armored Division was attached to the 42d Inf Div, and continued the attack toward SCHWEINFURT, meeting very stiff resistance. Many 88mm guns were encountered. Early 7 April, the 222d Inf, with the 1st and 2d Bns, attacked East from EFFELDORF and captured DETTLEBACH, then turned North with their right elements on the MAIN River and seized SCHWARZENAU. Co A was motorized and sent to VOLKBACH of the MAIN River to seize a bridge. After a heavy fight, the bridge was blown by the enemy, but several ferry sites with cables intact were captured. Co A crossed to the east bank of the MAIN River and established a bridgehead vicinity VOLKBACH. The 3d Bn, 222d Inf remained as "T" Force in WURZBURG. The 232d Inf captured the high ground North of WURZBURG and continued the attack North against strong resistance. With the left elements on the MAIN River, the regiment attacked for 10 miles, destroying and capturing a large number of enemy. The 242d Inf, in conjunction with CCA advanced along the WURZBURG-SCHWEINFURT Highway against heavily defended strong points backed by determined 88 mm gun fire. Despite the fanatical resistance, an advance of 8 miles was made in the center of the Division zone. The 692d TD Bn supported the Division with heroic fighting men and skillful performance. One (1) German Mark IV Tank was knocked out.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to LOWELL E. HOGEN, 0 461 248, First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 542d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 7 April, 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. Lieutenant Hogen was assigned the mission of checking the condition of bridges over the Main River. To accomplish this mission, it was necessary to fly behind the enemy lines over positions known to be heavily defended by anti-aircraft guns. At one point during the flight, eighteen 88mm guns opened fire simultaneously and the wings and fuselage of the airplane were punctured by fragments of shrapnel and the concussion tossed the plane violently in the air. With utter disregard for his safety, Lieutenant Hogen continujed on his mission until he had determined the condition of each bridge. The vital information secured as a result of Lieutenant Hogen's courage and devotion to duty were of material assistance in the tactical planning for the attack upon Schweinfurt. Entered military service from Omaha, Nebraska.

At 0600, **7 April**, the regiment was ordered to continue on the mission of attacking northeast. The First Battalion was directed to advance and clear the enemy along a route to an assembly area in the vicinity of Binsfeld; the Second Battalion, to advance and clear the enemy along a route to Gramschatz, then north to Reuchelheim, then west to an assembly area in the vicinity of Halsheim; the Third Battalion, to revert to regimental reserve and move north to an assembly area in the vicinity of Thungen.



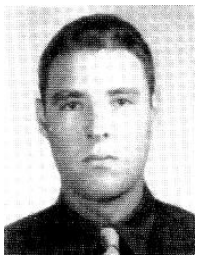
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT C. CLEMENTS, 02 010 779, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. In the attack on Wurzburg, Lieutenant Clements insisted on leading his platoon on a grueling twelve mile approach march in spite of severe pains in both legs. He stayed at the head of his platoon throughout the battle and consented to be evacuated only when the positions in the city were taken. His unflinching determination and inspiring devotion to duty contributed materially to the success of the attack.
Entered military service from Rockford, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FREDERICK H. GUNTHER, 35 892 833, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 April 1945 near Eurbach, Germany. Private Gunther was an Aid Man attached to a platoon of heavy machine guns in the action west of Eurbach. During the action one of the members of the platoon was wounded in the head. Private Gunther crawled to him and administered first aid although both he and the wounded man were under direct enemy observation and fire. He remained with the wounded man, exposed to enemy fire, for fifteen minutes until the litter bearers came up and assisted in the evacuation of the soldier. Entered military service from Plymouth, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN E. GLASGOW, 36 113 554, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on [illegible] April 1945 near Eurbach, Germany. Upon learning that there were several wounded men in Eurbach, Sergeant Glasgow voluntarily drove his vehicle through intense enemy fire to go to their aid. Making three round trips, he assisted in removing the injured men to safety. By his courage and determination, Sergeant Glasgow saved several fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Lincoln Park, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN V.N. BARKER, 14 131 024, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During his company's attack on the hills surrounding Wurzburg, Germany, Sergeant Barker noticed one of his comrades lying wounded and exposed to intense flak and machine gun fire. With absolute disregard for his personal safety, he advanced through the murderous fire to the side of the injured man and carried him across seventy-five yards of open terrain to a position from which he could be evacuated to the rear. Sergeant Barker's exceptional courage and devotion to his comrade undoubtedly saved the wounded man from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from West Hartford, Connecticut.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BOBBIE D. CARSON, 36 908 138, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. When heavy casualties were sustained by our forces attacking the city of Arnstein, Private Carson advanced under intense machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire to aid the wounded men. He made several trips across open terrain in full view of the enemy to carry the wounded men to safety. Private Carson's devotion to duty and courage under fire were responsible for saving several of the wounded men from certain death. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.
Photo of medal award ceremony is a screenshot from the film produced by the Library of Congress.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MERIC A. CURLIS, 35 238 515, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. During the attack on Arnstein, several riflemen were seriously wounded by sniper fire while crossing an open field into the city. Private Curlis unhesitatingly ran out under the intense small arms fire, carried one of the wounded men, and aided another to safety and medical attention. Private Curlis' courageous action under fire undoubtedly saved the two men from further injury or death.
Entered military service from Upper Sandusky, Ohio.
Photo is from Mrs. Jeanne (Meric) Curlis.

The Regimental CP advance elements moved from Würzburg to Güntersleben at 1000, then proceded to Thungen, where the CP was in full operation at 1840. The battalions encountered little or no opposition and closed in their respective assembly areas. Motorized patrols were immediately sent out to reconnoiter the surrounding area for possible enemy occupation and to report on the condition of roads and bridges in the sector. Contact was made with the 14th Armored Division to the north. Road nets were reported generally good, and no enemy was located except in Herzrumbach, where the reconnaissance group was fired on.

The approaches to SCHWEINFURT were very heavily defended. The Germans had mustered every available weapon and soldier to defend the ball-bearing center. Each small town was a fortress, and each hill and all woods were very stubbornly defended. On 8 April, the 222d Infantry

maintained positions along the west bank of the MAIN River in vicinity of PROSSELSHEIM (N7143) and ASTHEIM (N7843), protected bridgehead at VOLKBACH and prepared to cross the MAIN River if necessary. The 232d Infantry engaged in a fierce fight at ARNSTEIN after mopping up GRAMSCHWATZEN woods vicinity (N5752). The town was fanatically defended by youths not more than 17 years old, and was the key point on the WERN River defense line. After cracking the defense, the regiment made a night attack and secured the line SCHWEDENREID-ALT BESSIGEN. The 242d Infantry fought with CCA against stubborn resistance and cleared the key towns of WERNECK, MULHAUSEN, and ETTLBEN. The 142d Engineer Batallion constructed a treadway bridge across the MAIN River at NORDHEIM (N7542), 15 Miles south of SCHWEINFURT so that CCA could cross the river and cut the escape routes to the East from SCHWEINFURT.

At approximately 0630 on **8 April**, the regiment jumped off attacking northeast. The Second Battalion drew small arms fire from the enemy at the west edge of Herzrumbach at about 0830 and then met stiff resistance at Arnstein, but cleared the city after receiving assistance from the first Battalion, which had enveloped the enemy's left or south flank. The Third Battalion engaged in a fire-fight with the enemy at Buchold. At 2100 the Regimental CP was established at Herzrumbach.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD J. KIMMET, 39 602 498, Corporal, Infantry, Cannon Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When a fellow soldier was struck in the back and severely wounded by a bursting shell during a heavy enemy artillery barrage near Wurzburg, Germany, Corporal Kimmet voluntarily left his position and under the enemy fire dragged the unconscious man to safety. His courage and devotion to duty saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Great Falls, Montana.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to EPHRAIM O. NORMAN, 17 148 529, Corporal, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. While on a reconnaissance mission in a jeep, Corporal Norman came under heavy small arms fire from a group of houses on the outskirts of the town. Directing automatic fire at the houses from two heavy machine guns jeeps with him, Corporal Norman proceeded under fire to the first house and returned with nine prisoners. He was then fired on from a railroad underpass. Corporal Norman proceeded to the underpass firing as he went, and persuaded thirty more of the enemy to surrender. His aggressive action and coolness under fire was responsible for the capture of thirty-nine of the enemy and permitted the reconnaissance to continue unmolested by enemy fire. Entered military service from North Kansas City, Missouri.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JOSEPH P. NAPYCHANK, 31 125 413, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Department Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 8 April 1945 near Buchold, Germany. Learning that several infantrymen were lying wounded in an open field under heavy sniper fire, Sergeant

Napychank left his squad in a covered position and advanced through the intense fire. After administering first aid to the wounded in the face of the extremely heavy fire he returned and led his squad into the field and supervised the evacuation of the wounded to safety. Sergeant Napychank's extreme courage and gallantry under fire saved the lives of the seriously injured men. Entered military service from Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

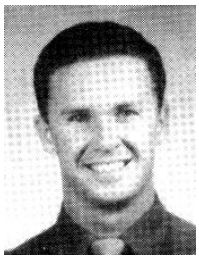
The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to HENRY M. MCCRONE, JR., 44 005 265, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 8 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. When two platoons of his company were held up by intense machine gun and small arms fire, Private McCrone exposed himself to draw enemy fire. With utter disregard for his own safety, he advanced to another open position, from which he indicated the enemy's well camouflaged positions to his platoon. Although mortally wounded, Private McCrone's heroic and self-sacrificing action saved many lives and was a major factor in the successful drive by our forces against the city. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Henry M. McCrone, Sr. (Mother), Route 2, Bonifay, Florida. Entered military service from Bonifay, Florida.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALBERT H. FIRESTONE, 37 748 014, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232D Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 at Arnstein, Germany. During the bitter fighting for Arnstein, Germany, Private Firestone's platoon was helplessly pinned down in an open field by intense machine gun and rifle fire. He voluntarily ran across one hundred yards of open terrain under the fire in order to reach his platoon sergeant with a coordinating message from one of the supporting tank destroyers. By his courageous determination, Private Firestone enabled tank destroyer fire to neutralize the enemy positions, permitting his platoon to advance into the town. Entered military service from Lincoln, Nebraska.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLARD C. FREEMAN, 39 420 859, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 8 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. When his platoon was held up by heavy enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire, Private Freeman, automatic rifleman, left cover and moved out into an exposed position. From there he laid down fire that killed three of the enemy and forced three more to surrender, neutralizing the German position and allowing his platoon to move forward in the attack. By his determined and aggressive act, Private Freeman contributed to the success of his platoon. Entered military service from Sacramento, California.

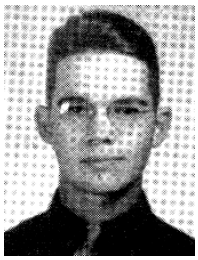


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALLACE W. GIVEN, 36 651 667, Technical Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action during the period 15 March to 8 April 1945, inclusive, in France and Germany. During the attack on Hill 301, north of Reipertsweiler, France, on 15 March 1945, when most of the non-commissioned officers of his platoon including the platoon leader had been killed or wounded, Private Given took command of the remainder of the platoon and led them successfully through the attack. In succeeding actions, as acting platoon sergeant, he performed his duties in a highly efficient and aggressive manner. On 8 April, during the battle for Wurzburg, Germany, when his platoon leader had to be evacuated, Private Given carried on as platoon leader and through energetic leadership, outstanding ability and devotion to duty guided the platoon to successful completion of its mission. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRAY C. JOHNS, 15 102 948, Private First Class, Infantry, Cannon Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action, on 8 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When his Forward Observer group was ambushed by a large number of entrenched Germans, Private

Johns leaped from his vehicle and engaged the enemy with a rifle and grenades. Without regard for his personal safety, he stood exposed to the enemy fire and covered the withdrawal of the rest of the party. By his courageous actions, Private Johns enabled his group to make successful withdrawal with no casualties.
Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MARION I. MADDEN, 18 249 318, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. When heavy machine gun and small arms fire inflicted many casualties upon our attacking infantry, Private Madden unhesitatingly moved through the withering fire to administer first aid to the wounded. Working alone, he moved from man to man across exposed areas treating all the wounded in the area. By his heroic action, Private Madden successfully treated and evacuated eleven of our casualties. Entered military service from Little Rock, Arkansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT W. LEAX, 33 172 096, Private First Class, Infantry, Cannon Company, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action, on 8 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on Wurzburg, Private Leax unhesitatingly went to the aid of a wounded fellow soldier, who was exposed to heavy concentrations of enemy artillery fire. Leaving his covered position, he administered first aid and removed the injured man to safely. Private Leax's prompt action and disregard for his own safety saved a fellow soldier from possible death. Entered military service from Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK L. DONEGHUE, 36 374 347, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, near Buchold, Germany. When his platoon was held up by sniper and machine gun fire, Sergeant Doneghue maneuvered his platoon so that it could bring fire on the enemy. He deliberately exposed himself to heavy enemy fire while cutting a path through a wire barrier so that a small group could have a covered route of approach. The courageous action of Sergeant Doneghue aided in the rapid elimination of the enemy opposition. Entered military service from Carmi, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WAYNE FOX, 36 980 947, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Buchold, Germany. As his company emerged from the town of Buchold, the enemy opened fire on the lead element, causing a number of casualties. Without hesitation, Private Fox, the company aid man, made repeated trips into the intense fire administering aid to the wounded and making them as comfortable as possible. This display of courage greatly heightened morale of the troops and was responsible for saving several lives.
Entered military service from Mecosta, Michigan.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to CHARLES J. PALMERI, 42 096 601, Private First Class, Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 April 1945, near Buchold, Germany. In the initial burst of enemy fire during the attack by his company on Buchold, a member of the leading element was wounded. Private Palmeri, leader of an automatic rifle team, left cover, braved the intense enemy fire and carried the wounded man to safety. Volunteering to accompany a tank destroyer, Private Palmeri and his automatic rifleman then left cover to protect

maneuvering elements of their platoon. Observing a medical aid man fall wounded, he again left the cover of the tank destroyer and returned with the wounded man. By his outstanding courage and disregard for his own safety, Private Palmeri saved two fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Buffalo, New York.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to LEONARD M. GOLDMAN, 37 594 927, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 April 1945, near Buchold, Germany. When the Infantry platoon of which Sergeant Goldman was platoon sergeant came under fire from two companies of enemy infantry, by using radio, telephone and hand signals and exposing himself to intense fire, he successfully directed tanks to the German position. In the midst of this fire fight, Sergeant Goldman organized several medical aid men and led them to a group of wounded men. While returning to his platoon, Sergeant Goldman was himself wounded. By his courage, tactical skill and devotion to duty, he played a major role in this particular action and was instrumental in saving several friendly troops from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Minneapolis, Minnesota.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to DONALD F. BURR, 0 554 643, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 April 1945 near Buchold, Germany. After his company had captured Buchold, Lieutenant Burr volunteered to remain behind with four men to intercept enemy patrols that might attempt to infiltrate the company positions. Capturing the initial patrols that infiltrated into the town, Lieutenant Burr learned of a large force in the surrounding woods. Dispersing his four men to represent a larger force, he induced the enemy to surrender. Lieutenant Burr then marched them seven miles through the darkness, without maps to his company command post. By his daring and resourcefulness, Lieutenant Burr captured a large enemy force and prevented interference with the company's communications. Entered military service from Cincinnati, Ohio.

The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARROLL G. PRIEM, 01 798 701, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Buchold, Germany. As commander of the lead company of his battalion, Lieutenant Priem encountered intense sniper fire. When reconnaissance disclosed that two companies of the enemy were entrenched in camouflaged positions, he immediately dispatched one platoon of riflemen supported by tank destroyers, to assault the enemy from the front, while he personally led the remainder of the company to attack from the flank. The enemy, expecting the main assault to follow the tank destroyers, were completely routed by the flanking force. Through the aggressiveness and superior tactical leadership of Lieutenant Priem a strong pocket of enemy resistance was eliminated, and the battalion was enabled to continue their advance.
Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANCIS J. McMAHON, 01 308 069, Captain, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. While commanding his Heavy Weapons Company, Captain McMahon noticed that Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, was pinned to the ground by concentrated enemy machine gun and sniper fire. Personally firing one of his machine guns to enable his other five guns to locate the enemy targets, he directed the fire of his guns with devastating effect, in spite of the heavy volumes of enemy fire directed at his position. By his courageous leadership and the accurate fire power delivered by his company, ten of the enemy were killed and the capture of more than forty prisoners was made possible. Entered military service from New York, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LYMAN J. TELFER, 36 592 054, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. At Arnstein, Germany on 8 April 1945, Sergeant Telfer was acting as platoon leader of a heavy machine gun platoon when the riflemen of Company F of his regiment were pinned down by machine gun fire from several enemy positions. Sergeant Telfer demonstrated unusual tactical ability in selecting positions for his weapons with a result that the enemy positions were completely neutralized. Sergeant Telfer's tactical ability and leadership were directly responsible for the capture of the enemy objective.
Entered Military service from Detroit, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EARLIE E. MOSES, 33 538 385, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 8 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. During the attack on an enemy roadblock on the outskirts of Arnstein, Private Moses, ammunition bearer, went back under intense enemy machine gun and small arms fire to replenish the supply of ammunition for his heavy machine gun. He then took up an exposed position directing the fire of his gun against the enemy positions. The coolness and courage displayed by Private Moses enabled his gun to neutralize the enemy emplacements, permitting the riflemen to move forward to their objective. Entered military service from Lynchburg, Virginia.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD W. JOHNSON, 17 111 858, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. While adjusting and directing mortar fire on the enemy, Sergeant Johnson was pinned down by snipers. Unable to observe his platoon's fire, he crawled with his radio across twenty yards of open ground, under intense enemy small arms fire to a position where he could direct and send fire missions back to his mortar platoon. Through Sergeant Johnson's courageous actions and expert fire direction, the enemy were routed from their positions.
Entered military service from Garnett, Iowa.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to TROY DABBS, 17 179 998, Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. When the company to which his machine gun squad was attached was held up by heavy enemy machine gun, small arms, and mortar fire, Sergeant Dabbs advanced through the intense fire and reconnoitered the enemy positions. Setting up his machine gun, Sergeant Dabbs then manned the gun himself, and despite heavy fire directed on his position, continued to fire on the enemy. His courage and devotion to duty enabled the rifle troops to advance and forced the surrender of many prisoners. Entered military service from Granby, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JESSE W. OSBORNE, 36 035 630, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. As Platoon Sergeant of a heavy machine gun platoon, Sergeant Osborne exposed himself to heavy enemy sniper and machine gun fire in order to maneuver his section and direct the fire of his guns on the well-emplaced enemy positions. His prompt and skillful action brought an accurate and heavy fire to bear upon the enemy, enabling a rifle platoon of Company F, 232d Infantry, to move forward and successfully attain its objective.
Entered military service from Ashland, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARL E. ANDERSON, 31 274 765, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. When his heavy machine gun squad was pinned down by intense mortar and machine gun fire, Private Anderson volunteered to procure more ammunition for the gun. Despite the heavy fire, he moved across an open space and made his way to the supply point, returning with a heavy load of ammunition. Private Anderson's courageous and heroic action enabled his squad to reduce the enemy position, inflicting numerous casualties.
Entered military service from Milford, Connecticut.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GERALD D. PITTS, 38 689 106, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 at Arnstein, Germany. When his heavy machine gun squad was pinned down by intense mortar and machine gun fire, Private Pitts volunteered to procure more ammunition for the gun. Despite the heavy fire, he moved across an open space and made his way to the supply point, returning with a heavy load of ammunition. Private Pitts' courageous and heroic action enabled his squad to reduce the enemy position, inflicting numerous casualties.
Entered military service from Orange, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES W. O'KEEFE, 38 209 165, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. When his weapons platoon was pinned down by enemy machine gun and rifle fire during the advance on Arnstein, Sergeant O'Keefe advanced through the hail of bullets, firing his rifle into the enemy installations, to the position of another platoon on his flank. He directed this platoon's fire so accurately, that the pressure on his platoon was relieved, and they could continue to advance. Sergeant O'Keefe's courageous action was largely responsible for his company's successful advance into the city.
Entered military service from Rawston, Arkansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLAUDE E. TOWNSEND, 37 155 204, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. In the attack on Arnstein, Sergeant Townsend led part of his platoon against enemy positions on the high ground above the town. So skillfully did Sergeant Townsend deploy his men against heavy enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire that his section captured or killed approximately 40 of the enemy. Through Sergeant Townsend's courageous and aggressive leadership, vital ground was seized and Arnstein was captured with the minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Camp Crook, South Dakota.
[The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists T/Sgt Townsend as killed in action on 04/27/45].



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to VALROY BINSBACHER, 37 607 876, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. While directing mortar fire on enemy positions, Sergeant Binsbacher noticed that his section was almost out of ammunition. Without hesitation he exposed himself to intense enemy small arms and automatic fire to return to the ammunition supply point. In spite of increasing machine gun and rifle fire, Sergeant Binsbacher succeeded in resupplying his gunners so that they could continue giving accurate and effective supporting fire to the attack.

Entered military service from Festus, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN J. OLSON, 36 825 290, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. During the battle for a small hill outside of Arnstein, the rifle squad of which Private Olson was a member had almost exhausted its ammunition supply. Private Olsen voluntarily exposed himself to direct enemy machine gun fire and went across an open field to the ammunition supply point. Upon securing a heavy load of ammunition, he fearlessly returned over the same route to his squad, enabling them to continue the battle to a successful conclusion. Private Olsen's courageous action contributed materially to the capture of his company's objective. Entered military service from Kendall, Wisconsin.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALTER KERLEYZA, 31 345 884, Corporal, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. During the attack on the city of Arnstein, Corporal Kerleyza unhesitatingly went to the rear for ammunition for his squad's heavy machine gun. Disregarding his own safety, he advanced across an open field under heavy sniper, small arms, and mortar fire, and secured the badly needed ammunition, returning over the same hazardous route. By his courage and devotion to duty, Corporal Kerleyza enabled his squad to give continuous supporting fire to the advancing rifle troops. Entered military service from New Brittain, Connecticut.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARRY P. WAGNER, 33 883 287, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 8 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. While the attack on Arnstein was in progress, Private Wagner set out to procure vitally needed ammunition. Driving around two road-blocks and on roads not cleared of hostile mines, over open terrain and under fire, he obtained and delivered the ammunition, enabling the machine gun sections to maintain effective supporting fire. By his courage and determination, Private Wagner contributed to the effectiveness of his platoon. Entered military service from Noblestown, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JACK L. PAUL, 39 212 321, Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. When his weapons platoon met stiff resistance from over three hundred enemy troops, Sergeant Paul's squad was pinned down and unable to deliver effective return fire due to a lack of ammunition. Volunteering to work his way back to the ammunition supply point under heavy mortar and small arms fire, he returned over the same route with a new supply of ammunition. Sergeant Paul's courageous action enabled his squad to place effective fire on the enemy, inflicting numerous casualties. Entered military service from Seattle, Washington.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ERNEST VALACHOVIC, 32 007 545, Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. When his squad lost all contact with adjacent friendly troops, Sergeant Valachovic attempted to regain contact by setting out alone on a reconnaissance. Fired upon by enemy forces, he returned their fire with his rifle, killing two and capturing six, then calling his squad forward and leading them in a successful attack on the enemy positions. Sergeant Valachovic's outstanding courage under fire played a major role in the successful completion of his company's mission. Entered military service from the Bronx, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to THOMAS R. MEYERS, 33 689 987, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232dnd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 at Arnstein, Germany. During the attack on Arnstein, when his mortar section exhausted its ammunition supply, Private Meyers voluntarily went under heavy enemy machine gun and sniper fire to the ammunition supply point for more ammunition. He returned over the same route with a double load of ammunition in time for his mortar section to successfully break up an impending enemy counter attack. Private Meyers' courageous action under fire contributed materially to the successful capture of the town.
Entered military service from Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WITTROW G. WESSEL, 39 834 546, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 at Arnstein, Germany. While advancing across an open field into Arnstein, Private Wessel was hit in the hip by enemy machine gun fire. When litter bearers came to his aid he refused them, directing them to several of his comrades nearby who were also seriously wounded. Despite the continued machine gun fire, he crawled back to obtain medical aid by himself, at the same time directing litter bearers to the other wounded men. Private Wessel's extreme courage and disregard for his own comfort played a major role in the evacuation of seven of his severely wounded comrades.
Entered military service from Glen Beulay, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FERNANDO V. BALDENEGRO, 39 584 081, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 at Arnstein, Germany. During the battle for Arnstein, Private Baldenegro's rifle platoon was receiving intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire from their right flank. When the platoon began to run critically short of ammunition, he voluntarily set out across two hundred yards of open terrain under the intense fire to the supply point. Although the enemy concentrated their fire on him on the return trip, he did not falter until he had reached his platoon's positions. Private Baldenegro's courageous determination played a major role in the continued advance of his platoon into the city. Entered military service from Eloy, Arizona.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STEPHEN TOMASZEWSKI, 36 979 616, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, in Arnstein, Germany. During the attack on Arnstein, Germany, the advance of Company E was halted as they attempted to cross an open field on the outskirts of the town. Given the mission of establishing an observation post in a house from which intense rifle fire was coming, Private Tomaszewski advanced through the deadly hail of bullets, firing his rifle at the enemy position. Upon reaching the house he routed the four riflemen inside, set up the observation post, and proceeded to direct the fire of his platoon on nearby enemy positions. By his outstanding courage and aggressive determination, Private Tomaszewski materially aided his company to escape from an extremely precarious position. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARRISON HOEY, 02 006 232, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. While Lieutenant Hoey was leading the members of his rifle platoon into the town of Arnstein, Germany, they were suddenly pinned down by intense enemy machine gun and small arms fire. Completely disregarding his personal safety, he advanced across an open field to

secure medical aid men and litter bearers to care for the wounded. Then, braving the murderous fire once again, he returned to his platoon with critically needed ammunition and led a successful assault on the enemy positions. Lieutenant Hoey's outstanding courage and unswerving determination contributed materially to the successful capture of the town.
Entered military service from New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN W. BIRCHALL, 36 533 519, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 in Arnstein, Germany. When the advance of his platoon was halted in an open field on the edge of Arnstein, Germany, by intense machine gun and rifle fire, Sergeant Birchall and two other men set out to clear a sniper position to their front. He fearlessly charged across the open field through the hail of fire into the position. Fired on by an enemy soldier concealed behind some boxes, he returned the fire, forcing the rifleman to surrender. He then forced his prisoner to call for the other Germans to surrender, adding three more prisoners. Sergeant Birchall's courageous action and aggressive determination were instrumental in the successful advance of his platoon into the city. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EUGENE F. NOZEWSKI, 36 897 383, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 8 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. When Company E was helplessly pinned down in an open field by intense machine gun and sniper fire near Arnstein, Private Nozewski continued to advance firing his rifle. Despite the bullets striking all around him, one of which slightly wounded him in the leg, he continued to push forward, killing three of the enemy. Private Nozewski's courageous and aggressive action relieved his platoon of much of the enemy fire, enabling them to push forward into the town. Entered military service from Dearborn, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN N. PETRO, 39 542 822, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. While Sergeant Petro's patrol was crossing an open field, the scout advanced alone to demand the surrender of an enemy soldier. In response the patrol was suddenly pinned down by a hail of machine gun fire from all directions which seriously wounded the scout. Sergeant Petro then left his position of cover and crawled forward to give the man medical aid. While still under heavy fire, he crawled back and directed covering fire of his patrol until friendly tank destroyers were able to rescue the wounded man. Sergeant Petro's courageous action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces. Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LAWRENCE S. ROWAN, 37 363 419, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 8 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. Seeing two scouts of his squad pinned down during the attack on Arnstein, Private Rowan exposed himself to attract the hostile fire to himself and to lay down a covering fire with his automatic rifle. Through the courageous and self-sacrificing action of Private Rowan, the scouts were able to withdraw to concealed positions from where they directed their company's fire on the enemy positions, neutralizing them. Entered military service from Oakland, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DORIS R. ["RAY"] MASSEY, 38 532 790, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 8 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. During the attack on Arnstein, heavy machine pistol and rifle fire from enemy dug-in positions pinned his squad to the ground. Completely ignoring his personal safety, Private Massey

fearlessly exposed himself to the direct enemy fire to crawl to a flank position which afforded him direct fire with his automatic rifle. He killed the enemy gunner, and with the aid of another rifleman, captured five others. Private Massey's courageous action enabled his squad to advance without further delay or casualty. Entered military service from Gunter, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PERRY D. WOODS, 0 550 370, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 at Arnstein, Germany. During the attack on Arnstein, Lieutenant Woods was acting as mortar observer attached to Company E. While crossing an open field near the city, Company E was pinned down by intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lieutenant Woods advanced under the heavy fire to an exposed position from which he directed mortar fire on the enemy gun positions. By his courageous action and skillful observing, Lieutenant Woods relieved the pressure on Company E, enabling them to continue the advance and successfully attack the town. Entered military service from Milano, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BASIL MANLY IV, 34 658 447, Technical Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. During the fierce battle for Arnstein, Germany, Sergeant Manly led his heavy machine gun squad forward to knock out an enemy road block on the outskirts of the town. Exposing himself to intense machine gun and small arms fire, he directed the fire of his gun on the enemy emplacement, neutralizing it after a brief exchange of fire. By his courageous and aggressive leadership, Sergeant Manly eliminated the threat to our continued advance into the town. Entered military service from Greenville, South Carolina.



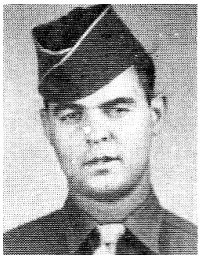
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GLENN O. HERRLY, 37 293 980, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. When our rifle troops were halted by intense enemy machine gun and sniper fire coming from the heavily defended town of Arnstein, Germany, Private Herrly advanced across several hundred yards of open terrain to set his heavy machine gun in an advantageous position. Although exposed to direct enemy fire, he placed deadly fire on the enemy positions, silencing a great portion of the enemy weapons until he was seriously wounded by sniper fire. Private Herrly's courageous action and unswerving determination made an effective contribution to the successful capitulation of the town. Entered military service from Hector, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD B. FOWLER, 34 933 999, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. While reconnoitering an advance route for our attached tank destroyers, the heavy machine gun section of which Private Fowler was a member was fired upon by enemy automatic weapons. The enemy displayed a white flag after their fire was returned, but refused to come into the open because their own artillery was laying a heavy concentration in the area. Private Fowler crossed this open area with several other soldiers and returned with the prisoners. By his courage and devotion to duty under fire, Private Fowler helped to eliminate a dangerous pocket of enemy resistance. Entered military service from Pacelot Mills, South Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD L. TEDRICK, 35 239 206, Private, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. While reconnoitering the outskirts of Arnstein, Private Tedrick's patrol was fired upon by enemy in the town. He returned the fire with his heavy machine gun and was successful in forcing the enemy to surrender. When fired upon from another position, Private Tedrick, though under heavy fire, directed such accurate fire on the enemy emplacement that several of the enemy soldiers were killed and a large number captured. By his courageous action and skill, Private Tedrick eliminated a dangerous threat to the advance of our forces. Entered military service from Freeport, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES T. CAIN, 37 628 040, Private First Class, Cavalry, 42D Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Schwedenreid, Germany. When a patrol entering Schwedenreid was fired upon, Private Cain, who was covering the patrol's movement, drove his machine gun jeep into the town under heavy fire to a position from which machine gun fire could more effectively be delivered on the enemy. Private Cain remained with his vehicle despite intense panzerfaust fire directed at the jeep, maneuvering it so that continuous machine gun fire could be brought to bear against the enemy positions. Private Cain's courage and extreme devotion to duty enabled the patrol to withdraw without serious casualties. Entered military service from Permiscott County, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FLOYD O. WILSON, 36 979 092, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, near Herzrumbach, Germany. During a motorized patrol, Private Wilson observed an enemy position of bazookamen and riflemen. He opened fire on them with his rifle, killing and wounding several of their number. Standing in an exposed position, he then covered the withdrawal of the patrol by his accurate fire. Private Wilson's prompt and courageous action saved his patrol from a deadly ambush.
Entered military service from Wayne, Michigan



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ORVAILL GANN, 34 399 786, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 in Schwanfeld, Germany. On 8 April 1945, in Schwanfeld, Germany, Private Gann, while transporting troops in the 2 ½-ton truck in company with other vehicles, entered the town which shortly thereafter came under observed enemy artillery fire, making it necessary that the vehicle be stopped in an exposed position. The troops on the truck attempted to dismount at this point but Private Gann, realizing their hazardous position, ordered them to remain mounted, and then attempted to drive his truck to a covered position. While doing so several shells landed in the immediate vicinity at which he had first stopped, killing one man and wounding seven. The clear thinking and aggressive action of private Gann saved not only his vehicle, but also the lives of many of the troops. Entered military service from Hamilton, Alabama.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to KERMIT T. DAVIDSON, 35 088 865, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Schwanfeld, Germany. On 8 April 1945 at Schwanfeld, Germany, while transporting troops in a 2 ½ -ton truck in company with four vehicles, Private Davidson entered the town which shortly thereafter came under observed, enemy artillery fire, making it necessary that the truck be stopped in an

exposed position. The troops on the truck attempted to dismount at this point but were ordered to remain on the truck as Private Davidson, realizing their hazardous position assisted in moving the truck to a covered position. While doing so several shells landed in the vicinity of the spot at which he had first halted, killing one man and wounding seven others in the accompanying trucks. The clear thinking and aggressive action of Private Davidson saved not only his truck but also the lives of many of the troops he was transporting. Entered military service from Steubenville, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FORREST R. OLDT, 33 837 451, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Schwanfeld, Germany. While transporting troops in his 2-1/2 ton truck in company with other vehicles, Private Oldt entered the town of Schwanfeld, Germany, which shortly thereafter came under observed enemy artillery fire making it necessary to halt his vehicle in an exposed position. The troops on the truck attempted to dismount at this point but, realizing their hazardous positions, Private Oldt ordered them to remain mounted and unhesitatingly drove to cover. The quick thinking and aggressive action of Private Oldt was responsible for saving the lives of the occupants of his truck.
Entered military service from Allentown, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LOGAN H. DENZER, 37 591 597, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private First Class), Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Schwanfeld, Germany. While transporting troops in his 2-1/2 ton truck in company with other vehicles, Private Denzer entered the town of Schwanfeld, Germany, which shortly thereafter came under observed enemy artillery fire making it necessary to halt his vehicle in an exposed position. The troops on the truck attempted to dismount at this point but, realizing their hazardous positions, Private Denzer ordered them to remain mounted and unhesitatingly drove to cover. The quick thinking and aggressive action of Private Denzer was responsible for saving the lives of the occupants of his truck. Entered military service from Allentown, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH C. DWYER, 37 591 902, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 at Schwanfeld, Germany. While transporting troops in his 2-1/2 ton truck in company with other vehicles, Private Dwyer entered the town of Schwanfeld, Germany, which shortly thereafter came under observed enemy artillery fire making it necessary to halt his vehicle in an exposed position. The troops on the truck attempted to dismount at this point but, realizing their hazardous positions, Private Dwyer ordered them to remain mounted and unhesitatingly drove to cover. The quick thinking and aggressive action of Private Dwyer was responsible for saving the lives of the occupants of his truck. Entered military service from Dupree, South Dakota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL, is awarded to ARTHUR C. SILLS, 36 957 466, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement on 8 April 1945, near Schwanfeld, Germany. On 8 April 1945, in Schwanfeld, Germany, Private Sills, while transporting troops in his 2 ½ -ton truck in company with other vehicles, entered the town which shortly thereafter came under observed enemy artillery fire, making it necessary that the vehicle be stopped in an exposed position. The troops on the truck attempted to dismount at this point but Private Sills realizing their hazardous position, ordered them to remain mounted, and then attempted to drive his truck to a covered position. While doing so several shells landed in the immediate vicinity at which he had first stopped, killing one and wounding seven. The clear thinking

and aggressive action of Private Sills saved not only his vehicle, but also the lives of many of the troops. Entered military service from Berwyn, Illinois.



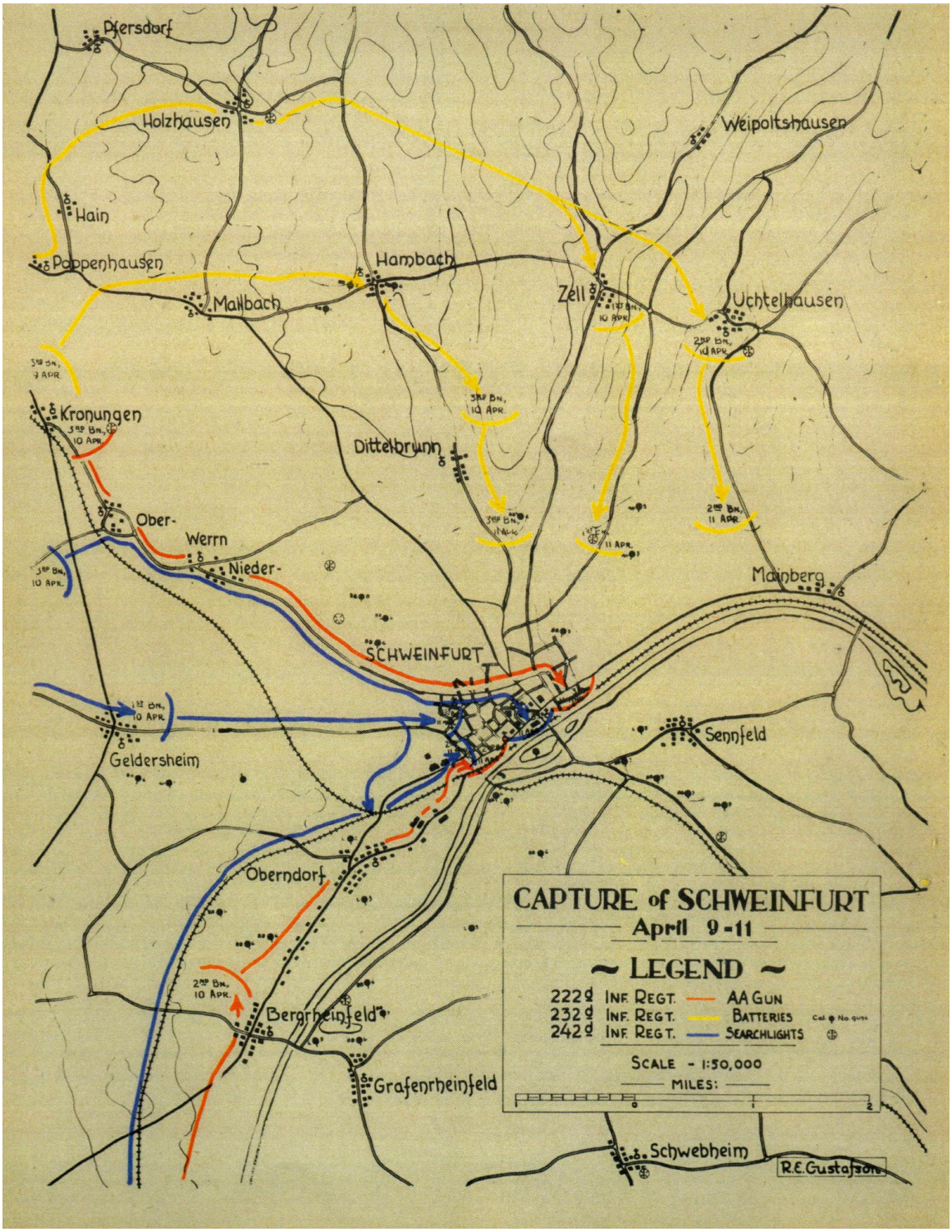
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES E. BAKER, 32 448 687, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Schwanfeld, Germany. On 8 April 1945 in Schwanfeld, Germany, while transporting troops in a 2 ½ -ton truck in company with four vehicles, Private Baker entered the town which shortly thereafter came under observed enemy artillery fire, making it necessary that the vehicle be stopped in an exposed position. The troops on his truck attempted to dismount at this point but were ordered to remain on the truck as Private Baker realizing their hazardous position assisted in moving the truck to a covered position. While doing so several shells landed in the vicinity of the spot at which he had first halted, killing one man and wounding even others in the accompanying trucks. The clear thinking and aggressive action of Private Baker saved not only his truck but also the lives of many of the troops he was transporting.
Entered military service from Poughkeepsie, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STEFANO GRECO, 32 519 995, Private First Class, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945, at Schwanfeld, Germany. On 8 April 1945, at Schwanfeld, Germany, while transporting troops in a 2 ½ -ton truck in company with four vehicles, Private Greco entered the town which shortly thereafter came under observed enemy artillery fire, making it necessary that the vehicle be stopped in an exposed position. The troops on the truck attempted to dismount at this point but were ordered to remain on the truck as Private Greco, realizing their hazardous position assisted in moving the truck to a covered position. While doing so several shells landed in the vicinity of the spot at which he had first stopped, killing one man and wounding seven others. The clear thinking and aggressive action of Private Greco saved not only his truck but also the lives of many of the troops he was transporting.
Entered military service from New York, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ANDREW E. LAZOR, 33 570 709, Private, Field Artillery, Company B, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Obbach, Germany. Private Lazor was assistant driver of a tank destroyer that was called upon to overrun enemy emplacements manned by SS troops, that were causing heavy casualties among the Infantry. Starting across an open field, the destroyer became mired 200 yards short of its objective. Another Destroyer was called to extricate it and Private Lazor, dismounting under intense enemy fire, directed the operation of freeing his vehicle, which then advanced and demolished the enemy positions. His courage and disregard for his own safety enabled his destroyer to continue in action. Entered military service from Robertsdale, Pennsylvania.

The outer defenses were captured bit by bit. The Rainbowmen fought day and night without stopping. The right flank of the Division was exposed and had to be protected. Early <u>9 April</u> the Division CP moved to KURNACH (N6540). The 222d Inf resumed the attack on the right flank with the 2d Bn (-), 242d Inf attached. CCA, 12th Armored Division was relieved and ordered across the MAIN River. The 222d Inf fought against ever stiffening resistance and cleared GARSTADT (N7455). The bridge at NORDHEIM was also protected while CCA crossed the river. The 232d Inf continued the advance against very heavy resistance, including artillery fire. The regiment cleared 13 towns, captured 1 enemy Company, and

reached KRONUNGEN (N7268). The 242d Inf advanced in the center of the zone clearing 12 towns. One (1) Company of 242d Inf was attached to CCA. CCA crossed the bridge at NORDHEIM to the east bank of the MAIN River and attacked North with the mission of cutting the SCHWEINFURT-BAMBERG HIGHWAY. An air mission of fighter bombers supported the attack on SCHWEINFURT 9 April and destroyed 12 88mm and 7 light AA gun emplacements.



The regiment was ordered to jump off at 0630, **9 April**, advancing northeast to clear out the enemy in this zone, to initiate aggressive patrolling and reconnaissance to the front, and to pinpoint locations of prepared 88 positions. Opposition consisted of small arms, flak, 88mm and artillery fire. The Regimental CP moved from Schwebenried to Obbach at 1922. All units closed on assigned objectives north and east of Obbach, and conducted active patrolling to their front.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARVEY T. UNDERHILL, JR., 35 594 812, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945 near Sommerbach, Germany. While serving as the battalion commander's radio operator, Corporal Underhill was at the head of the column with the Battalion Commander when they emerged from a wooded area. Observing an enemy emplacement to the front, Corporal Underhill instantly warned his commanding officer to take cover, and ran forward to flush the enemy from the first foxhole. The courage and daring initiative of Corporal Underhill was responsible for saving the life of his battalion commander and resulted in the capture of several prisoners. Entered military service from Akron, Ohio.

The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN H. WEST, 0 327 774, Captain, Cavalry, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Obbach, Germany. Upon discovering that two Infantrymen lay badly wounded on the outskirts of Obbach, Germany, on 9 April 1945, Captain West and another officer organized a rescue party to recover the wounded men so they could receive medical aid. Exposing himself to enemy observation and subjected to hostile 44 mm, 88 mm, and small arms fire, Captain West and the other men crawled three hundred yards to the helpless soldiers and carried them to a sheltered position, from where they were evacuated to an aid station. Captain West's courageous action and total disregard for his own safety contributed to the saving of the lives of the wounded men. Entered military service from De Kalb, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD L. SIGNS, 37 657 784, Technician Fifth Grade, Field Artillery, Company B, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Obbach, Germany. Upon learning that two Infantrymen lay badly wounded on the outskirts of Obbach, Germany, Corporal Signs and several others volunteered to go to the aid of the wounded men. Exposing themselves to enemy observation and subjected to hostile 40 mm, 88 mm, and small arms fire, Corporal Signs and the other men crawled three hundred yards to the helpless soldiers and carried them to a sheltered position, from where they were evacuated to an aid station. The courageous action and disregard for personal safety of Corporal Signs contributed to the saving of the lives of the wounded men. Entered military service from Des Moines, Iowa.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE C. WAINWRIGHT, JR., 34 633 982, Technician Fifth Grade, Field Artillery, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Obbach, Germany. Upon learning that two Infantrymen lay badly wounded on the outskirts of Obbach, Germany, Corporal Wainwright and several others volunteered to go to the aid of the wounded men. Exposing themselves to enemy observation and subjected to hostile 40mm, 88mm, and small arms fire, Corporal Wainwright and the other men crawled three hundred yards to the helpless soldiers and carried them to a sheltered position, from where they were evacuated to an aid station. The courageous action and disregard for personal safety of Corporal Wainwright contributed to the saving of the lives of the wounded men. Entered military service from Wilson, North Carolina.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH B. POWERS, 32 402 505, Technician Fourth Grade, Field Artillery, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Obbach, Germany. Upon learning that two infantrymen lay badly wounded on the outskirts of Obbach, Germany, Sergeant Powers and several others volunteered to go to the aid of the wounded men. Exposing themselves to enemy observation and subjected to hostile 40 mm, 88 mm, and small arms fire, Sergeant Powers and the other men crawled three hundred yards to the helpless soldiers and carried them to a sheltered position, from where they were evacuated to an aid station. The

courageous action and disregard for personal safety of Sergeant Powers contributed to the saving of the lives of the wounded men. Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PETER J. RUBINO, 0 471 327, First Lieutenant, Calvalry, Company B, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion for gallantry in action on 8 April 1945 near Obbach, Germany. When the enemy launched a counter-attack, supported by artillery, Lieutenant Rubino advanced on foot to guide his tank destroyers into position and direct their fire against hostile strong points. When the enemy opened fire on the destroyers with a battery of 88 mm guns, Lieutenant Rubino remained in an exposed position to direct the fire of the destroyers. Seeking a better firing position, he then led the destroyers on foot to another location and again directed their fire on the battery. As a result of his courage and devotion to duty Lieutenant Rubino's platoon neutralized several enemy strong points, killed more than one hundred Germans and repulsed the counter-attack. Entered military service from San Pedro, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to NORMAN A. KEMP, 36 473 530, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. During the attack on Kronungen, Germany, intense enemy machine gun fire pinned down Company I. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Kemp moved into an exposed position with his bazooka to fire on the machine gun position. The first round was a dud, and as he was in the process of firing a second round, he was observed and mortally wounded by the machine gunner. Private Kemp's heroic self-sacrifice was an inspiration to his comrades and reflects great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Name and address of nearest relative: Mr. Michael Kemp (Father), 11430 Cheyenne Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan. Photo was retrieved from *The Detroit Times*, Friday, June 1, 1945 by WWII Rainbow son, Jim Fisher.





The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIS F. JACQUES, 36 981 958, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, at Kronungen, Germany. While advancing on the outskirts of Kronungen, Germany, Sergeant Jacques' platoon encountered intense fire from well dug-in enemy positions. Sergeant Jacques immediately took his rifle and crawled to a position from which he was able to fire on a machine gun position to his direct front. He shot one of the enemy and his continued firing so disorganized the remaining members of the crew that his platoon was able to advance and capture them in addition to a number of enemy riflemen who were dug in on both flanks. Sergeant Jacques' prompt and courageous action enabled our forces to proceed on their mission immediately and saved many of his comrades from being wounded or killed. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EUGENE J. LEBEAU, 31 097 517, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. When the first platoon of Company I was halted on the outskirts of Kronungen, Germany by intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire, Sergeant Le Beau crawled fearlessly through the deadly fire to an enemy machine gun emplacement, killing both gunners with his rifle. He then leaped into the position and wounded two more riflemen in a nearby foxhole. Sergeant Le Beau's outstanding courage and aggressive determination enabled his platoon to flank the enemy positions and continue their successful advance into the town. Entered military service from Adams, Massachusetts.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to STANTON M. LAMMERS, 01 825 478, First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 9 April 1945 near Obbach, Germany. Lieutenant Lammers was leading his Tank Destroyer Platoon in support of an Infantry attack upon a small town near Obbach, Germany, on 9 April 1945, when several dug-in 88 mm guns were encountered, holding up the attack. As he moved his platoon up to take the guns under fire, the destroyer in which Lieutenant Lammers was riding was hit by enemy rockets, causing it to burn. Although wounded in the knee, Lieutenant Lammers crawled out of the burning destroyer and, entering the next vehicle, led the remainder of his Platoon against the 88 mm guns destroying them, and enabling our Infantry to attain their objective. Refusing to leave his Platoon, he continued to lead it until ordered to the hospital the following day. The courageous leadership and unfailing devotion to duty exhibited by Lieutenant Lammers reflect distinct credit upon himself and the armed services of the United States. Entered military service from Atlanta, Georgia.
Photos of First Lieutenant Lammers may be viewed on his find-a-grave page:
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/267035403/stanton-mitchell-lammers



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GARLAND N. BROWN, 34 736 523, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Ober [sic], Germany. When the tank destroyer spearheading the attack into Ober, Germany, was knocked out by panzerfaust fire, Private Brown sprang from his jeep and unhesitatingly entered the house concealing the enemy gunner. Proceeding into the building and firing his carbine as he advanced, he killed the three enemy occupying the position. By his outstanding courage and unswerving determination, Private Brown made a material contribution to the rapid capitulation of the enemy-held town.
Entered military service from Kingston, Tennessee.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to PAUL A. WEAKLAND, 01 822 843, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Reconnaissance Company, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 9 April 1945 near Obbach, Germany. While reconnoitering an area near Obbach, Germany, Lieutenant Weakland learned that two members of a wire crew of the 232d Infantry Regiment had been seriously wounded at an enemy road block. Loading a volunteer rescue party under direct enemy observation and exposed to intense hostile artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, Lieutenant Weakland crawled 300 yards to the wounded men and, with the aid of several others, carried them to a sheltered position where they were given first aid. Although wounded by enemy fire during the rescue, Lieutenant Weakland remained with the injured men until dusk when a vehicle could be brought up to evacuate them to an aid station. His courageous leadership and unselfish devotion to duty were largely responsible for saving the lives of two men and are worthy of the highest praise. Entered military service from Akron, Ohio.

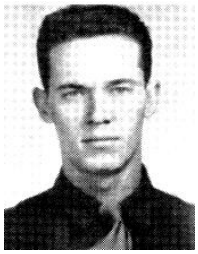
The SILVER STAR is awarded to RICHARD J. PROHASKA, 35 319 782, Sergeant, Field Artillery, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 9 April 1945 near Obbach, Germany. While reconnoitering an area near Obbach, Germany, Sergeant Prohaska learned that two members of a wire crew of the 232d Infantry had been seriously wounded at an enemy road block. Joining a volunteer rescue party, he crawled 300 yards to the wounded men under intense enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire and, with the aid of the other members of the rescue group. Carried them to a sheltered position where they were given first aid. Remaining with the injured men until dusk, Sergeant Prohaska and another man brought up a vehicle and evacuated the wounded men to an aid station. His outstanding courage and unselfish devotion to duty reflect distinct credit upon himself and the military service of the United States. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROBERT L. SWEENEY, 31 173 516, Sergeant, Field Artillery, Reconnaissance Company, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 9 April 1945 near

Obbach, Germany. While reconnoitering an area near Obbach, Germany, Sergeant Sweeney learned that two members of a wire crew of the 232d Infantry Regiment had been seriously wounded at an enemy road block. Joining a volunteer rescue party, he crawled 300 yards to the wounded men under intense enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire and with the aid of the other members of the rescue group, carried them to a sheltered position where they were given first aid. Remaining with the injured men until dusk, Sergeant Sweeney and another man brought up a vehicle and evacuated the wounded man to an aid station. His outstanding courage and unselfish devotion to duty reflect distinct credit upon himself and the military service of the United States.
Entered military service from Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LA VERN R. BERKE, 36 363 543, Technician Fifth Grade, Field Artillery, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Obbach, Germany. Upon learning that two Infantrymen lay badly wounded on the outskirts of Obbach, Germany, Corporal Berke and several others volunteered to go to the aid of the wounded men. Exposing themselves to enemy observation and subjected to hostile 40 mm, 88 mm, and small arms fire, Corporal Berke and the other men crawled three hundred yards to the helpless soldiers and carried them to a sheltered position, from where they were evacuated to an aid station. The courageous action and disregard for personal safety of Corporal Berke contributed to the saving of the lives of the wounded men. Entered military service from De Kalb, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WESLEY R. BARTON, 37 303 114, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 9 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. While acting as a message-relay team between forward elements and the Regimental Command Post, Corporal Barton and another man challenged fifteen men approaching their position in the darkness. Suddenly fired upon by rifles and machine pistols, he and his comrade returned the fire, killing and wounding several of the enemy and capturing the remainder. Corporal Barton's prompt and courageous action eliminated a serious threat from an infiltrating enemy force. Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FROMAN HULBERT, 37 622 674, Staff Sergeant (then Technician Fourth Grade), Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. While acting as a message-relay team between the forward elements and the Regimental Command Post, Sergeant Hulbert and another man spotted fifteen men approaching their position in the darkness. Suddenly fired upon by rifles and machine pistols, Sergeant Hulbert and his comrade returned the fire, killing and wounding several of the enemy and capturing the remainder. Sergeant Hulbert's courage and prompt action eliminated a serious threat from an infiltrating enemy force. Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT ROYS, 36 980 774, Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945 near Kronungen, Germany. While leading his rifle squad in an attack on Kronungen, Private Roys was knocked unconscious by the explosion of an enemy panzerfaust. Regaining consciousness, he continued to lead his men in an assault on the enemy positions despite his dazed condition and intense machine gun and rifle fire. By his outstanding courage, determination, and leadership, Private Roy's squad was able to capture its objective, killing eight of the enemy and capturing twenty-three. Entered military service from Detroil, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE E. HEINER, 35 775 615, Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945 near Kronungen, Germany. While Sergeant Heiner was leading his machine gun squad across an open field, he was wounded in seven places by shell fragments. Refusing medical attention, he continued to control his squad until it had established firing positions. Then, refusing the aid of litter bearers who were badly needed at the time, Sergeant Heiner walked seven hundred yards to the battalion aid station. By his courage and devotion to duty, Sergeant Heiner made an effective contribution to the success of this engagement. Entered military service from Huntington, West Virginia.

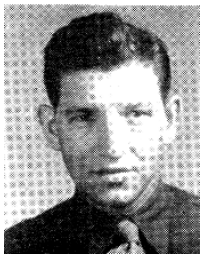
The SILVER STAR is awarded to LEROY W. HIRST, 32 265 020, First Sergeant, (then Staff Sergeant), Field Artillery, Company B, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 9 April 1945, near Euerbach, Germany. Sergeant Hirst, a platoon sergeant, was advancing with his tank destroyers to assist Infantry held up by heavy enemy fire when the leading destroyer of the platoon was hit and set afire by a panzerfaust. Leaping from his destroyer, which was the last in the column, Sergeant Hirst rushed forward under intense machine gun fire, climbed into the burning destroyer and extricated the platoon leader and two crew members who had been wounded. He then led the remaining destroyers in an attack on the town. His courage and devotion to duty resulted in the destruction of an enemy tank, two 88mm guns and two anti-aircraft guns. Entered military service from Gloucester City, New Jersey.

The 5000 enemy soldiers in SCHWEINFURT continued to defend fanatically. The heavy anti-aircraft concentration to protect the ball-bearing center had been converted to ground mounts. On 10 April the 3d Bn (-) of 222d Inf was attached to the 242d Inf and relieved elements of the 232d Inf. The 1st Bn, 222 Inf reverted to Division Reserve, and the 2d Bn continued the attack North along the MAIN River toward SCHWEINFURT. After hard fighting during the entire day, the town of BERGTHEINFELD (N7559), 4 miles south of SCHWEINFURT, and 300 prisoners were captured. The 232d Inf, as the left regiment, moved in a wide envelopment move to attack the high commanding ground North of SCHWEINFURT. Heading north into the zone of the 3d Division, then east to a position north of the high ground, and then turning south, the regiment walked and fought for 10 miles over rugged terrain with no roads. The towns of ZELL and HAMBACH were captured as the regiment attacked south to complete the encirclement of the city. The 242d Inf held a defensive line while the other regiments and CCA maneuvered into position. CCA, 12th Armored Division, attacking in three columns toward the northeast, captured HEIDENFELD (N7755) and ZEILITZHEIM. The 42d Division Artillery shelled SCHWEINFURT continuously, and 192 Medium Bombers attacked the city with tremendous results. The Division CP moved to STETTBACH (N6758).

On **10 April**, upon being relieved by elements of the 222d Infantry, the regiment received an order to move to the north and east in the zone of the Third Infantry Division, and then, to a position just south of the 42d Division north

boundary, and to attack and clear the area in the vicinity of Zell and Uchtelhausen and the high ground north of the town of Schweinfurt.

The First Battalion was ordered to move to a temporary assembly area northeast of Obbach (vicinity 6770), then to continue movement to an assembly area northeast of Dittelbrunn (7868) following the Third Battalion, with one company left in position in the vicinity of Euerbach until relieved by the Third Battalion of the 222d Infantry. The Second Battalion was ordered to move to Ebenhausen, then to continue movement to Uchtelhausen, to take position there to protect the regimental left flank. The Third Battalion was ordered to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Altenfelderhof Hill 356 (6870), north-east of Kutzberg and then to an assembly area south of Zell (8068) following the Second Battalion, with one company to be left in the vicinity of Kutzberg until relieved by the 222d Infantry.

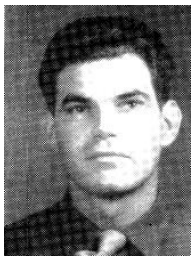


he BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES L. WYLIE, 33 115 492, Corporal, Infantry, Headquarters First Battalion 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945 at Euerbach, Germany. During an intense concentration of artillery fire on Euerbach, Corporal Wylie ran from his sheltered position through the heavy fire to a loaded ammunition truck which was parked nearby. Although the truck was near a burning building and was being perforated by shrapnel, he unhesitatingly drove it to a position far from his company's locality. Corporal Wylie's prompt and courageous action eliminated a dangerous hazard to the lives of his comrades. Entered military service from Houston, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MATTHEW G. SKOSKI, 35 914 116, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Service Company 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945 near Euerbach, Germany. During a heavy enemy artillery concentration, Corporal Skoski's ammunition truck was exposed to intense fire. Without regard for personal safety, he left his covered position and moved the vehicle to safety, despite shell fragments which pierced the truck in many places. This act of courage and devotion to duty saved the critically needed ammunition and vehicle from destruction.
Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT C. DEARTH, 35 607 122, Sergeant, Field Artillery, Company B, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945 near Euerbach, Germany. While advancing upon the town of Euerbach, Sergeant Dearth's tank destroyer came under heavy 88 mm fire at a point where a disabled destroyer blocked the road. Sergeant Dearth dismounted under intense fire, located a position for his own destroyer and directed the driver to it. He then opened fire and demolished two guns on his flank, permitting his platoon to advance into the town. By his prompt and aggressive action, Sergeant Dearth played an important part in the capture of Euerbach. Entered military service from Columbus, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM J. SCHEERENS, 32 733 561, Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Zelt [Zell], Germany. When our attacking column was ambushed by murderous panzerfaust and machine gun fire during a night attack near

Zelt [Zell], Germany, Sergeant Scheerens, with utter disregard for his own safety, moved forward to an exposed position and lit a match, thus drawing the deadly concentration upon himself. Locating the German emplacements, his machine gun platoon quickly silenced the hostile positions. Through his courageous initiative, Sergeant Scheerens was responsible for the destruction of two enemy machine gun nests, thus enabling the attacking column to continue its advance on Schweinfurt.
Entered military service from Newark, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BYRON B. ZEPPLIN, 36 845 672, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. Private Zepplin was a heavy machine gunner in a squad which was attacked for the fourth time by a large enemy force. Although silhouetted by fires in a burning town behind him, and with grenades bursting less than 15 yards from his position, Privte Zepplin remained at his gun and delivered effective fire on the enemy. By his courage and devotion to duty he assisted in repulsing the attack with heavy enemy losses. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MAURICE E. PRONEVOST, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. Private Pronovost was serving as ammunition bearer of a heavy machine gun squad which was attacked for the fourth time by a large enemy force. Although silhouetted by fires in a burning town behind him and with grenades bursting less than 15 yards from the gun positions, Private Pronovost left cover and advanced through rifle and automatic weapons fire to assist the machine gunner. By his courage and devotion to duty he aided in repulsing an attack with enemy losses of two men killed, one wounded and one captured.
Entered military service from Springfield, Massachusetts.

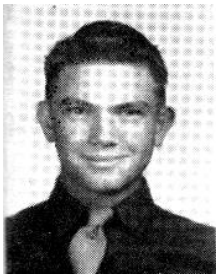


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT L. MEISBURG, 35 807 188, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. Private Meisburg was assistant gunner in a heavy machine gun squad which was attacked or the fourth time by a large enemy force. Although silhouetted by fires in a burning town behind him, and with grenades bursting less than 15 yards from his gun, Private Meisburg remained at his position and assisted in delivering effective fire on the enemy. By his courage and devotion to duty he contributed effectively to the repulse of an attack.
Entered military service from Louisville, Kentucky.



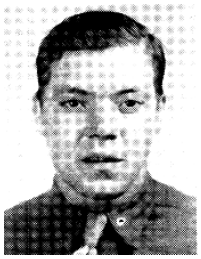
The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to DONALD F. GAGE, 39 023 459, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 April 1945, at Kronungen, Germany. During company I's attack against Kronungen, Germany, Private Gage was in the lead of the forward elements as first scout. Observing that the bridge on the approaches to the town was set with explosives, he ran through a deadly hail of machine gun and rifle fire in an attempt to reach the structure before the enemy could destroy it. Firing as he ran, he killed several of the riflemen guarding the bridge, only to step on it as the enemy set off their charges. Private Gage's heroic attempt to keep the bridge intact for our forces reflects great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Nellie J. Gage (Mother), General Delivery, Bridge, Oregon.
Entered military service from Gilroy, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to JAMES D. LYND, 37 750 793, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. Private Lynd was point man for his platoon as they attacked the heavily fortified town of Kronungen, Germany, across an open field. Unhesitatingly exposing himself to intense machine gun and small arms fire, he directed the platoon's fire on the well-concealed enemy positions, enabling his comrades to destroy several machine gun emplacements holding up the assault. Upon advancing further across the open terrain at the point of the attack, he was hit and mortally wounded by a burst of machine gun fire. Private Lynd's exceptional courage and heroic action materially aided his platoon to continue their successful advance into the town. Name and address of nearest relative: Myles Mathew Lynd (Father), Route 2, Ogallah, Kansas.
Entered military service from Ogallah, Kansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to CHARLES MYRICK, 34 915 299, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. As Private Myrick's platoon was proceeding across open, level terrain on the approaches to Kronungen, Germany, it was suddenly met by an intense hail of machine gun and rifle fire. Private Myrick continued to advance in the face of the murderous fire, and from an exposed position directed bazooka fire onto one of the enemy positions. When the bazooka round failed to explode, the enemy turned their machine guns on him, fatally wounding him with a withering hail of fire. Private Myrick's exceptional courage and unflinching determination reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Daisy Cox Myrick (Mother), Route 5, Florence, Alabama. Entered military service from Florence, Alabama.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM R. PIERCE, 32 004 121, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. When his rifle platoon was suddenly subjected to heavy concentrations of machine gun, rifle and mortar fire during the advance upon Kronungen, Germany, Corporal Pierce, disregarding his own safety, immediately returned the fire with his automatic rifle. Tenaciously holding his precarious position under full enemy observation, he enabled the rest of his platoon to reach cover. With indomitable perseverance, he continued to fire until he was seriously wounded in the left hand. Through his outstanding heroism and unflinching devotion to duty, Corporal Pierce played a major role in the successful attack. Entered military service from Long Island, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to REUBEN TURNER, 35 448 629, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. During the attack on Kronungen, Germany, Private Turner displayed outstanding courage and initiative under fire. When the lead scout was killed by a burst of enemy machine gun fire, Private Turner advanced to his position and, with utter disregard for his own safety, continued to lead his company through the withering barrage until he was severely wounded himself. His unflinching devotion to duty was an inspiration to the men about him and contributed immeasurably to the successful attack. Entered military service from Tolbert, Kentucky.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to RAYMOND T. FUCHS, 36 846 244, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. During the all-out attack of our forces against Schweinfurt, Germany, Private Fuchs distinguished himself by his outstanding courage and devotion to his comrades. Although seriously wounded while advancing through a deadly hail of machine gun and rifle fire, he lay in an exposed position and directed the fire of his entire platoon on the well-concealed enemy positions until they were

neutralized. Private Fuchs' gallant and heroic action enabled his comrades to eliminate two machine gun emplacements and to continue their successful assault against the heavily defended city. Entered military service from West Allis, Wisconsin.



The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to ROBERT R. CASSEL, 16 075 583, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company 232d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 10 April 1945 near Obbach, Germany. While laying a vital communication line, Corporal Cassel and his driver were seriously wounded by machine gun fire. Ordering one of the wire crew to go to the rear for help, he returned the enemy's fire until loss of blood caused him to collapse. Though mortally wounded, Corporal Cassel's extreme courage and determination saved the life of his comrade. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Leta J. Cassel, Astoria, Illinois. Entered military service from Peoria, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to J.R. AYERS, 36 677 262, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 10 April 1945, near Eurbach, Germany. As a member of a wire crew laying a line from Obbach to Eurbach, Private Ayers came under heavy enemy panzerfaust and machine gun fire resulting in the destruction of the jeep in which he was riding. With two of his comrades seriously wounded, Private Ayers rendered immediate first aid, then set out under artillery and mortar fire to bring back a litter party. Although wounded by shell fragments he continued on until he secured help for his wounded comrades, Private Ayers' complete disregard for his own safety resulting in saving the life of the injured men. Entered military service from Fairfield, Illinois.

The First and Second Battalions engaged in fire-fights north of Zell, while the Third Battalion closed on Dittelbrunn against light resistance. At 2100 the Regimental CP was established at Hambach.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILFRED J. ROUSSLANG, 39 333 574, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Zell, Germany. When our troops were subjected to intense sniper and machine pistol fire, Private Rousslang remained in an exposed position at his radio, informing the various companies of the location of the enemy snipers. His courageous action under fire was instrumental in the capture of eight enemy snipers.
Entered military service from Portland, Oregon.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EARL O. LANGE, 36 982 209, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945 near Zell, Germany. When forward elements of our advancing rifle troops met heavy enemy machine gun fire, four men were seriously wounded. Without hesitation or regard for his personal safety, Private Lange advanced under the heavy hostile fire and rendered first aid to the wounded men. He then assisted in evacuating them to a place of safety under cover. Private Lange's heroic devotion to duty was a decisive factor in saving the lives of his comrades. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HENRY P. BLOESSER, 37 254 673, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Unterbach, Germany. Private Bloesser volunteered to drive a party of Rangers over a road that was known to have been heavily mined by the enemy. Swerving from side to side to avoid mines, and straddling others, he was forced to drive at a rapid pace because of the enemy observation and artillery fire to which the road was exposed. By his courage and skillful driving he successfully completed his trip and reestablished contact between two battalions, enabled them to coordinate their attack. Entered military service from Kingman, Kansas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT E. VAN DE POL, 37 189 692, Staff Sergeant, Field Artillery, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action 10 April 1945, near Obbach, Germany. When tank destroyers of the company of which he was mess sergeant had almost exhausted their fuel shortly before they were scheduled to move into direct firing positions, Sergeant Van De Pol volunteered to use a captured vehicle, the only means of transportation available, to bring up the essential supply of gasoline. Under intensive enemy mortar, machine gun and small arms fire, he loaded the vehicle with fuel and proceeded to the position of the destroyers. Sergeant Van De Pol's courageous act and devotion to duty enabled the tank destroyer platoon to maneuver into advantageous positions against the enemy and drive them out of Obbach.
Entered military service from Fremont, Iowa.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN H. STERTHAUS, 34 789 766, Technicial Fourth Grade, (then Private First Class), Corps of Engineers, Company B, 142D Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Obbach, Germany. While engaged in a road reconnaissance, the jeep in which Private Sterthaus was riding with three others struck a mine, knocking him unconscious. The driver was killed immediately and the other two occupants were so seriously injured that they were unable to raise themselves from the ground. Upon regaining consciousness, Private Sterthaus, despite a broken rib and severe lacerations of the face and chest, crawled through the minefield and walked and crawled to the nearest medical aid station three-quarters of a mile away to summon aid for the others. His complete disregard for personal safety and indomitable courage enabled medical aid to be promptly administered to his injured commander and undoubtedly saved their lives. Entered military service from Daytona Beach, Florida.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES O. HORST, 33 036 652, Corporal, Field Artillery, Company B, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945 near Obbach, Germany. Corporal Horst moved with the tank destroyer to which he was assigned as gunner across an open field to cover medical aid men attempting to rescue five wounded riflemen. Exposing himself to intense fire, he manned the .50 calibre machine gun in the turret of his destroyer, held up the enemy until the aid men had evacuated the wounded. By his courage and devotion to duty, Corporal Horst played a major role in preventing the death or capture of five fellow soldiers. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Rainbow captured SCHWEINFURT <u>11 April</u> 1945 after hard bloody fighting. The attack continued from the previous day without rest. The 242d Infantry, with the 3d Bn, 222d Infantry, attached, attacked southeast toward SCHWEINFURT against heavy resistance, and by daylight had passed through WERM-NIEDER (N7465) and reached the outskirts of the city. Due to prior patrolling, the regiment had determined

the weak spots in the enemy defenses. By-passing the 88mm and anti-aircraft guns, the regiment continued the attack and fought through the center of SCHWEINFURT to the MAIN River. The 222d Infantry attacked through OBERNDORF into SCHWEINFURT with limited objective in SCHWEINFURT. On linking up with the 242d Infantry, the 2d Bn was returned to that regiment. The 222d Infantry outposted and held its sector of the city. In the meantime, the 232d Infantry had completed the large encirclement and attacked in the direction of SCHWEINFURT from the north. The high dominating ground was captured and the SCHWEINFURT – BAMBERG road cut at (N6255). CCA, 12th Armored Division continued the advance to the north, cutting the escape road to BAMBERG.

On **11 April** the regiment received an order from the Commanding General to attack at 0300. The Third Battalion, from positions generally around Hambach, drove south against spotty resistance clearing Dittelbrunn and continuing the advance. The First Battalion jumped off at 0600 clearing Zell and attacking south, encountering small groups of fleeing enemy. Their advance was temporarily halted by an enemy force on their right flank.



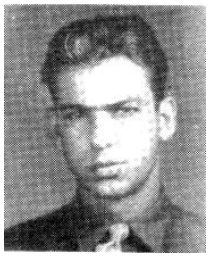
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES E. WALK, 33 655 893, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, in Schweinfurt, Germany. Sergeant Walk was loading his squad in the attack on the city of Schweinfurt when his platoon was pinned down by fire from two enemy machine guns. Sergeant Walk, with the assistance of one BAR man, exposed himself to the enemy fire in order to maneuver into position to lay down a base of fire on the enemy positions which permitted his platoon to move forward and wipe them out. His courageous act was responsible for the continued advance of his platoon. Entered military service from Wytheville, Virginia.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN J. STRACK, 37 621 356, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945 near Schweinfurt, Germany. On three occasions when his platoon was held up by automatic fire, Sergeant Strack crawled to within a few yards of the enemy weapon. Exposing himself each time to hurl hand grenades into the emplacement, he silenced the gun and enabled his platoon to continue on to its objective. By his courage and devotion to duty, he made possible the completion of the patrol's mission. Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FLEMING F. LEE, 33 753 974, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, 11 April 1945, in Germany.
Entered military service from Washington, District of Columbia.
Photo is sent by family of PFC Lee; his correct Middle initial is "T."



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to
EDGAR K. WALL, 35 079 548, Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. When his platoon was pinned down by heavy enemy small arms and machine gun fire during the attack on Schweinfurt, Germany, Sergeant Wall attacked one of the hostile positions from the flank, killing the crew with devastating rifle fire. Observing the location of a second emplacement, he made his way to a vantage point and killed the occupants of the position with hand grenades. Through his indomitable courage and selfless determination, Sergeant Wall contributed immeasurably to the rapid capitulation of the key city of Schweinfurt. Entered military service from Somerset, Kentucky.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD R. FRANCIS, 33 930 551, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 11 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. During the action at Schweinfurt, Private Francis was with his squad on a mission to take an enemy barracks which was known to contain a captured American officer. When his squad was held up by sniper fire, he exposed himself to this fire, located and killed two of the enemy, and proceeded on toward the barracks under intense machine gun and small arms fire. He then set up his automatic rifle about twenty yards from the building and poured a steady stream of fire into it, enabling his squad to assault the building. Private Francis' courageous action played a major role in the liberation of the American officer and the capture of seventy prisoners.
Entered military service from Reading, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MELVIN L. RAMAGE, Jr., 39 346 099, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. During the advance of his company into Schweinfurt, Private Ramage, lead scout, heard an enemy motorcycle patrolman approaching through the woods. When the enemy patrolman came near, he halted him and took him as a prisoner. Shortly after, he heard another patrolman coming, and once more went forward alone and captured him. Private Ramage's courage and alertness enabled his company to surprise the enemy forces on the edge of town and quickly overcame them. Entered military service from Ridgefield, Washington.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FILBERTO G. GALVAN, 38 680 377, Private, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 11 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. During the advance on Schweinfurt, Private Galvan, first scout for his rifle squad, crawled alone under intense enemy rifle and machine gun fire to within a few yards of a barracks where he killed three Germans with his rifle, then discovered that the enemy was holding an American officer prisoner inside. From his vantage point he next directed the fire of the remainder of his squad on the enemy positions around the building. Private Galvan's alertness and courage under fire contributed materially to the release of the American officer and the capture of eighty of the enemy. Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HOMER L. LEPPER, 37 644 790, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945 near Obbach, Germany. After the capture of Obbach, the positions held by Company I were subjected to intense concentrations of enemy artillery fire which were concentrated on the roads over which supply vehicles travelled. None of the company vehicles would travel over the road due to the concentrated shelling. Private Lepper volunteered to deliver prisoners to the rear and bring back a supply of ammunition. Working with the supply sergeant, and with utter

disregard to his personal safety, Private Lepper made his way over the road several times under the intense enemy artillery fire on foot until the company had sufficient ammunition to continue their attack. Entered military service from Des Moines, Iowa.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to HARRY J. MULCH JR., 42 083 795, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 11 April 1945, near Dittelbrunn, Germany. Attacking an enemy skirmish line in the face of heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire, Private Mulch, acting as scout, fearlessly left his sheltered position to go to the aid of the other scout who was wounded. In this brave and valorous attempt to help a comrade-in-arms, Private Mulch was mortally wounded by enemy fire. Nearest Relative: Mrs. Marion Mulch (Mother), 204 Carlisle Road, Audubon, New Jersey.
Entered military service from Audubon, New Jersey.



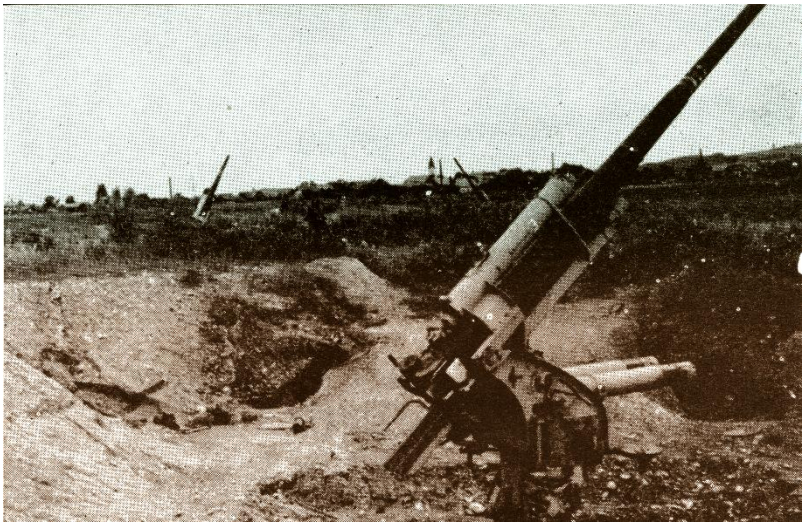
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to TOM OWEN, 0 555 588, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for meritorious achievement in ground operations against the enemy, European Theater of Operations, 11 April 1945, in Germany. Entered military service from Houston, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MONROE GRAY, 18 013 410, Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 11 April 1945, near Helmittsheim, Germany. While Sergeant Gray was on guard for his heavy machine gun platoon near Helmittsheim, Germany, an enemy patrol armed with automatic weapons and hand grenades attempted to infiltrate our lines. Allowing the patrol to advance within fifteen yards of his position before opening fire, he directed such a heavy volume of fire on the enemy that two were killed, one wounded, and the remainder forced to flee in disorder. Sergeant Gray's alertness and courageous action completely repulsed an enemy attempt to penetrate our positions.
Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARLTON O. JOHNSON, 35 146 974, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, near Dittelbrunn, Germany. During the fighting near Dittelbrunn, Germany, an infiltrating enemy patrol attacked the positions of Private Johnson's mortar platoon. Immediately securing an automatic rifle from a nearby vehicle, he advanced through the intense machine gun and small arms fire to a position of the flank of the platoon. He then directed such deadly fire on the approaching enemy that one was killed and the remainder forced to flee in disorder. Private Johnson's prompt and courageous action in the face of superior odds eliminated a serious threat to the members of his section and to our rear security. Entered military service from Indianapolis, Indiana.



The famed 88-mm. defense guns were smashed or abandoned

The SILVER STAR is awarded to KOHN T. WHITLEY, 35 654 479, Corporal, Field Artillery, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 11 April 1945 near Obbach, Germany. During the temporary absence of the Gun Commander on 11 April 1945, Corporal Whitley was in command of a Tank Destroyer in position at a road block near Obbach, Germany, when he observed the formation of an enemy counterattack. Moving from the covered position in the face of intense fire from two batteries of German 88 mm guns, projectiles from which landed on both sides of the Destroyer, Corporal Whitley opened fire on the advancing enemy, disorganizing the attacking force, and compelling it to retreat. Directing fire on the dug-in 88 mm guns, he effected their neutralization, killing more than ten of the members of their crews. The courageous leadership and daring initiative of Corporal Whitley were responsible for breaking up the German counterattack and inflicting numerous enemy casualties and reflect distinct credit upon himself and the armed services of the United States. Entered military service from Chesapeake, Ohio.

The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE SNAKE, 37 122 761, Private First Class, Field Artillery, Company A, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While the riflemen were pinned down by violent enemy sniping in the advance on Wurzburg, Private Snake's tank destroyer moved in to neutralize the hostile strongpoint. Ignoring the intense Panzerfaust fire directed at his destroyer, Private Snake manned his machine gun and killed three snipers. His courageous action allowed the riflemen to advance into the city with a minimum of casualties.
Entered military service from Walthill, Nebraska.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE E. ELLIS, 39 563 719, Sergeant, Field Artillery, Company A, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While supporting rifle troops in the assault of Wurzburg, Sergeant Ellis' tank destroyer was exposed to heavy enemy counter-battery, small arms and Panzerfaust fire. Despite the intensity of this fire, Sergeant Ellis stood his ground and returned extremely effective fire, destroying two enemy tanks, another vehicle, and an undetermined number of personnel. Sergeant Ellis' steadfast courage and determination greatly aided the rifle troops in capturing Wurzburg.
Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH KOLENDA, 36 562 211, Corporal, Field Artillery, Company A, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While supporting rifle troops in the assault of Wurzburg, Corporal Kolenda's tank destroyer was exposed to heavy enemy counter-battery, small arms, and panzerfaust fire. Despite the intensity of this fire, Corporal Kolenda stood his ground and returned extremely effective fire, destroying two enemy tanks, another vehicle, and an undetermined number of personnel. Corporal Kolenda's steadfast courage and determination greatly aided the rifle troops in capturing Wurzburg.
Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROY F. FARMER, JR., 34 364 845, Sergeant, Field Artillery, Company A, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. While supporting rifle troops in the assault of Wurzburg, Sergeant Farmer's tank destroyer was exposed to heavy enemy counter-battery, small arms and panzerfaust fire. Despite the intensity of this fire, Sergeant Farmer stood his ground and returned extremely effective fire, destroying two enemy tanks, another vehicle, and an undetermined number of personnel. Sergeant Farmer's steadfast courage and determination greatly aided the rifle troops in capturing Wurzburg. Entered military service from Clinton, Tennessee.

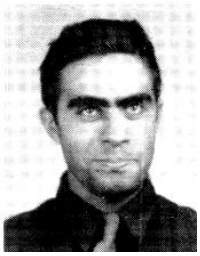


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARRY D. WALKER, 39 476 182, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, near Brandenbach, Germany. Observing two SS troopers on guard outside a barn in Brandenbach, Private Walker captured and disarmed them. Upon interrogation they revealed that twenty more SS troops were in the same area. Without hesitation, Private Walker led a patrol in an attack on this enemy, deploying his men so successfully that a large number were killed and the remainder captured. By his aggressive and courageous action, Private Walker saved his company from a dangerous ambush. Entered military service from Tacoma, Washington.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARL M. OLDROYD, 33 616 128, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945 near Dittelbrun, Germany. When the patrol to which Private Oldroyd was attached was fired upon, two men were wounded and the patrol disorganized. Advancing through the intense enemy fire, Private Oldroyd covered the remainder of his squad with accurate automatic rifle fire. By his courage and aggressiveness, Private Oldroyd contributed to the defeat of the enemy and the capture of over 80 prisoners. Entered military service from Gillett, Pennsylvania.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DELMAR A. JEFFERS, 37 771 202, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945 near Dittelbrun, Germany. When the patrol to which Private Jeffers was attached as a rifleman came under hostile fire, two men were wounded and the patrol disorganized. He continued to advance through the heavy enemy fire, covering the reorganization of the patrol with his well directed fire. By his courage and aggressiveness, Private Jeffers contributed materially to the defeat of the enemy and the capture of over 80 prisoners. Entered military service from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ELMER F. ILE, 33 890 139, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 11 April 1945, near Dittelbrun, Germany. Attacking an enemy position in the face of heavy small arms and automatic fire, Private Ile, automatic rifleman, exposed himself to provide accurate covering fire for the maneuvering elements of his squad. When the weapon of the other automatic rifleman failed to fire, he coolly covered him until the gun was put in action again. By his courage and accurate and aggressive fire, Private Ile contributed materially to the success of his squad.
Entered military service from Havre LeGrace, Maryland.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PHILIP M. RIZZO, 42 141 493, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945 near Dittelbrun, Germany. When the patrol of which Private Rizzo was a member was fired upon, he was wounded early in the action. Refusing to be evacuated, he resolutely pushed forward with the other members of his squad and attacked the entrenched enemy from a flank. After a sharp fire fight, Private Rizzo's squad counted several dead Germans and took over 70 prisoners. His courage,

aggressiveness and devotion to duty contributed materially to the combat success of his patrol. Entered military service from Syracuse, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALTER E. NEAL, 35 839 390, Sergeant (the Private First Class), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 11 April 1945, near Dittelbrun, Germany. As Squad Leader of a squad attacking an enemy machine gun position Private Neal displayed outstanding courage and leadership. By his deployment of his squad and personal supervision in the face of heavy fire, the enemy position was overrun. Private Neal's skillful leadership made an effective contribution to the combat success of his squad. Entered military service from New Castle, Indiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES F. HAYDON, 35 907 484, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 11 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. As Company E was moving across an open field into the town of Arnstein, two men fell seriously wounded and exposed to the enemy fire. Private Haydon voluntarily ran across the open terrain, raked by enemy mortar, machine gun and rifle fire, to the wounded mens' position He then summoned litter bearers to the position and aided them in the successful evacuation and treatment of the two men. Private Haydon's courageous action undoubtedly saved the men from further injury or death. Entered military service from Indianapolis, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN K. SMITHEN, 38 687 832, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, at Arnstein, Germany. While acting as squad leader in the attack on Arnstein, Private Smithen's squad was held up by enemy snipers. In an effort to locate the snipers, Private Smithen deliberately exposed himself to their fire. When the enemy had disclosed their location, Private Smithen led his squad to a position from which they killed several of the snipers and drove off the remainder. As the result of his courageous action, Private Smithen's squad continued to advance without casualties. Entered military service from Blooming Grove, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEONARD C. SECHRIST, 35 063 202, Sergeant, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, 11 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. While leading his squad in the attack on Arnstein, Sergeant Sechrist's company was pinned down by heavy enemy sniper fire. Realizing that the success of the company mission depended on the destruction of the snipers, Sergeant Sechrist exposed himself to enemy fire, rallied his squad and led them up a draw to a position from which they attacked and killed the snipers.
Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM G. MITSCH. 01 288 276, Captain, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. Captain Mitsch was in command of Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, in an attack on the high ground northeast of Arnstein, Germany. Though constantly exposed to heavy automatic and small arms fire, Captain Mitsch displayed outstanding leadership in rallying small groups of men who had been disorganized by the heavy fire. He personally led the right platoon forward in the attack against 350 of the enemy, overrunning the enemy positions and capturing the main part of the town of Arnstein. Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HAROLD L. HORN, 35 298 418, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, at Arnstead [Arnstein?] Germany. During the attack on Arnstead, Private Horn, machine gun squad leader, was given the mission of placing his weapon where he could fire upon enemy positions in the village. To set up his gun it was necessary for Private Horn to cross a one hundred yard clearing under direct observation of the enemy under concentrated German sniper fire. From his new position Private Horn and his squad opened fire on the enemy and caused them to withdraw. Private Horn's cool courage and determination greatly aided the progress of the attack in his sector.
Entered military service from Carbonville, Ohio.

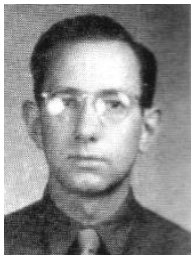
The Second Battalion moving east from Zell to Uchtelhausen attacked south to clear the enemy from the zone. Light resistance was encountered. The battalion occupied positions overlooking the main highway running east from Schweinfurt. Roadblocks were established by fire southwest of Zell (785665) and near Mainberg (811660). Contact was made with the Third Battalion, 15th Infantry, Third Infantry Division, at Schonungen (840645). The regiment cleared the enemy from the zone and cut the main road from Schweinfurt to the east, blocking the enemy escape route from the city. At 1645 the Regimental CP was established at Dittelbrunn.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH F. MARTINEZ, 37 506 830, Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 April 1945, in Uchtelhausen, Germany. When the machine gun squad he was leading, suddenly came under concentrated enemy small arms and sniper fire, Sergeant Martinez directed his group to a covered position and set up his gun. Upon discovering that his squad was well protected but not within effective observation of the Germans, Sergeant Martinez then exposed himself to hostile fire to direct the assault upon the enemy installations. Through his courageous action his squad neutralized the enemy's fire and forced many to surrender. Entered military service from Kansas City, Kansas.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWIN J. STANLEY, 0 555 582, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action from 4 April to 12 April 1945, inclusive, near Wurzburg, Arnstein, and Uchtelhausen, Germany. During the period from 4 April to 12 April 1945, Lieutenant Stanley conducted advance reconnaissance missions for machine gun positions. Despite the fact that these missions brought him under severe enemy machine gun and sniper fire, Lieutenant Stanley courageously continued his work. In Wurzberg he shot his way out of an enemy trap, killing at least one German. Through Lieutenant Stanley's skillful selection of gun positions, the rifle companies were able to advance to their objectives with the minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Seminole, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES A. MUMPER, 33 380 196, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, at Uchtelhausen, Germany. Private Mumber, part of the local security for his 81mm mortar platoon, seeing American tanks suddenly appear on his flank and begin to shell and machine gun his platoon position ran to his jeep and procuring a yellow smoke grenade, threw it in the direction of the oncoming tanks. Recognizing the smoke signal, the occupants ceased firing. As a result of the heroic

action on the part of Private Mumper, the lives of many members of his company were saved. Entered military service from Milesburg, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES A. WILEY, 18 106 777, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945 near Schweinfurt, Germany. During the attack on the high ground north of Schweinfurt, Sergeant Wiley constantly exposed himself to direct enemy machine gun and rifle fire to deploy his mortar section into positions from which they could adjust close supporting mortar fire. When enemy machine guns opened fire on his observation post, he unhesitatingly crawled under the heavy fire to another position, from which he continued to direct and adjust the fire of his mortars. Sergeant Wiley's aggressive action and accurate firing instructions enabled his company to continue their advance toward the city with a minimum of casualties.
Entered military service from Walsh, Colorado.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES E. GIESE, 0 452 755, Captain, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. While proceeding to the city of Schweinfurt, Captain Giese, in charge of a group of radio men, observed a number of Germans well dug in some 500 yards from his position. He immediately attacked them from the flank and succeeded in taking several prisoners. Questioning them he learned of other positions in the vicinity. With this knowledge he was able to execute a number of swift and devastating maneuvers which kept the Germans pinned down and intimidated until reinforcements arrived. By his heroic actions and tactical skill, coupled with his aggressive assaults upon the enemy, Captain Giese surprised and overcame 104 Germans and materially aided the eventual full-scale attack upon Schweinfurt.
Entered military service from Wausau,Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ORVILLE D. FUNK, 35 608 136, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. In the attack on the high ground just north of Schweinfurt, Germany, Private Funk, while serving as lead scout for his squad, killed a German officer and eliminated the threat of an automatic weapon that pinned down the right flank of the platoon. Working his way across an open field, he captured five German soldiers, gaining valuable information that led to the capture of thirty more of the enemy. His courageous and aggressive action contributed largely to the attaining of its objective by the 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment. Entered military service from Alliance, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES R. RIGGIE, 33 245 365, Private, Infantry, Company C, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. While acting as second scout, Private Riggie deliberately exposed himself to heavy enemy fire enabling the lead scout to close with the enemy, neutralize three automatic weapons, and capture five prisoners. Through Private Riggie's courageous action his platoon was able to advance with the minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Delancey, Pennslyvania.

On <u>12 April</u>, the 222d Infantry continued to mop up in SCHWEINFURT and the 3d Bn moved by motor over the bridge at NORDHEIM and secured a bridgehead east of the MAIN River. The 232d Infantry moved into an assembly area on the high ground north of SCHWEINFURT. The 242d

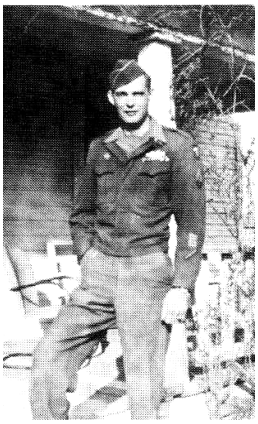
Infantry mopped up in SCHWEINFURT and assembled for future employment. CCA, 12th Armored Division moved to the east to assist the 3d Infantry Division in crossing the MAIN River about 10 miles east of SCHWEINFURT.

At 0800 on **12 April**, Companies A and C were organized into a T-Force which, under the command of Major BARRETT, worked under control of Division G-3. At the same time Company L was organized as a T-Force under control of Lt. Col. BABCOCK. Both T-Forces moved under division control to Schweinfurt. The remainder of the regiment with the exception of the First Battalion was ordered to move to division reserve in the vicinity of Obbach (6866). The First Battalion, minus Companies A and C, was ordered to remain in position to defend the high ground north of the city of Schweinfurt, until relieved by elements of the 242d Infantry.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MICHAEL ZABEK, 02 010 781, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 12 April 1945, in Schweinfurt, Germany. Lieutenant Zabek exposed himself to heavy fire to deploy his platoon for a successful assault on one of two enemy machine guns. Then, with the aid of another man, he personally attacked and knocked out the second position to permit the continued advance of his platoon. By his courage and determination, Lieutenant Zabek enabled his platoon to attain its objective with minimum casualties.
Entered military service from Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

The Regimental CP was established at Obbach at 1823. By 2100 the Second and Third Battalions and special Units closed in assembly areas near Obbach.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to GLEN R. GARDNER, 38 066 237, Technician fifth Grade, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry, for gallantry in action, on 12 April 1945, near Kronungen, Germany. When his platoon was pinned down by enemy machine gun fire while attacking Kronungen, Corporal Gardner advanced with another bazookaman toward the enemy position. When the gunner was suddenly killed by a burst of machine gun fire, Corporal Gardner immediately loaded the bazooka, and fired directly into the machine gun nest, knocking it out. His prompt action and courage under fire thus relieved the pressure on his platoon and enabled them to advance on their objective. Entered military service from Vigo Park, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RONALD W. BRISON, 39 217 030, Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 April 1945 near Kronungen, Germany. During the attack on Kronungen, Sergeant Brison and his rifle squad were pinned down by intense machine gun and rifle fire from enemy dug-in positions. Sergeant Brison led half his squad in an assault on a machine gun, knocking it out with grenades and small arms fire. His fearless and bold action and courageous leadership was a contributing factor to the successful attack of his platoon. Entered military service from Tacoma, Washington.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOSEPH P. OLIVER, 39 251 972, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 12 April 1945 near Kronungen, Germany. During the attack on Kronungen, the rifle platoon of which Private Oliver was an automatic rifleman, was stopped and pinned down by intense machine gun and rifle fire from dug in enemy positions. Without hesitation Private Oliver stood up in an exposed position in the face of the intense enemy fire and directed such a heavy volume of fire from his weapon that the enemy troops were pinned down, enabling his platoon to advance. Later, when his weapon failed to fire, he crawled two hundred yards to a wounded comrade, obtained his weapon and continued the attack with his squad. Private Oliver's extremely courageous action under fire was directly responsible for the successful accomplishment of his platoon's mission.
Entered military service fro Los Angeles, California.

Thus the famous ball-bearing center of SCHWEINFURT was captured by the Rainbow after bitter days of fighting against heavy artillery fire, 88mm and 20mm AA guns, and fanatical German resistance. Since the Division had left WURZBURG, it had cleared 100 square miles, captured 50 towns and villages, and captured 6,680 prisoners. The Rainbow Infantry was superb, and the supporting troops performed in a meritorious manner.

III <u>CAPTURE OF FURTH</u>

The 42d Infantry Division received the following directive from XXI Corps, 13 April 1945:

" (1) CCA (12th Armored Division) reverts to the control of parent unit immediately. (2) Attack to seize FURTH. (3) Assist XV Corps in capture of NURNBERG."

The 4th Infantry Division was still operating on the right of the 42d Infantry Division zone, and the 3d Infantry Division on the left.

From its capture of SCHWEINFURT the Rainbow then swung southeast, again crossing the MAIN River, and headed for FURTH and NURNBERG, 55 miles away. FURTH, which is the western third of the city of NURNBERG, was the objective and the route led straight into the heart of the Nazi party. This was the territory of which a fanatical SS trooper, a determined Wehrmacht or a member of the Volksturm was pledged to fight to the end.

The 1st Bn, 222d Inf, on <u>13 April</u>, reverted to Regtl Control, and the 2d Bn moved from SCHWEINFURT south and east over the bridge at NORDHEIM into an assembly area just east of the bridge. The 3d Bn moved east to an area Vic (N8534) and then on to EBRACH (N9842). The 232d Inf remained in an assembly area north of SCHWEINFURT. The 1st Bn, 242d Inf maintained a bridgehead east of the MAIN River in the vicinity of BERTHEINFELD just south of SCHWEINFURT and sent out

patrols to gain contact with the enemy. The 2d and 3d Bns remained in SCHWEINFURT.

The regiment remained in division reserve on **13 April** in the vicinity of Obbach, patrolling to clear enemy within the area. The First Battalion, minus Companies A and C established a perimeter defense around the Division CP and prepared to take over the defense of bridges at Bergrheinfeld (755594) and Escherndorf (755432).



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROY PATTERSON, 37 639 221, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 13 April 1945, near Debendorf, [Deberndorf] Germany. When his patrol was suddenly pinned down by machine gun and rifle fire, Private Patterson advanced to a position from which he could bring effective fire on the enemy. By further exposing himself, he killed three snipers and destroyed two machine-pistol positions. Private Patterson's courageous and prompt action enabled his patrol to withdraw to new defensive positions from which they could make adequate preparations for another German attack. Entered military service from Boise, Idaho.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to WILLIAM H. WISE, 14 091 691, Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 April 1945, near Dubendorf, [Deberndorf] Germany. Leading a motorized patrol into town, the vehicle in which Sergeant Wise, a squad leader, was riding encountered an advancing German tank which opened fire with its machine guns. Leaping to cover, Sergeant Wise discovered an enemy panzerfaust beside the road and, although he had never fired the weapon, he directed it at the tank and destroyed it. With his rifle he then killed three enemy in dug-in positions. Directing his men to take cover in a nearby house, he withdrew under heavy enemy fire to one of his vehicles and obtained a radio. While one of his men carried the radio forward to the remainder of the squad, Sergeant Wise provided covering fire for him and killed two enemy. By his courage and devotion to duty, he destroyed a tank and five Germans and radioed for reinforcements who later captured 80 enemy.
Entered military service from Selma, Alabama.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLES R. MUNSELL, 37 493 788, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 13 April 1945, near Dobendorf, [Deberndorf] Germany. On patrol with the Rainbow Rangers, Private Munsell exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to cover the withdrawal of four Rangers trapped in a school house. During the action, Private Munsell knocked out an enemy automatic weapon with a hand grenade and killed two snipers, forcing the enemy to withdraw. His courage and aggressiveness enabled the members of his patrol to reach cover and secure a route for his Battalion's advance. Entered military service from Council Grove, Kansas.

Advancing on a 25-mile front, the Division continued to pursue the enemy toward NURNBERG <u>14 April</u>. The Division CP moved to MAINBERNHEIM. The 222d Inf, moving on all available transportation from the artillery and supporting units, traveled for 15 miles to reach a position on the left of the WURZBURG-NURNBERG Road along the

line(N9126), (N9431), (N8732). Patrols were sent out that reached positions 7 miles west of the strongly defended town of NEUSTADT. The 232d Inf, moving from positions north of SCHWEINFURT, deployed on the right of the WURZBURG-NURNBERG Road along the line (N8711), (N8817), (N9021). Patrols contacted the enemy 3 miles west of NEUSTADT. The 242d Inf, as Division Reserve, moved to an assembly area east of SCHWEINFURT in the vicinity of (N7929). The 42d Rcn Tr conducted motorized patrols on the Division left flank and maintained contact with the 3d Infantry Division.

At 0255, **14 April**, the regiment received an order to move by motor to a detrucking area in the vicinity of Herrnsheim, the route of march being as follows: from Obbach to Geldersheim, Bergtheim, Würzburg, Rottendorf, Kitzingen, Mainbernheim; the First Battalion: Mainbernheim, Willanzheim, Tiefenstockheim, RJ [road junction] east of Obernbreit, Iffigheim, Seinsheim; the Second Battalion and Cannon Company: Mainbernheim, Willanzheim, Herrnsheim; the Third Battalion: Mainbernheim, Einersheim.

At 0800 Forward CP elements arrived at Willansheim. The regiment then advanced southeast on the division right flank, encountering no enemy resistance. Patrols were pushed forward to contact the enemy. The First Battalion CP was located at Reusch; the Second, at Nenzenheim; and the Third, in Hellmitzheim.

The rapid advance continued <u>15 April</u>. The 222d Infantry attacked at 0530B from line (N9127) – (O0147), encountered light resistance, advanced approximately 12 miles, and reached the AISCH River. The 232d Inf, with the 1st Bn motorized, attacked at 0530B from line (N8509) – (N9127), and advanced against light resistance, reaching the AISCH River at NEUSTADT, historic defense line of NURNBERG dating back for centuries. The 242d Infantry remained in Division Reserve and assembled in the vicinity of SUGENHEIM (N9513). The Division CP moved to Scheinfeld (N9622).



Men of the 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, enter another community. Sheets, pillow cases and diapers are the flags of surrender

At 0530 on **15 April** the regiment continued the advance generally southeast with strong patrols pushing forward to determine the location and strength of enemy in the zone. The First Battalion (less Companies A and C) were ordered to protect the regimental right flank and to secure phase line 3 in the zone by initially occupying Obertief and Berolzheim; then to send motor patrols to Kulsheim, Lenkersheim, Oberndorf, Ickelheim and Windsheim. The Second Battalion was ordered to secure phase line 3 in the zone by occupying the high ground in the vicinity, while the Third Battalion (less Company L) was ordered to occupy Baudenbach Hill 352, and Unter. Slight to negligible resistance was encountered. The Regimental CP opened at Markt Bibart at 0730, then moved to Unter Esselbach at 1700. By 1800 the three battalions were located on the west bank of the Aisch River. The area in front of the Second Battalion having been reported clear of enemy, the Second Battalion was ordered to move to the high ground east of the river and close into positions by 2200. The Battalions CP's were then located as follows: First, Berolzheim; Second, Obernesselbach; Third, Die Bach.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALFRED A. McNAMEE, 011 235 236, Colonel, Infantry, Headquarters 232d Infantry Regiment, for meritorious achievement in action during the period 15 April 1945 to 19 April 1945, inclusive. As Commanding Officer, 232d Infantry Regiment, Colonel McNamee led his Regiment in the advance along the Wurzburg-Furth highway in Germany and in the successful assault on the city of Furth. Upon reaching the historic Nurnberg defense line along the Aisch River, he established a firm bridgehead on the east bank and pressed on to take the high ground south of Neustadt. Advancing against strong enemy small arms, mortar, and artillery fire, his Regiment captured numerous towns, the Nurnberg-Ammendorf Road and entered Furth, completing the occupation of that

portion of the city assigned to it on 19 April 1945. By his tactical skill and determined leadership, Colonel McNamee contributed greatly to the rapid and successful attainment by the Division of its objective. Entered military service from Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SYDNEY G. B. TENNANT, 0 452 439, Captain, Cavalry, 42d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States, from 15 April to 19 April 1945, inclusive, in Germany. During the rapid advance of the Division in its attack on the city of furth, Captain Tennant, as Commanding Officer, 42d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, skillfully planned and directed the operation of his platoons far in advance of the swiftly moving infantry regiments. Carrying out an aggressive reconnaissance designed to maintain a vigorous contact with the enemy, his troop constantly probed enemy positions to locate and eradicate numerous German strongpoints. By his skillful planning, outstanding tactical ability, and constant devotion to duty, Captain Tennant aided in preparing the way for the advancing infantry, insuring the successful accomplishment of its mission. Entered military service from Houston, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WALDO G. ANDREWS, 39 291 623, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 April 1945, near Arnstein, Germany. When his platoon encountered intense rifle and machine gun fire, Sergeant Andrews led his men to cover. Then, without regard for his own safety, he guided a tank destroyer forward and directed its fire upon the enemy positions, destroying them and enabling his platoon to continue the attack. His courage and leadership were major factors in the capture of Arnstein. Entered military service from San Diego, California.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EZELL M. HANCOCK, 34 864 644, Private First Class, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 April 1945, near Drusdorf, Germany. Upon learning that a Ranger squad had been cut off and almost surrounded by enemy forces near Drusdorf, Germany, Private Hancock volunteered to accompany two other men in an attempt to aid the besieged group. While approaching the town under machine gun and sniper fire, Private Hancock observed a machine gun position and destroyed it with several bursts from his automatic rifle. Then, while guarding the route of withdrawal, he tenaciously held his position in the face of intense machine gun and sniper fire until the imperiled group had withdrawn safely. By his outstanding courage and unflinching determination, Private Hancock played a major role in the rescue of the Rangers without a casualty.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALVIN L. STAMMAN, 38 119 348, Corporal, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 April 1945, near Drusdorf, Germany. When his Ranger squad on patrol near Drusdorf, Germany, encountered intense machine gun and small arms fire coming from well dug-in positions, Corporal Stamman worked his way forward in the face of the murderous fire to within several yards of the enemy positions. He threw several grenades into the machine pistol position, eliminating it, and killing the gunner with his rifle. When the Ranger squad was forced to withdraw, he remained behind to cover his comrades, braving accurate sniper fire until the withdrawal had been safely effected. Corporal Stamman's prompt and courageous action contributed materially to the successful completion of the patrol's mission.
Entered military service from Marlin, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to OGDEN J. MYKLEBUST, 38 410 131, Corporal, Infantry, Company G, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 April 1945, at Drusdorf, Germany. Upon learning that a Ranger squad had been cut off and almost surrounded by enemy forces near Drusdorf, Germany, Corporal Myklebust volunteered to accompany two other men in an attempt to aid the besieged group. Although exposed to intense machine gun, machine pistol, small arms, and grenade fire while guarding the route of withdrawal, he held his position in the face of the deadly fire until the squad had withdrawn successfully. While withdrawing he observed several snipers, and firing promptly, he killed two and captured another. By his alertness and courageous action, Corporal Myklebust contributed materially to the safe withdrawal of the Ranger squad from their precarious position.
Entered military service from Houston, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN R. AMILKAVICH, 33 756 599, Sergeant (then Corporal), Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 April 1945, near Neustadt, Germany. When the patrol of which he was a member was halted and cut-off by superior enemy forces, Corporal Amilkavich unhesitatingly volunteered to remain behind to cover the withdrawal. Despite intense enemy machine gun and small arms fire directed at his position, he continued to fire until the remainder of the patrol had withdrawn. Corporal Amilkavich's exceptional courage and selfless devotion to duty enabled the patrol to withdraw successfully with a minimum of casualties and with much needed information. Entered military service from Du Bois, Pennsylvania.

During the early hours of 16 April, the 222d Infantry sent out patrols to determine the locations and strength of the enemy in order to assist in the attack on NEUSTADT. The 222d Inf attacked with the 2d and 3d Bns at 0530B from positions along the AISCH River, and gained a bridgehead against light opposition. The 1st Bn moved to a position just north of NEUSTADT and attacked the town. TFL, CCA, 12th Armored Division assisted in the capture of NEUSTADT from the south. After the town was cleared, the 222d Inf pushed the attack for approximately 6 miles, capturing BRUNN (O1512), WILHELMSDORF (O1811) and HERZOGENAURACH (O2712). The 2d Bn, 232d Inf, attacked at 0155B and seized the high ground just south of NEUSTADT, thereby enabling the armored force to assist in the attack on NEUSTADT. The 1st Bn continued to protect the bridges that had been constructed across the AISCH River, and the 3d Bn moved into an assembly area at NEUSTADT. The 242d Inf moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of BRUNN (O1412), and then occupied a position in the line between the 222d Inf and the 232d Inf. The Division CP moved to NEUSTADT.

Early on **16 April**, elements of CCB, 12th Armored Division, crossed the Aisch River at Dottenheim and moved into the city of Neustadt, and established its CP there at 1315.

At approximately 1430 warning orders were issued to the regiment to be prepared to shift in its zone to the right, to allow the 242d Infantry to enter on the left flank.

At 1930 the Regimental CP was opened at Schellert. At about 2300 the battalions were ordered to move from assembly areas and to attack to the southeast. The First Battalion was ordered at 0200 to move into an assembly area as regimental reserve. The Second and Third Battalions jumped off at 0400, moving abreast on the division right flank. Displacing forward against enemy resistance of small arms and machine gun fire, the battalions advanced approximately 11,000 yards to the east.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SAMUEL N. JENNINGS, 34 634 628, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 16 April 1945, near Nurnberg, Germany. Private Jennings was driving a party of Rainbow Rangers into enemy-held territory when the vehicle ahead was wrecked by a mine, wounding two men. Private Jennings ran across the mined area, administered first aid to the wounded men, then removed them to an aid station. His courage and determination saved two fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Losciusko, Mississippi.



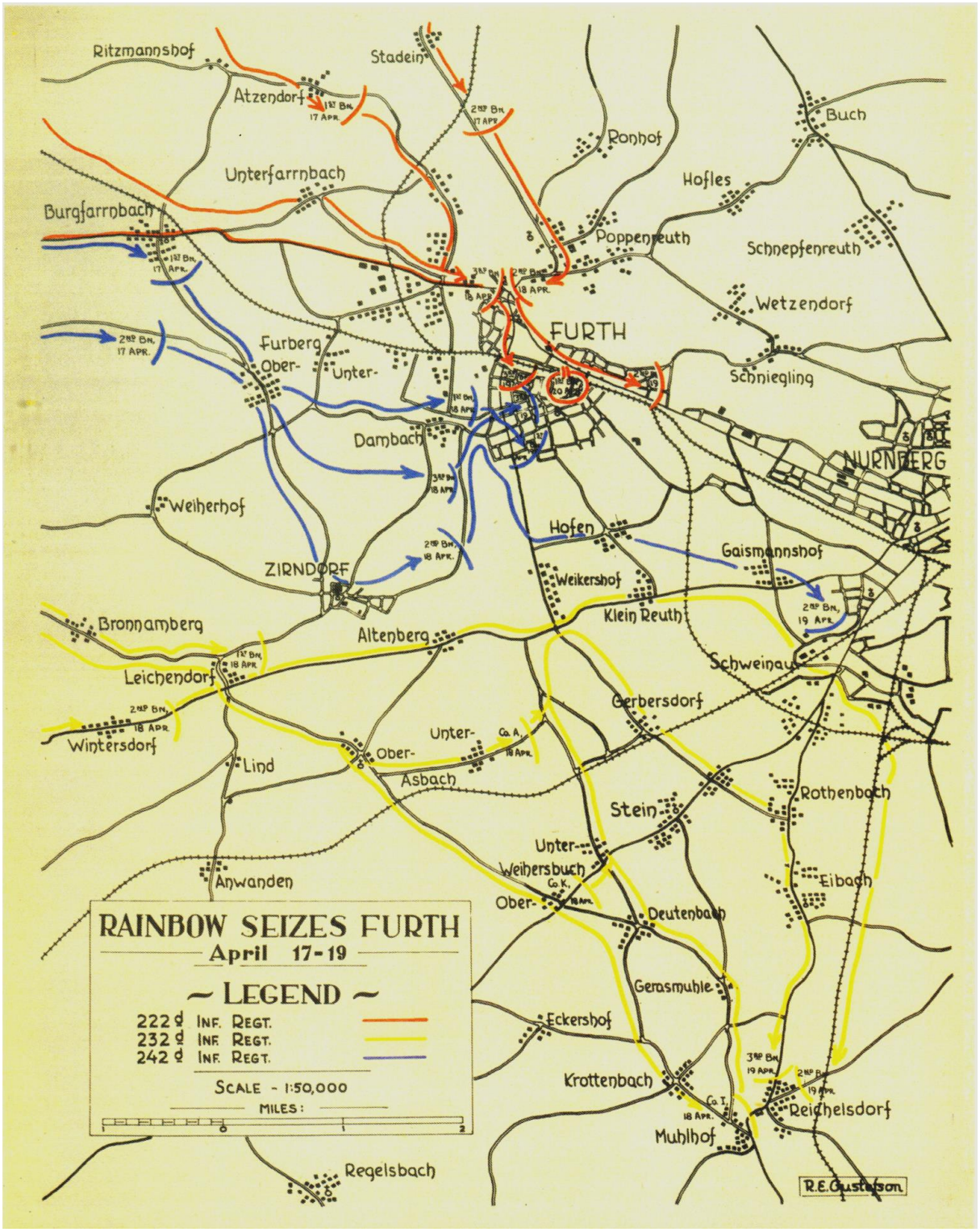
The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CARL H. GUSTAFSON, 38 253 752, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 April 1945, near Neustadt, Germany. While Sergeant Gustafson was loading a reconnaissance patrol into Neustadt, Germany, intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire seriously wounded two members of the patrol's right flank security. Sergeant Gustafson unhesitatingly set out to rescue the two men who were lying on the side of a hill exposed to the enemy fire. Fearlessly making his way over one hundred yards of exposed terrain, he reached the men, rendered first aid, and carried them one at a time back to a position of safety. By his courageous action and selfless determination, Sergeant Gustafson undoubtedly saved his two comrades from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Elgin, Texas.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CLARENCE J. MUSZYNSKI, 36 981 610, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 April 1945, near Neustadt, Germany. When the combat patrol of which Private Muszynski was a member advanced across an open area near Neustadt, Germany, the enemy opened fire with machine guns and small arms. Although wounded three times in the arm, he remained in the exposed position firing on the enemy until the entire patrol had taken cover from the murderous fire. He then continued to fire on the enemy positions, keeping them pinned down, until he himself could take cover. Private Muszynski's exceptional courage and unflinching determination undoubtedly saved many of his comrades from injury or possible death. Entered military service from River Rouge, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES C. TURNER, 31 380 313, First Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 April 1945 near Schweinfurt, Germany. Upon receiving word that the advance elements of his company were badly in need of ammunition, Sergeant Turner took command of the company ammunition vehicles and led them forward. Upon reaching a designated road junction, he learned that the company advance had not yet reached this point. Fired on by snipers, he led his two truck drivers against their position and captured two of the enemy. Upon interrogating his two prisoners, Sergeant Turner gained much information of enemy positions which was invaluable to the company in continuing its further successful advance through this sector. Entered military service from Hartford, Connecticut.

The Rainbow, without halting to give the Germans a chance to establish a well-organized defense, continued the attack toward FURTH <u>17 April</u> with a 3-regiment front. The 222d Inf attacked at 0400B with the 2d Bn on the left, 1st Bn on the right, and the 3d Bn in reserve. The initial phase of the attack moved very rapidly against scattered resistance. Resistance became stiff before the 222d Inf reached the REGNITZ River west of FURTH, but VEITSBRONN (O2806) and VACH (O3408) were captured. During the late afternoon, the 2d Bn forced a crossing of the REGNITZ River about 4 miles north of FURTH against small arms and AA fire. Assault boats, rafts, and everything that would float were used. A firm bridge head was established, and the Bn continued the attack south toward FURTH. After hard fighting the 1st Bn, 222d Inf captured the large airfield approx 6 miles northwest of FURTH, killed a large number of enemy, and captured 144 PW's. In the meantime, the 232d Inf moved to a forward assembly area at SCHELLERT (O0808), and then attacked at 0430B with the 3d Bn on the left, 2d Bn on the right, and the 1st Bn in reserve. The attack moved very rapidly, initially against no resistance, but in the late afternoon against small arms, artillery, and mortar fire. The regiment moved approximately 12 miles, capturing ZAUTENDORF (T2398) and CADOLSBURG (T2600). The 242d Inf conducted aggressive patrolling prior to 0400B, and at that time launched an attack with the 1st Bn on the left, 2d Bn on the right, and the 3d Bn in reserve. The attack moved rapidly cutting the NEUSTADT-FURTH Highway, and many PWs were captured. Patrols reached the REGNITZ River on the western outskirts of FURTH. The Division CP moved to LANGENZENN (O2104).


Ritzmannshof
Stadein
Atzendorf
1st Bn. 17 Apr.
2nd Bn. 17 Apr.
Ronhof
Buch
Unterfarrnbach
Hofles
Burgfarrnbach
Poppenreuth
Schnepfenreuth
Wetzendorf
FURTH
2nd Bn. 17 Apr.
Furberg
Ober-
Unter-
Schniegling
Dambach
NURNBERG
Weiherhof
Hofen
Gaismannshof
ZIRNDORF
Weikershof
Klein Reuth
2nd Bn. 19 Apr.
Bronnamberg
Altenberg
Leichendorf
1st Bn. 18 Apr.
Schweinau
Gerbersdorf
2nd Bn. 18 Apr.
Wintersdorf
Unter-
Co. A. 18 Apr.
Ober-
Asbach
Lind
Rothenbach
Stein
Unter-
Weihersbuch
Co. K.
Ober-
18 Apr.
Anwanden
Eibach
Deutenbach
Gerasmuhle
Eckershof
3rd Bn. 19 Apr.
2nd Bn. 19 Apr.
Krottenbach
Co. I. 18 Apr.
Reichelsdorf
Muhlhof
Regelsbach
RAINBOW SEIZES FURTH
April 17-19
~ LEGEND ~
222d Inf. Regt.
232d Inf. Regt.
242d Inf. Regt.
SCALE - 1:50,000
MILES:
0
1
2
R.E. Gustafson



The SILVER STAR is awarded to SYDNEY G. B. TENNANT, 0 452 439, Captain, Cavalry, 42d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, for gallantry in action on 17 April 1945 at Ammendorf, Germany. Captain Tennant, Reconnaissance Troop Commander, drove under a white flag into Ammerndorf to negotiate for its surrender. Unable to find the town commander, Captain Tennant told junior officers he would return for a later meeting and at 2130, the headlights of his car making him an excellent target, he drove toward the town. Stopped by enemy soldiers at the outskirts he explained his mission, was blindfolded and taken to the commander, who refused to surrender. Captain Tennant then returned to his own lines. His disregard of danger in an attempt to prevent needless loss of life reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.
Entered military service from Houston, Texas.

Preparing to attack Cadolzburg, the Third Battalion, found the town already under attack by two companies of CCA, 66th Armored Infantry which had moved in from the north. A coordination was made, and against moderate to heavy resistance, the town was finally occupied with responsibility for its capture divided between the Third Battalion and elements of the CCA.

The Second Battalion on the right encountered enemy resistance on the high ground 500 yards northwest of their final objective. This resistance was quickly overcome, and the battalion moved onto its objective, sending out motorized patrols to the southeast to investigate the woods and road nets. The First Battalion protected the right rear of the regimental sector.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM J. RIDDICK, 37 631 750, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 April 1945 near Dittenheim, Germany. When another rifleman was wounded, Private Riddick made his way to him under intense sniper fire. After administering first aid, Private Riddick dragged and carried the wounded man to cover where adequate medical care could be given. His prompt and courageous action saved a fellow soldier from possible death or capture.
Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.

The Regimental CP moved from Schellert to Laubendorf to Rossendorf. The Battalion CP's were then located as follows: First, Gonnorsdorf; Second, Deberndorf; Third, Cadolzburg.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MATHIAS H. KASBERGER, 36 983 390, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 April 1945 at Zell, Germany. When the ammunition for his squad's machine gun was nearly expended, Private Kasberger voluntarily crossed over 2000 yards of open ground, covered by enemy machine gun and small arms fire, and returned with a resupply. Through Private Kasberger's courageous act, his squad was able to continue its effective fire, routing the Germans from their positions, enabling rifle troops to continue their advance under protecting fire.
Entered military service from Sheboygen, Wisconsin.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PHILIP E. DENNIS, 36 861 822, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 April 1945, in Zauntendorf, Germany. Volunteering to drive a quarter-ton truck for four Rangers, Private Dennis rounded a street corner and found himself face to face with a German tank and approximately 25 German soldiers who immediately opened fire with machine guns and rifles. The Rangers dismounted and deployed in a nearby house while Private Dennis, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, turned the truck around, drove back to his company, picked up four riflemen with a rocket launcher and returned to the scene of the action. Again drawing enemy fire, Private Dennis led the men into the house occupied by the Rangers and assisted in the fire fight, holding off the enemy until support arrived. Only one casualty was suffered by our troops while five Germans were killed and 20 taken prisoner. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT S. CRAMER, 36 966 791, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action at Beerbach, Germany, on 17 April 1945, Private Cramer volunteered as a driver for the 2nd Battalion Rangers on motorized patrols over unreconnoitered roads and into villages not previously entered by friendly troops. In the performance of this task, Private Cramer was wounded by an enemy mine. His courage and devotion to duty contributed to the success of his Battalion in its advance on Nurnburg. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ERVIN L. FOREMAN, 35 018 129, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 April 1945, near Cadolzburg, Germany. When his company's advance was halted by intense enemy small arms fire from dug-in positions near Cadolzburg, Germany, Sergeant Foreman led his squad in an attack on the enemy emplacements. Far in advance of the remainder of the company he directed each member of his squad in their approach, firing his rifle as he charged the enemy. Disregarding the deadly hail of fire, he and his men overran the enemy positions, killing seven, wounding three, and capturing thirteen. By his heroic and aggressive leadership, Sergeant Foreman enabled his company to continue their advance without casualty. Entered military service from Toledo, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ROBERT E. RENOUF, 36 981 643, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 April 1945, near Cadolzburg, Germany. When the platoon to which Private Renouf was attached as medical aid man was attacking along the edge of an open field under intense enemy small arms and machine gun fire, the platoon sergeant was wounded. Running across the open ground under heavy fire to the injured man, Private Renouf applied splints and dressings to the injured man's leg and dragged him back to cover. His courage and disregard for his own safety saved the platoon sergeant from possible death. Entered military service from Grant, Michigan.

On <u>18 April</u> 1945, the Rainbow moved into FURTH, and cut the escape routes from NURNBERG. The 42d Infantry Division was also relieved from attachment to XXI Corps and attached to XV Corps. The Division was directed to continue the attack to capture FURTH and assist the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions in the capture of NURNBERG. The 222d Infantry

attacked at 0500B with the 2d Bn moving south (from bridgehead east of REGNITZ River) toward FURTH, and the 1st Bn moving toward FURTH from the west. The advance progressed against very strong fanatical resistance. The 3d Bn moved to a forward assembly area vicinity UNTERFARRBACH (O3204) and attacked toward FURTH to secure a bridgehead East of the REGNITZ River. The 2d Bn forced a second river crossing of the PEGNITZ, a tributary of the REGNITZ, before reaching FURTH. The 3d Bn then crossed the REGNITZ River against stiff resistance and entered the fortified city. Before nightfall, 6 blocks had been cleared against strong determined fanatical resistance. House to house fighting continued into the night. The 232d Inf attacked at 0500B with the 2d Bn moving southeast, and the 1st Bn moving between the 2d and 3d Bns. The 1st Bn captured NACHENDORF (T283000), BRONNAMBERG (T980300), and LEICHENDORF (T300980). The 2d Bn captured STEINBACH (T260980), AMMERNDORF (O260960), and cut the NURNBERG-AMMERNDORF Road. Co A was attached to the 3d Bn. The 3d Bn cut escape routes from NURNBERG with Co A at (O3696), Co K at (O3795) and Co I at (O3991). In conjunction with the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions, all escape routes from NURNBERG were sealed on 18 April. The 242d Infantry attacked at 0500B in the center of the division zone with the 1st Bn on the left, and the 2d Bn on the right. The advance progressed against moderate resistance. Since the zone was very wide, the 3d Bn was committed between the 1st and 2d Bns. All Bns advanced to the west bank of the REGNITZ River overlooking FURTH. The 42d Cav Rcn Tr protected the Division right flank south of FURTH and NURNBERG with strong motorized patrols.

In order to perform its mission of protecting the division right flank more effectively, the regiment continued the advance on **18 April** by attacking to the southeast. The First and Second Battalions were in the attacking echelon with the Third Battalion in reserve. After passing through Cadolzburg where the Regimental CP was established, the first Battalion advance to Wachendorf and then to the general line Weinzerlein-Leichendorf where temporary defensive positions were taken up. The Second Battalion moved via Steinbach to a line Weinzerlein-Ammerndorf with a similar mission, encountering slight enemy resistance. The Third Battalion moved by bounds to the left rear of the First. Upon reaching battalion objectives, the Third Battalion with Company A attached for the operation, was ordered to block the three main avenues of escape to the south from Nürnberg.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DOMENICK VENEZIO, 33 699 226, Technician Fifth Grade, Cavalry, 42d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945 near Ammerndorf, Germany. During the attack on Ammerndorf, Corporal Venezio drove his Commanding Officer through the enemy lines into the German-held town to

negotiate its surrender. While the officer was conferring with the enemy, Corporal Venezio remained alone in his vehicle in total blackout on the edge of town and surrounded by the enemy forces. At the conclusion of the conference, he made contact with his Commanding Officer and drove him back to our lines. Corporal Venezio's coolness and courage under these perilous circumstances are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Rainbow Division.
Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEO LEFKOWITZ, 32 823 548, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 April 1945 near Nurnburg, Germany. Upon observing a large enemy group advancing toward his machine gun position near Nurnburg, Private Lefkowitz and his squad leader moved his gun to an exposed position from which he could deliver effective fire on the approaching enemy. Although the remainder of the squad was unable to come forward because of the enemy fire, Private Lefkowitz remained in his exposed position, laying down a base of fire which inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy. His extreme courage and determination were directly responsible for the ultimate surrender of the enemy force. Entered military service from Bronx, New York.

The Division CP moved to BURGFARRNBACH (O305032) on 19 April. The 222d Inf continued the attack on FURTH and captured the portion of the city in its zone (north half). The 1st Bn was placed on "T" Force duty in FURTH. Security patrols maintained contact with the 3d Division on the left flank. The 2d and 3d Bns of the 232d Inf forced a crossing of the REGNITZ River south of FURTH on the Division right flank and continued the attack to the east, reaching the outskirts of NURNBERG southeast of FURTH. The 242d Inf with the 2d and 3d Bns attacked at 0330B and secured a bridgehead across the REGNITZ River. The 1st Bn followed the 3d Bn across the river into FURTH. The south half of FURTH was captured after heavy house to house fighting and the 2d Bn reached the outskirts of NURNBERG east of FURTH.

On the morning of **19 April**, the 232d Infantry was located about 10 miles west of Nürnburg, with the mission of protecting the 42d Infantry Division right (south) flank. The First Battalion was located in Gonnersdorf, which it had taken against light opposition. The Second Battalion was located in Zautendorf which was captured after hours of hard fighting. The Third Battalion was located in Cadolzburg, which had failed the night before only after very stiff resistance had been overcome. The Regimental CP and special units were also established in Cadolzburg.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARRY W. WARDWELL, 36 829 344, Technician Fourth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945, near Altenburg, Germany. After repairing a high voltage power pack for his second battalion radio team under intense enemy artillery fire, Sergeant Wardwell was ambushed by three enemy soldiers while returning to the Regimental Command Post. Returning the fire, he wounded two and forced the third to surrender. By his courage and resourcefulness, Sergeant Wardwell

enabled the regimental staff to gain valuable enemy information.
Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD A. ANTINOZZI, Technician Fourth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry, for meritorious achievement in action on 19 April 1945, at Schwaback, Germany. When the force to which he was attached as radio operator was cut off while attacking the town, Sergeant Antinozzi exposed himself to intense enemy machine gun and small arms fire in order to move his radio to a vantage point. Without regard for his own safety, he remained at his radio and communicated the situation to the Regimental Command Post. Sergeant Antinozzi's courageous action and devotion to duty enabled reinforcements to arrive in time to relieve the surrounded troops. Entered military service from Newark, New Jersey.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GARLAND T. RASCO, 39 278 166, Private First Class, Field Artillery, Company B, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945, near Stein, Germany. When Private Rasco's tank destroyer platoon spearheaded an infantry attack on Stein, it met strong resistance from mines and enemy fire. Upon learning that one of our destroyers had been disabled by an enemy panzerfaust, Private Rasco and an aid man, disregarding their own safety, went to the head of the column under heavy fire. After removing the dead and wounded from the vehicle and administering first aid, they evacuated the casualties to the aid station. Private Rasco's heroic action was largely responsible for saving the lives of the wounded men. Entered military service from Escondido, California.

As the advance of the 222d and 242d Infantries on FÜrth progressed, this regiment was ordered to continue its advance to the southeast, echeloned to the right rear of the other two regiments to protect the division's open right flank. The First and Second Battalions were ordered to continue the attack to the southeast, with the first Battalion passing through the Third Battalion and advancing in the left (north) portion of the regimental zone. The Third Battalion was ordered to remain in Cadolzburg in regimental reserve. The first Battalion advanced against light resistance and seized its objective in the vicinity of Bronnamburg. The Second Battalion met stiffer resistance, and after heavy fighting seized its objective in the vicinity of Ammerdorf. Upon the capture of their objectives, these two Battalions took up temporary defensive positions to protect the division right flank.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to SOL GOLDSTEIN, 42 146 770, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 April 1945, near Furth, Germany. During the advance of our forces on Furth, an enemy panzerfaust knocked out one of our tank destroyers, killing three men and seriously wounding six in and around the tank. Under an intense hail of enemy machine gun and small arms fire, Private Goldstein ran to the aid of the men. After treating the wounded and helping them to safety, he advanced through the heavy fire to a nearby patch of woods from which the panzerfaust had been fired. With his rifle he killed the panzerfaust man and six accompanying riflemen. Private Goldstein's indomitable courage in the face of superior odds was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.
Entered military service from Rochester, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DOMINIC P. PAGLIARO, 38 409 858, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945, near Nurnberg, Germany. During the advance on Nurnberg, Private Pagliaro and another rifleman, upon detecting the enemy in woods to their front, advanced across an open field toward the enemy positions. Surprised by mortar and small arms fire, Private Pagliaro remained exposed to the enemy fire, placing protective fire on the enemy while his comrade crawled forward and silenced the enemy installation with a hand grenade. He then laid down a heavy concentration of fire into the woods compelling the enemy force of thirty men to surrender. By Private Pagliaro's courageous action and initiative, his company's right flank was kept secure during the advance.
Entered military service from Everett, Massachusetts.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES C. HEALY, 31 449 220, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945, near Nurnberg, Germany. During the advance on Nurnberg, Private Healy and a fellow rifleman, upon detecting the enemy in a woods to their front, advanced across an open field toward the enemy positions. Surprised by light mortar and small arms fire, Private Healy crawled forward, while his comrade laid down a base of fire, and threw a hand grenade into the position, killing three men. He and the other soldiers then laid down such a heavy concentration of fire into the woods that the enemy force of thirty men surrendered to them. By Private Healy's courageous action and initiative, his company's right flank was kept secure during the advance. Entered military service from Providence, Rhode Island.

At this point in the attack of the U.S. XV and XXI Corps on the city of NÜrnberg, the city was practically surrounded. The 42d Division was closing in from the west and northwest. The Third Division was attacking the city from the north. The 45th Division had encircled the city from the east, and was now attacking the city from the east, southeast, and south. This left the trapped Germans only one avenue of escape, that being through the 42d Division area, slightly east of the positions occupied by the 232d Infantry. The Third Battalion, 232d Infantry, was ordered to move east from its position in Cadolzburg and cut the escape route from NÜrnberg. As the Third Battalion was minus Company L, Company A was attached for the operation. The Third Battalion cut the escape route by taking up positions with Company I in MÜhlhof, cutting the main highway from NÜrnberg south to Munich. Company K took positions in the vicinity of Oberweihersbuch, cutting the main escape route to the southwest. Company A took up positions in the vicinity of Asback, cutting the railroad and escape route to the west. As the pressure of the attacks of the remainder of the 42d Division, the 3rd and 45th Divisions increased, the encircled Germans attempted a withdrawal to the south on the main highway to Munich. Their attempt failed due mainly to the heroic action of Company I, 232d Infantry, who, although greatly outnumbered, short of ammunition, and with no help in sight, held its positions and inflicted heavy casualties on the retreating Germans. This action aided greatly in the fall of the city of NÜrnberg and the destruction of its defenders.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GLENN E. WIEBURG, 36 766 043, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945, near Nurnberg, Germany. Noticing two enemy officers trying to infiltrate our lines, Sergeant Wieburg killed one and captured the other single handed. He then alerted his heavy machine gun section and succeeded in capturing a large number of the enemy attempting to infiltrate our defenses. By his alertness and courage, Sergeant Wieburg averted a strong enemy thrust to penetrate our lines. Entered military service from Pekin, Illinois.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LESTER I. RICKER, 33 242 208, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945 near Nurnberg, Germany. When an enemy panzerfaust struck a tank destroyer on which riflemen were riding, wounding eight men, Private Ricker pulled the seriously wounded behind the Tank Destroyer and administered first aid, directing the slightly wounded to the aid station. By his courageous devotion to duty, Private Ricker saved the lives of many wounded men. Entered military service from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

At about noon on **19 April**, 1945, the 222d and 242d Infantries had cleared the city of FÜrth. The Third and 45th Divisions were forcing the battle of NÜrnberg into its last stages. At this point in the battle, the 232d Infantry was ordered to move from its location, west of Rednitz River, across to the east bank of the river and attack and clear the southwest suburbs of NÜrnberg, with the additional mission of continuing its protection of the division south flank by leaving the First Battalion in its present location. The 2d and 3d Battalions crossed the river and jumped off on a coordinated attack to seize the regimental objective, the town of Reichelsdorf, approximately 5 miles south of NÜrnberg. Both battalions encountered stiff enemy resistance and fought throughout the night of **19-20 April** to reach the objective. At daylight, 20 April, after fighting all night, the Second and Third Battalions were ordered to send elements of each battalion back north through each battalion zone to clear any enemy by-passed during the night's fighting.

On <u>20 April</u>, the 222d Inf (less the 1st Bn) moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of (O3100) west of FURTH. The 232d Inf moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of ZIRNDORF (T3398) and OBERASBACH (T3496). The 242d Inf moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of CADOLZBURG (O2600) and AMMERNDORF (T2696).

Advancing on a 25-mile front, the Division had captured approximately 1,375 square miles of the Nazi holy land and the city of FURTH with a population of 100,000 in eight days of marching and fighting.

In those eight days the Rainbow seized 7,025 prisoners and liberated more than 15,000 slave laborers. The Rainbow captured 500 towns and advanced into the western edge of the historical Nazi shrine city of NURNBERG. The advance was so rapid that the planned defense of FURTH crumbled under the crushing power of the Rainbow.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LEONARD J. ROLAND, 37 732 168, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Third Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19-20 April near Rottenbach, [Rothenbach] Germany. When he noticed a wounded man lying in the open, Private Roland volunteered with another Ranger to carry the soldier to a place of safety where he could receive medical aid. Accomplishing this task under heavy enemy fire, he then went to secure help for his unit which was defending a hill against superior numbers. Finding a tank destroyer unit, he brought them forward and apprised them of the situation and the enemy dispositions. With this information, the tank destroyers quickly dislodged the enemy, enabling our troops to advance. Private Roland's prompt action and courage under fire resulted in the capture of 17 of the enemy and in the death of an unknown number. Entered military service from Joplin, Missouri.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LOUIS BEASLEY, 42 035 457. Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Third Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 19-20 April 1945 near Krottenbach, [Rothenbach] Germany. During the attack on a hill near Krottenbach [Rothenbach], Sergeant Beasley's group of Rainbow Rangers were forced to take cover when about twenty of the enemy attacked them with intense machine gun and rifle fire. When they reassembled to determine a plan of resistance, four men were missing. While searching the woods for the missing men, the enemy fire became more intense and one man was wounded. Sergeant Beasley and another soldier volunteered to go forward and carry the wounded man to safety and medical attention. After accomplishing this under increasing enemy fire, he went to the rear to secure help from tank destroyers. Sergeant Beasley's courageous action saved the wounded man's life and enabled the Tank Destroyers to quickly neutralize the enemy positions.
Entered military service from Jackson Heights, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to HARRY W. WARDWELL, 36 829 344, Technician Fourth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945, near Altenburg, Germany. After repairing a high voltage power pack for his second battalion radio team under intense enemy artillery fire, Sergeant Wardwell was ambushed by three enemy soldiers while returning to the Regimental Command Post. Returning the fire, he wounded two and forced the third to surrender. By his courage and resourcefulness, Sergeant Wardwell enabled the regimental staff to gain valuable enemy information.
Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.

The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to ROBERT J. ERDMAN, 39 855 018, Corporal, Field Artillery, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion for gallantry in action on 19 April 1945 at Stein, Germany. As a platoon of tank destroyers was leading the infantry advance upon Stein, stiff resistance from enemy fire was encountered. Disregarding his own safety, Corporal Erdman voluntarily entered the town in his leading tank destroyer without support from the infantry or other armor. The sudden entry of this vehicle disrupted the enemy defenses, but the vehicle was hit by an enemy panzerfaust and Corporal Erdman was mortally wounded. His gallant action enabled the troops following him to penetrate the defenses of Stein with a minimum of casualties. Name and address of nearest relative: Mr. William T. Erdman, Box 63, Parker, Arizona. Entered military service from Yuma, Arizona.
CPL Robert J. Erdman rests under the care of Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avold, Lorraine, France.



The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to LOUIS F. NICHAROT, 01 998 481, Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion for gallantry in action on 19 April 1945 at Stein, Germany. As a platoon of tank destroyers was leading the infantry advance upon Stein, stiff enemy resistance was encountered. Disregarding his own safety, Lieutenant Nicharot voluntarily entered the town in his leading tank destroyer without support from infantry or other armor. The sudden entry of this vehicle disrupted the enemy defenses, but the vehicle was hit by an enemy panzerfaust and Lieutenant Nicharot was mortally wounded. His gallant action enabled the troops following him to penetrate the defenses of Stein with a minimum of casualties. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Janet M. Nicharot, 196 Spring Hill, Portage, Pennsylvania. Entered military service from Johnston, Pennsylvania. Photo of 2LT Nicharot is found on his gravestone, St. Anthony Cemetery, Geistown, Pennsylvania.

While this local action was taking place, the battle for NÜrnberg was ending. The 3d and 45th Divisions had penetrated to the heart of the city, and the battle was concluded. A general reshuffling of troops was ordered to prepare for the advance south on the city of Munich.

The 232d Infantry was ordered to move to an assembly area west of the Rednitz River in preparation for the move south. This again necessitated the 2d and 3d Battalions to recross the river and move to assembly areas in Gross Weismannsdorf and Gutzburg, respectively. Both battalions closed in well after dark on the night of **20-21 April**. The First Battalion consolidated in the vicinity of Leichendorf, while the Regimental CP and special units remained in Zirndorf. Thus, the curtain fell on the battle of NÜrnberg and the stage was set for the advance to the south and capture of the city of Munich.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MORRIS H. HENDRIX, 34 608 686, Private First Class (then Private) Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 20 April 1945, near Stein, Germany. During the battle for Stein, Private Hendrix was at the point of his rifle platoon with his platoon leader when he spotted two enemy soldiers. Before the enemy could open fire, he directed a steady volume of rifle fire on the enemy positions until his platoon leader could work his way back to bring up reinforcements. Private Hendrix's courageous action and alertness undoubtedly saved the life of his platoon leader, and resulted in killing one of the enemy and wounding the other. Entered military service from Salisbury, North Carolina.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIS F. JACQUES, 36 981 958, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 April 1945, near Nurnburg, Germany. During a drive to cut the escape route of the Germans from Nurnburg, Germany, Sergeant Jacques' company was held up by enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire from well-dug-in positions. In the ensuing fire fight Sergeant Jacques crawled within 20 yards of the hostile emplacements and threw two hand grenades into the nearest position killing the

occupants. This so terrified the remaining enemy that they lay down their arms and immediately surrendered. By his unfaltering courage and selfless determination Sergeant Jacques eliminated a strong obstacle from our route of advance. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

IV CAPTURE OF DONAUWORTH

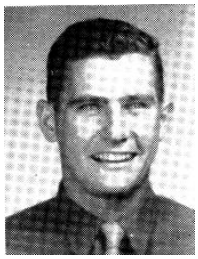
No sooner than FURTH had fallen to the Rainbow, XV Corps issued the following directive: "42d Infantry Division advance without delay to seize and hold crossings of the DANUBE River, prepared for further advance to the south on Corps Order". The Army boundary was changed, so the Division had to move southeast to GUNZENHAUSEN to conform to the new boundary, and then turn south toward the DANUBE River and DONAUWORTH, which is 25 miles north of AUGSBURG. The 106th Cavalry Group was on the left of the 42d Division zone, and the 12th Armored Division was on the right of the 42d Division zone.

On 21 April, the 1st Bn, 222d Inf was relieved from "T Force" duty in FURTH, and joined the Regt in an assembly area at (T2484) south of FURTH. The 232d Inf, left flank Regt, attacked to the southwest at 0645B with the 1st Bn motorized. The Regt (-) followed on foot shortly thereafter. The motorized Bn encountered heavy opposition after moving approx 10 miles and was forced to detruck at (T295738). The 2d and 3d Bns moved forward just short of this point, echeloned to the right and left, and the Regt continued the attack toward GUNZENHAUSEN. The 242d Inf, right flank Regt, with the 1st Bn motorized, attacked at 0615B toward the southeast from FURTH. The 1st Bn met stiff resistance at (T236762) and was forced to detruck. The 2d and 3d Bns moved forward, joined the 1st Bn, and the Regt continued the attack. WINSBACH (T236762), 16 miles southeast of FURTH was captured, and the Division CP moved to VIETSAURACH (T813290).

The race for Munich began at 0800, **21 April** when the regiment jumped off in column of battalions with the First Battalion, motorized, constituting the advance guard, followed by the Second and Third Battalions on foot. The First Battalion advanced against light resistance to the south and cleared the enemy in zone to the town of Theilenberg, here it occupied the high ground west of town the night of 21-22 April. The Third Battalion occupied the towns of Wernfels and Theilenberg. The Second Battalion occupied the town of Kapsdorf, constituting regimental reserve. All battalions closed on objectives at dusk. The Regimental CP was established at Wassermungenau.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD H. BANKS, 36 920 044, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 21 April 1945, near Weigenheim, Germany. In the action around Weigenheim, Private Banks' mortar section exhausted its supply of ammunition. He voluntarily exposed himself to the intense enemy fire and crossed six

hundred yards of open terrain in order to reach the ammunition supply point. Upon securing a three man load of ammunition, he returned over the same dangerous terrain to his mortar section. By Private Banks' courageous action his section was able to place a heavy volume of accurate fire on the enemy positions, silencing their guns and inflicting many casualties.
Entered military service from Elgin, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR T. LILLIQUIST, 31 333 027, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 21 April 1945, near Unterbach, Germany. While on a patrol to determine the status of a vital bridge leading into Unterbach, Germany, Private Lilliquist spotted a group of enemy soldiers at work under the bridge. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he charged toward the enemy disorganizing them and forcing them to flee. He then ran to the bridge and cut the wires leading to detonation charges placed there by the enemy. By his prompt and courageous actions, Private Lilliquist saved an important bridge and greatly facilitated his Company's advance into the village.
Entered military service from West Haven, Connecticut.

The enemy continued to resist vigorously, and the poor road net presented a serious obstacle. The 232d Inf continued the attack <u>22 April</u> and the 2d and 3d Bns captured the high ground at THEILENBERG (T2871) by 0500B. This enabled the supporting engineers to construct a Bailey Bridge across the FRANKISCHE River by 0845B. The Regt then continued the attack to the south for 10 miles, and the 1st Bn captured a bridge intact across the ALTMUHL River at UNTERASBACH (T232586). The 242d Inf attacked at 0600 against very stubborn resistance toward GUNZENHAUSEN. When the Regt was within 1 mile of the town, Rainbow Rangers pushed ahead rapidly, moved through the town under cover of darkness, and captured a bridge intact across the ALTMUHL River after a stiff fire fight. Elements of the Regt crossed the River and maintained contact with the enemy. The Division CP moved to WINSBACH (T245765). The 222d Inf remained as Division Reserve and moved to WINSBACH.

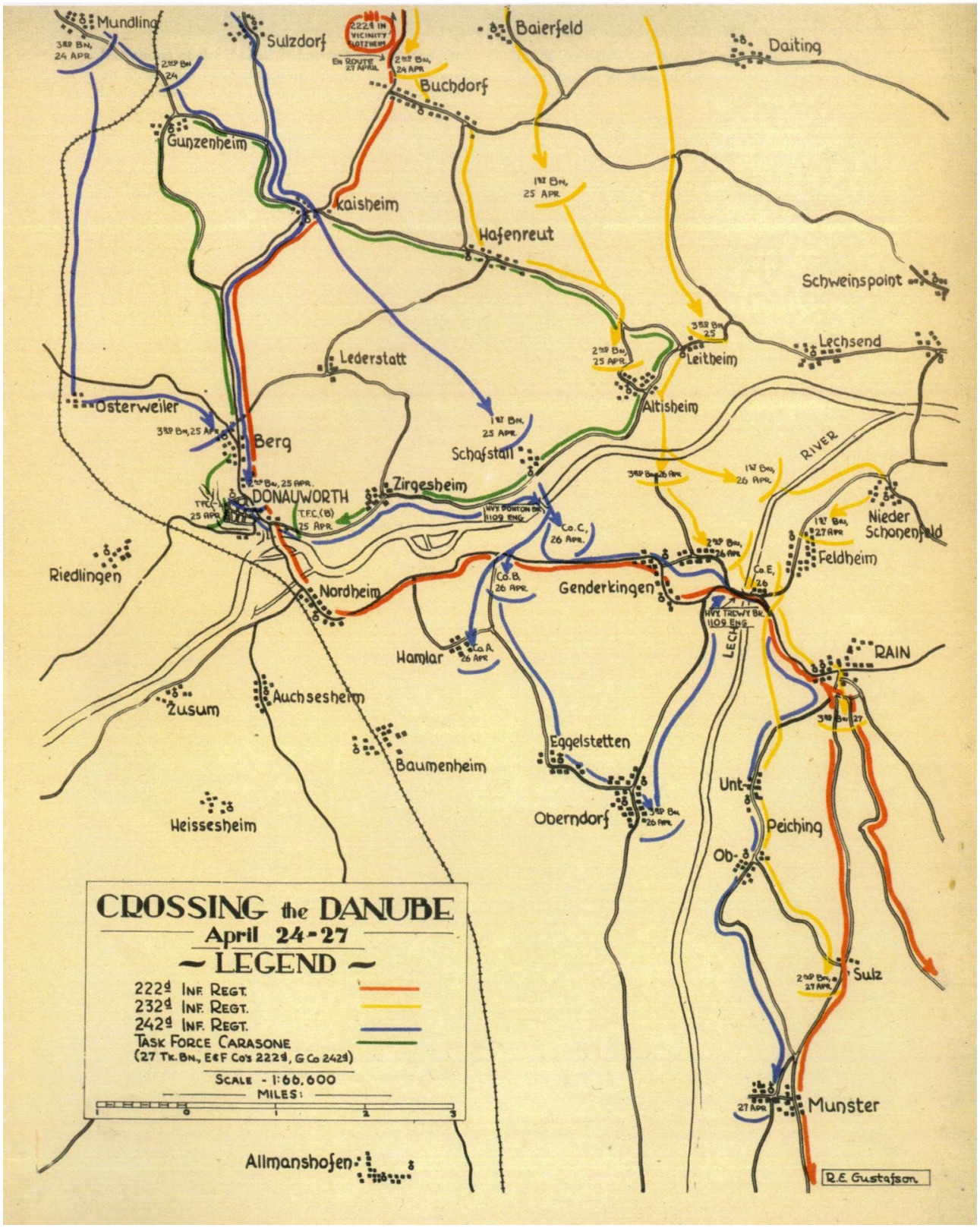
The advance continued early the next morning with the First Battalion moving to the vicinity of Erbach and then attacking south, and the Third Battalion attacking abreast of the First Battalion in the left (east) portion of the regimental zone. The Second Battalion followed the First Battalion by bounds as regimental reserve. Enemy resistance was light until the First Battalion reached the town of Brombach where it was held up by heavy enemy artillery and automatic fire. At this point the Second Battalion was committed in a flanking action to the east, clearing the towns of Grafensteinberg and Apsberg, then continuing to the south. The Third Battalion advanced against moderate resistance, clearing the enemy in its zone.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM J. MYERS, 11 111 816, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters 3rd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 22 April 1945 near Kalbensteinberg, Germany. When the column in which his jeep was the lead vehicle encountered enemy panzerfaust fire, Sergeant Myers leaped from the jeep and remained in the open to warn our oncoming tank destroyers. Although wounded by fragments from exploding panzerfausts, he continued to expose himself while pointing out the enemy to the tank destroyers and firing at them with his carbine. Sergeant Myers' prompt and courageous action thus saved the leading tank destroyer from an ambush which undoubtedly would have destroyed the vehicle and inflicted casualties among the crew.
Entered military service from Providence, Rhode Island.

Late in the afternoon of **April 22**, the First Battalion overcame the stiff resistance in Brombach and raced south for the Altmuth River. Its leading elements spotted a bridge intact in the vicinity of Unter-Asbach and sped across just in time to keep the Germans from blowing the bridge. This was the first crossing of the river made, and put the First Battalion, 232d Infantry as the spearhead of the attack on Munich. The First Battalion crossed the river by dusk and occupied the high ground in the vicinity of Dittenheim the night of 22-23 April. The Second and Third Battalions marched all night and crossed the river about daylight, 23 April, with the Second Battalion closing into Meinheim and the Third Battalion closing into Dittenheim. The Regimental CP was located at Apsburg.

On 23 April, the 45th Infantry Division moved to a position on the left of the 42d Infantry Division zone and continued the attack. The right flank of the Division was exposed. The 222d Inf, as Div Reserve, moved into an assembly area at GUNZENHAUSEN, and sent a motorized detachment to clear ARBERG (T1064). After the city was cleared, defended road blocks were established on the right flank of the Division. The 232d Inf continued the attack to expand the bridgehead across the ALTMUHL River, and by 0700B all Bns had crossed the river. The attack was again continued to the south at 1100B. The Regt advanced for approx 10 miles over rugged terrain, poor roads, and scattered resistance. One 88mm gun was knocked out. The 242d Inf continued the attack to expand the bridgehead across the ALTMUHL River against heavy resistance, and at 0700B, the 2d and 3d Bns had advanced 2 miles south of the River. The attack was continued at 0900B, and the Regt moved approx 15 miles, clearing the important communications center of WEMDING (T1935). The Division CP moved to GUNZENHAUSEN. XV Corps attached the 27th Tank Bn, 20th Armored Division, to the 42d Infantry Division. XV Corps also gave the Division the mission of crossing the DANUBE and LECH Rivers in the vicinity of DONAUWORTH and to be prepared to advance to the southeast on Corps order.



CROSSING the DANUBE

April 24-27

~ LEGEND ~

222d INF. REGT.

232d INF. REGT.

242d INF. REGT.

TASK FORCE CARASONE
(27 TK. BN., E & F Co's 222d, G Co 242d)

SCALE - 1:66,600

MILES: 0 1 2 3

At 1030, **23 April**, the regiment again continued the attack to the south in a column of battalions, with the First Battalion leading, followed by the second and third in order. Resistance was increasing as the regiment neared the Danube River, and the First Battalion had many fights during the day of April 23. The heaviest battle of the day was in the vicinity of Dockingen where the First Battalion battled its way through heavy artillery, small arms, and flat-trajectory flak to seize the town. The casualty rate was high. The fighting ended well after dark, and found the First Battalion located on the high ground south of Dockingen, the Third Battalion in the town of Dockingen, and the Second Battalion and the Regimental CP in Degersheim the night of 23-24 April.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to PETER A. COLANTINO, 32 819 013, Corporal, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 23 April 1945, near Buchdorf, Germany. As Company E was approaching the town of Buchdorf, they were met and pinned down by intense artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire. With the mission of securing a house on the edge of town for observational purposes, Corporal Colantino crawled one hundred yards under terrific hail of fire from a sniper until he was within a few yards of his objective. He then threw a grenade into the building, killing the sniper and clearing the house. Through his courageous action, Corporal Colantino materially aided his company's advance into town.
Entered military service from New York, New York.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD J. KRAKAWIAK, 36 979 656, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action 23 April, 1945, near Buchdorf, Germany. While Company E was advancing across an open field into Buchdorf, they were suddenly pinned down by intense enemy machine gun, rifle and mortar fire. Advancing at the front of the leading platoon, Private Krakawiak exposed himself to the direct fire to lay down a base of fire with his automatic rifle while his platoon withdrew to defensive positions. Although wounded in the knee by machine gun fire, he held his ground and delivered protective fire, refusing to withdraw until all of his platoon had dropped back. Private Krakawiak's courageous action enabled his platoon to withdraw, with minimum casualties, to defensive positions from which they were able to launch a successful attack the following morning.
Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JOHN C. HITCHCOCK, 11 108 245, Private, Infantry, Company C, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 April 1945 near Dockingen, Germany. When his platoon was surprised by enemy machine gun and small arms fire, Private Hitchcock was wounded while acting as a lead scout. Despite his wound, he advanced on one machine gun position and destroyed it with grenades. Before seeking medical aid, he continued to attack until his company had secured their positions. Private Hitchcock's extreme courage under fire was instrumental in ensuring the rapid advance of his company.
Entered military service from Springfield, Massachusetts.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK GENTILE, 42 176 640, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945, near Dockingen, Germany. Approaching Dockingen, Private Gentile's platoon was suddenly subjected to an intense crossfire of enemy small arms and machine gun fire. In the face of this hostile fire, Private Gentile continued to advance, shooting into the German positions, neutralizing them and permitting his

platoon to advance. By his courage and aggressiveness, he contributed to the success of his platoon in taking its objective. Entered military service from New York, New York.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES T. SEARCY, 37 228 314, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 23 April 1945, at Spaltz, Germany. During the attack on the village of Spaltz, the advance of the first platoon was held up by intense enemy machine gun fire from a well dug-in position. Without regard for his own safety Private Searcy moved forward with the other member of his bazooka team, completely exposing himself to direct fire in order to maneuver into position. Remaining in this exposed position, he fired his bazooka into the machine gun nest, completely destroying it. As a direct result of Private Searcy's courageous action, his platoon was able to advance into the town without further casualties. Entered military service from Coffeyville, Kansas

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RALPH H. ESKURI, 38 101 551, Private First Class (then Private), Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945 near Spaltz, Germany. Private Eskuri was manning an observation post when he saw a friendly patrol pinned down by intense machine gun and sniper fire. He exposed himself to the enemy fire in order to direct rifle fire onto the enemy positions. Despite the fact that enemy shells landed close by, and concussion had knocked his helmet from his head, Private Eskuri remained in his exposed position, exchanging fire for fire, until the entire patrol had reached cover. This display of outstanding initiative and bravery undoubtedly saved many casualties as well as assisted the patrol in accomplishing its mission. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JEROME S. KOWALSKI, 36 919 791, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945, near Spaltz, Germany. Private Kowalski was a member of a combat patrol advancing into Spaltz, Germany to destroy a machine gun position holding up the advance of Company I. As the patrol approached the position, intense machine gun fire forced the group to scatter. Advancing through the deadly barrage, Private Kowalski gained a vantage point and directed such accurate fire at the enemy with his automatic rifle that several were killed and the machine gunners pinned down. As a result of his outstanding courage and aggressiveness, the patrol was able to successfully accomplish its mission without casualties. Entered military service from Hamtramck, Michigan.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN E. FRALEY, 33 884 359, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945, near Spaltz, Germany. As the patrol of which Private Fraley was a member approached enemy positions near Spaltz, Germany, intense machine gun fire forced the group to seek cover. Private Fraley then advanced alone under the vicious fire until he was near the machine gun emplacement. Continuing to expose himself, he killed the enemy machine gunner, wounded two others, and captured two riflemen. Private Fraley's exceptional courage and aggressive determination materially aided the patrol to accomplish its mission without casualties. Entered military service from Baltimore, Maryland.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CECIL P. CLEMMONS, 37 243 785, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 23 April 1945, at Spaltz, Germany. During the attack on the village of Spaltz, the advance of the first platoon was held up by intense enemy machine gun fire from a well dug-in position. Without regard for his own safety Private Clemmons moved forward with the other member of his bazooka team, completely exposing himself to the direct fire in order to maneuver into position. Remaining in this exposed position, he fired his bazooka into the machine gun nest, completely destroying it. As a direct result of Private

Clemmons' courageous action, his platoon was able to advance into the town without further casualties. Entered military service from Richmond, Missouri.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to RUSSELL E. CHAPPELL, 01 332 467, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 April 1945, near Dockingen, Germany. While Lieutenant Chappell was leading his rifle platoon in an attack on the enemy's right flank at Dockingen, he encountered intense machine gun and rifle fire which pinned the unit down. Upon seeing his men hit the ground in exposed positions, he charged toward the enemy positions, shouting and encouraging his men to follow him. Inspired by Lieutenant Chappell's outstanding courage and aggressiveness, his men got up and followed him in a successful assault on the enemy positions. Entered military service from Evansville, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ALVAN E. SQUIRES, 01 326 347, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945 near Dockingen, Germany. While Companies B and C were attacking the town of Dockingen, intense small arms and automatic fire disorganized the attacking elements. Lieutenant Squires refused to take cover, but traveled along the front rallying and encouraging his men. He then personally led them in the attack, completely over-throwing the enemy positions. Lieutenant Squires' courage and outstanding leadership under fire contributed materially to the successful completion of the operation. Entered military service from West Plains, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JACK D. DOUGLAS, 39 567 830, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945 at Dockingen, Germany. Private Douglas' company was leading the left flank in the attack on Dockingen when they were surprised and momentarily halted by enemy machine gun fire from three directions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private Douglas charged forward, knocking out one of the gun emplacements with his automatic rifle and hand grenades. His courageous action and selfless determination not only helped to quickly disperse the enemy, but also served to urge his squad forward until they had secured positions on the far side of town. Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to SHERMIN I. JOWELL, 6 289 807, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 April 1945, near Dockingen, Germany. When his platoon leader was wounded in the attack on Dockingen, Sergeant Jewell immediately assumed command of the platoon and in the face of withering enemy fire led his platoon against the enemy positions, knocking out a machine gun, lead the attack into the city, wiping out several strong points. His gallantry and devotion to duty were directly responsible for the success of the platoon assault, enabling the company to move in and occupy the city.
Entered military service from Palestine, Texas.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to WENDELL G. VAN AUKEN, 0 260 269,, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 April 1945 near Dockingen, Germany. As Lieutenant Van Auken's company approached their objective, they encountered intense small arms fire. While his men sought cover Lieutenant Van Auken remained upright and moved along the front urging them forward, at times advancing beyond the leading elements of his company. As a result of his example his men left cover followed him forward and over ran the enemy. By his outstanding courage and leadership, Lieutenant Van Auken was responsible for the capture of Dockingen. Entered military service from Buffalo, Wyoming.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to JOHN J. STRACK, 37 621 356, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action, on 23 April 1945, near Dockingen, Germany. As platoon leader, Sergeant Strack led his platoon through heavy enemy fire in the attack on Dockingen after he had been wounded in the foot. On reaching the outskirts of the town he was wounded again, but continued to direct the advance until loss of blood necessitated his evacuation. By his outstanding courage and devotion to duty, Sergeant Strack was responsible for the capture of the town and the capture of numerous prisoners.
Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILBUR A. BIESON, 35 584 950, Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945, at Dockingen, Germany. When his platoon encountered heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Biesch refused to be stopped and continued to advance. His act inspired his fellow soldiers to follow him in a dash to the edge of town where they drove the enemy from his defenses and continued moving forward. By his courageous and determined act, Sergeant Biesen inspired his platoon to take their objective.
Entered military service from Highland, Indiana.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANCIS J. FLANNERY, 33 815 651, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945, at Dockingen, Germany. When his platoon encountered heavy enemy fire, Private Flannery refused to be stopped and continued to advance. His act inspired his fellow soldiers to follow him in a dash to the edge of town where they drove the enemy from his defenses and continued moving forward. By his courageous and determined act, Private Flannery inspired his platoon to take their objective.
Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WYLIE J. PITCHER, 36 966 278, Private First Class, Infantry, Company D, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 April 1945 near Auernheim, Germany. While engaged in cleaning out the town of Auernheim, Germany, Private Pitcher encountered five fully armed enemy. Accepting their surrender, he moved them out into the street which was then under a heavy artillery concentration. Though wounded by shell fragments, Private Pitcher retained control of the five men until they could be properly evacuated. By his courageous devotion to duty, Private Pitcher eliminated a potentially dangerous sniper nest in the path of our forces. Entered military service from Belleville, Michigan.

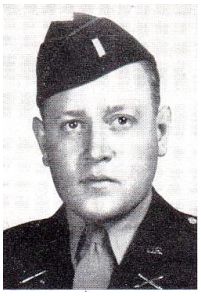
The 222d Inf remained in Division Reserve <u>24 April</u> with the 1st Bn moving to an assembly area at FLOTZHEIM (T2531), 2d Bn at NUSSBUHL (T2432) and 3d Bn at (T1950). The 2d Bn, Regtl Reserve, 232d Inf began movement toward the south at 0500B. The Regt attacked at 0700B with the 1st Bn passing through the 3d Bn. The attack progressed against light resistance over difficult terrain, poor roads, and blown bridges. The 1st Bn reverted to Regtl Reserve and the 2d Bn was committed. During the late afternoon the Regt met increased resistance including small arms, automatic weapons, mortars, artillery, and 88mm fire. The 1st Bn was moved forward for commitment between the 2d and 3d Bns south from MONHEIM (T2831). The 242d Inf continued the attack at 0700B with the 3d Bn on the right, and 2d Bn on the left. The attack progressed against

light resistance for approx 10 miles over poor roads, blown bridges, and road blocks. Late in the afternoon, the 2d Bn met very strong resistance but WEMDING, a very important communications center, was captured. The enemy had a very strong defensive position organized about 8 miles north of DONAUWORTH. The Rainbow had reached the outer defenses of the REDOUBT area. The 27th Tank Bn joined the Division, and one platoon of light tanks, and one platoon of medium tanks was attached to the 242d Inf. The Division CP moved to WEMDING (T1935)

Early on the morning of **24 April** the regiment began its approach to the Danube. The attack was resumed with the Second and Third Battalions passing through the First Battalion and attacking abreast, Second Battalion on the right. The attack progressed steadily throughout the day, meeting only local action from small delaying forces. All battalions reached their objectives by dark with the Second Battalion closing into Itzing, where the advance regimental elements established the CP, the Third Battalion, into Ried and First Battalion, which had followed the Third Battalion, closed into Kruit.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN J. MCKENNA, 31 182 447, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 24 April 1945, near Buchdorf, Germany. While leading his troops in the attack on Buchdorf, the commander of Company E was killed by sniper fire. Private McKenna, thinking his company commander to be wounded, advanced through intense enemy fire to render first aid. Finding him dead, Private McKenna and another soldier carried the body approximately fifty yards to a nearby house, only then discovering that the maps and overlays of the attack were still in the open. He then unhesitatingly went back under continued enemy fire to secure the vital documents. Private McKenna's fearless and courageous action enabled the new company commander to lead his men in a successful accomplishment of their mission. Entered military service from Providence, Rhode Island.

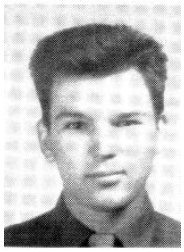


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MILTON C. GARRISON, 01 179 075, First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 232nd Field Artillery Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 24 April 1945 near Buchdorf, Germany. Lieutenant Garrison was attached to an Infantry Battalion as artillery forward observer when the leading elements were held up by enemy fire. Working his way forward under heavy fire which wounded a member of his party Lieutenant Garrison reached a point from which he directed accurate artillery fire on the enemy. By his courage and devotion to duty the battalion was enabled to continue the attack and capture the town. Entered military service from Gary, Indiana.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EWING DAILY, 35 067 297, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 24 April 1945, near Unterbach, Germany. While leading his platoon in an attack on enemy positions near Unterbach, Germany, Sergeant Daily was severely wounded in the leg by mortar fragments. Despite his wound, he continued to advance through the intense artillery and mortar barrage, directing the fire of his men on groups of fleeing enemy soldiers. Upon learning that three of his comrades were wounded, he relinquished command of the platoon to a section sergeant. After securing aid for

the wounded men, he finally consented to his own evacuation. Sergeant Daily's courageous actions and unswerving devotion to duty played a major role in the successful completion of the attack. Entered military service from Warren, Ohio.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to SAM RODICH, 36 832 541, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 24 April 1945 near Unterbach, Germany. Corporal Rodich medical aid man, rendered first aid to three members of his platoon under an intense enemy artillery concentration. After taking the men to the aid station, he started to return to his platoon when he found another wounded man whom he assisted to the aid station. When he returned to his platoon, he dressed the wounds of his platoon leader. Through Corporal Rodich's skill and devotion to duty, five wounded men were given immediate aid, thereby reducing the possibility of further complications from their injuries. Entered military service from West Allis, Wisconsin.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES G. DOLTER, 37 159 616, Corporal, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 24 April 1945, in Unterbach, Germany. Corporal Dolter was leading the heavy machine gun squad of which he was squad leader from an exposed position in support of a rifle company when an intense barrage of enemy mortar and artillery fire forced his men to disperse. Despite the intensity of the enemy barrage, Corporal Dolter reorganized his squad and moved them into position where they could neutralize the enemy machine gun fire. Through Corporal Dolter's cool and courageous action the rifle company's objective was secured with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Duluth, Minnesota.

On <u>25 April</u>, the 232d and 242d Inf Regts continued to meet stiff resistance north of DONAUWORTH, the key defensive city on the north bank of the DANUBE River. Realizing that the Germans planned to defend DONAUWORTH to the last, Task Force CARASONE was organized. It was composed of Co D (less 1 Platoon), Co C (less 1 Platoon), and Co B, all of the 27th Tank Bn, Cos E and F, 222d Inf, Co G, 242d Inf, 2 Platoons of Engineers (from Co A, 142d Engr Bn) and 2 Platoons of Tank Destroyers (from Co A, 692d TD Bn). Lt Col Carasone, CO, 27th Tk Bn, was designated as CO, and Lt Col Downard, CO, 2d Bn, 222d Inf, was designated as Executive Officer. A column of light tanks (Reinf), commanded by Lt Col Downard, attacked at 0700B from GUNZENHEIM (T2224) to the southeast. The column fought hard and moved rapidly to the DANUBE River, turned west, and headed for DONAUWORTH. The Germans were caught completely by surprise, and they fought madly to prevent bridges across the DANUBE from being captured intact. Many Germans on the flat open ground south of the DANUBE were killed while trying to take cover or flee. The bridges across the DANUBE were blown 5 minutes before the column of tanks and infantry reached DONAUWORTH. With their bridges blown behind them, trapped Nazis in DONAUWORTH fought the doughboys of the 42d with all the savage ferocity of a cornered rat. It was the most fanatical resistance ever encountered by the Rainbow. The fight for the DANUBE city lasted for 6 hours. Street by street, the infantry mopped up, supported by the tanks and TDs. Out of the 700 German soldiers, only 16

remained alive to be taken prisoner. A column of medium tanks, commanded by Lt Col Carasone, also attacked south from GUNZENHEIM at 0700B. Against tough resistance, the column fought hard and encountered heavy mines about 3 miles north of DONAUWORTH. After clearing the mines, the column moved on to help clear the city. The 232d and 242d Inf Regts continued the attack behind the Task Force, and each Regt reached the DANUBE River on a line extending from DONAUWORTH east 15 miles. The fanatical attempt of the Germans to defend the DANUBE River at DONAUWORTH had failed. The Division CP moved to BUCHDORF (T2725) and began plans for crossing the DANUBE.

Once again a much-needed night's rest was not possible, as the advance was resumed at once on a three-battalion front. Again the resistance encountered was mainly from delaying forces and the regiment was able to reach the northwest bank of the Danube River.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to FRANK J. ORZECHOWSKI, 36 966 693, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 25 April 1945, at Buchdorf, Germany. During the action around Buchdorf, Germany, Private Orzechowski voluntarily drove his jeep on a mission to rescue two men pinned down by enemy fire. Driving his vehicle into a position exposed to intense small arms and machine gun fire, he advanced on foot through the deadly barrage to a house from which he could direct a comrade's fire with the machine gun mounted on the jeep, thus silencing the enemy and effecting the release of the two men. Then, when a tank destroyer was summoned to clear out the enemy positions, he covered the right flank of the tank while it moved forward against the emplacements. Private Orzechowski's courageous action and unswerving determination undoubtedly saved the lives of his two comrades. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

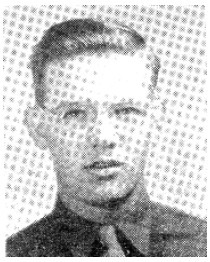


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RUSSEL J. KUBIAK, 36 981 537, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 25 April 1945, at Buchdorf, Germany. During the action around Buchdorf, Germany, Private Kubiak voluntarily accompanied a quarter-ton truck and driver on a mission to rescue two men who were pinned down by enemy fire. Under his direction, the jeep was driven to an exposed position under machine gun and small arms fire. He then manned the machine gun mounted on the jeep, and bravely facing the intense fire, he soon silenced the enemy and freed the two men who were pinned down. Private Kubiak's courageous action and unswerving determination undoubtedly saved the lives of his two comrades and eliminated a serious threat to the advance of our forces. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The SILVER STAR is awarded to ROY C. MCGINNIS, 44 036 307, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 25 April 1945 near Altisheim, Germany. As lead scout for the point squad of his battalion, Private McGinnis observed an enemy machine gun nest concealed in a woods, halted the battalion and had proceeded alone to within twenty feet of the machine gun when the gunner opened fire. Private McGinnis killed the enemy gunner with two rounds from his rifle. The shots aroused nine enemy riflemen who turned to flee into the woods. Private McGinnis pursued them, firing as he went, until all of the enemy halted and surrendered to him. By his

courageous act Private McGinnis eliminated hostile resistance and enabled his battalion to continue its advance. Entered military service from Atlanta, Georgia.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WAYNE WAGNER, 35 845, 101, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 25 April 1945, near the Lech River. The machine gun squad for which Private Wagner was ammunition bearer was covering an Engineer bridge-building party upon which the enemy placed an intense concentration of fire in an effort to halt its operations. In the fire fight that ensued, Private Wagner carried eighty pounds of ammunition over an exposed route in order that his gun might continue in action. By his courage and devotion to duty, Private Wagner enabled his squad to drive off the enemy and insure completion of the bridge. Entered military service from Hammond, Indiana.

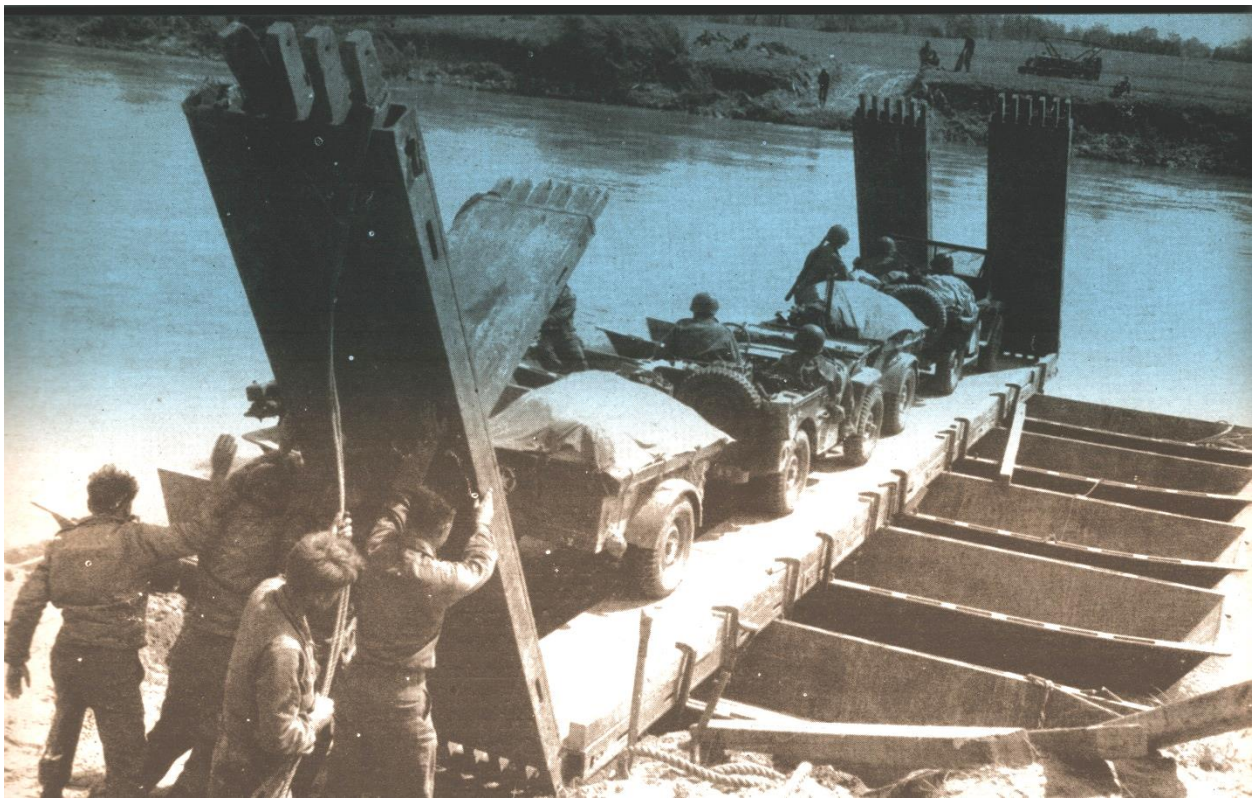


The SILVER STAR is awarded to LYMAN J. TELFER, 36 592 054, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 April 1945, near Unterbach, Germany. When the rifle company to which his heavy machine gun platoon was attached was held up by intense enemy fire and its company commander killed, Sergeant Telfer led his platoon into position in anticipation of an enemy counterattack. He then advanced to reconnoiter for more favorable positions and, though shot through the face, completed his reconnaissance, led his platoon into the new positions and refused evacuation until the following morning. By his outstanding courage and leadership Sergeant Telfer enabled his platoon to complete its assigned mission. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

V CROSSING OF DANUBE AND LECH RIVERS

After capturing DONAUWORTH, a strong enemy defensive position on the north bank of the DANUBE River, the Rainbow immediately initiated reconnaissance for crossing sites and, under cover of darkness, moved up assault boats and bridging materials.

On 26 April, at 0045B, the 242d Inf attacked from the vicinity of SCHAFSTALL with the 1st Bn leading, to force a crossing of the DANUBE River and establish a bridgehead. Although the current was very swift, the infantry crossed the river in assault boats and rapidly expanded the bridgehead.



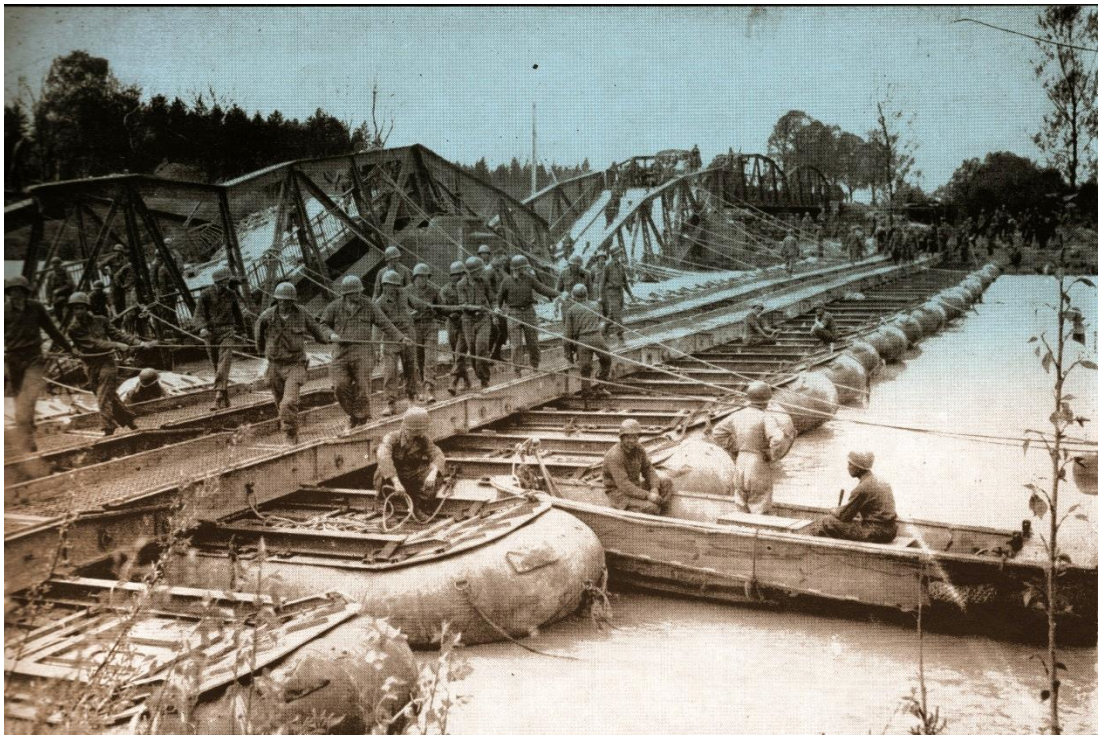
First in the Corps to reach the Danube, infantry crossed in assault boats. Jeeps are ferried over while a bridge is being built.

The 3d Bn followed the 1st Bn across the river, passed through the 1st Bn, and continued the attack to the south for approximately 5 miles. Supporting weapons were ferried across the river on infantry support rafts and treadway ferries. The 2d Bn (less Co E) continued to garrison DONAUWORTH, and Co E protected the bridgesite. The 232d Inf attacked at 0308B from the vicinity of ALTISHEIM (T3019) with the 2d Bn to force a crossing of the DANUBE River and establish a bridgehead. The infantry crossed in assault boats manned by the 142d Engineer Battalion. The boats turned and twisted in the swift current of the beautiful blue waters of the DANUBE. The first company crossed in 12 minutes, and the remainder of the Bn followed rapidly. The bridgehead was expanded, and the 3d Bn then crossed the river in assault boats. The Bns pushed south for 2 miles, turned east and raced toward the bridge across the LECH River 4 miles away. The bridge was blown at 0800B. The 2d and 3d Bns pushed on to the LECH River and the 1st Bn and remaining elements of the Regt then crossed the DANUBE River. The 142d Engr Bn constructed an improvised foot bridge across the blown spans of the LECH River bridge while under enemy fire and observation. The leading elements of Co E, 232d Inf, crossed the wood bridge at 2355B while the swift water whipped and splashed over the narrow wooden spans. The attack was then continued to the south. The 222d Infantry remained in Division Reserve. Companies E and F, 222d Inf, reverted to Regtl control. The 1109th Engineer Group, supporting the 42d Infantry Division, constructed

a heavy pontoon bridge at (T2918) across the swift DANUBE River, and operated numerous ferries. The 142d Engr Bn performed in a meritorious manner while moving the infantry across the river in assault boats. Task Force CARASONE was dissolved and units reverted to control of parent unit.

The 45th Infantry Division crossed the DANUBE River in the afternoon 26 April and continued the advance on the left of the 42d Infantry Division zone. The 3d Infantry Division crossed the DANUBE River at DILLINGEN behind the 12th Armored Division and continued the attack on the right of the 42d Infantry Division zone.

At 0308, **26 April**, after two steady days of marching and fighting, the first assault boats were launched in the river and the initial crossing was made. The order of crossing was Second Battalion, Third Battalion, and First Battalion. The entire regiment had crossed by 1700 the same day. Only light resistance was encountered between the Danube River and the Lech Canal and the regiment closed on the west bank of the canal by dark. The width and rapid flow of the canal made a crossing by assault boat impractical. A partially-destroyed bridge was located in the Second Battalion area, and a span for foot troops was constructed. By midnight foot troops of the Second Battalion were crossing the canal, and by daylight all foot troops of the regiment had crossed, the motors waiting for a treadway bridge to be completed. The Regimental CP moved from Buchdorf to Altisheim.



While the Danube Bridge was being built infantry reached the Lech River, crossed the blown bridge under heavy enemy fire.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to CHARLEY E. JANIK, 38 549 926, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945 near the Lech River, Germany. When an Engineer bridge party was held up by intense enemy fire, while attempting to repair a blown bridge over the Lech River, Private Janik, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved his heavy machine gun into an exposed position and laid down such effective fire that the enemy were forced to withdraw. His courageous act enabled the Engineers to administer aid to their wounded and to continue with their mission. Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to YORK I. GAMBELL, 42 090 109, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 26 April 1945 near the Lech River, Germany. When an Engineer bridge party was held up by intense enemy fire while attempting to repair a bridge over the Lech River, Private Gambell moved his heavy machine gun into an exposed position and laid down such effective fire that the enemy were forced to withdraw. His courageous act enabled the Engineers to administer aid to their wounded and to continue with their mission. Entered military service from Syracuse, New York.



The FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JESSE W. OSBORNE, 36 035 630, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945, at the Lech River crossing in Germany. When reports of enemy activity in the vicinity of the Lech River delayed an Engineer party in its efforts to replace a blown bridge, Sergeant Osborne volunteered to lead a patrol to investigate the enemy force. He set out with two men in the face of enemy mortar and small arms fire from across the river. After crossing 150 yards of open terrain and finding no enemy in the area, he made the hazardous return trip and reported the results of his mission, enabling the Engineers to continue.
Entered military service from Rockford, Illinois.

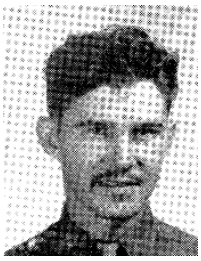


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR M. WILLETT, 38 665 329, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945 near the Lech River, Germany. In the face of intense enemy machine gun, mortar and sniper fire, Private Willett assumed an exposed position to place the fire from his heavy machine gun on the German positions. His protective fire enabled a squad of Engineers to continue construction of a bridge vital to the advance of the Infantry, and contributed materially to his Battalion's success in forcing the Lech River.
Entered military service from El Dorado, Arkansas.

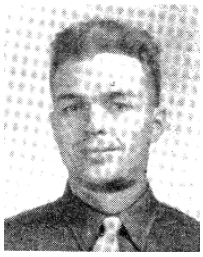


The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DALE W. HODGE, 35 057 066, Sergeant, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945, near Rain, Germany. After crossing the Donau River near Rain, Sergeant Hodge led a platoon of heavy machine guns to contact elements of Company G in Donauworth. Upon reaching the outskirts of the city, he set out with another man in an attempt to locate the company in the darkness. Assured through careful reconnaissance that the company had not yet arrived, he returned to his platoon only to discover enemy troops in fortified positions in one section of the village. Information of the enemy's deployment and disposition gained by Sergeant Hodge's courage and initiative enabled rifle troops to successfully flank and attack the village.
Entered military service from Ashtabula, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WADE C. MCFADDEN, 38 666 580, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945 near Rain, Germany. While transporting ammunition to his heavy machine gun squad over a heavily mined road, Private McFadden's jeep struck a mine and was almost completely demolished. Although suffering severe shock and internal injuries, he remained with his jeep guarding the equipment until it was recovered. Private McFadden's outstanding courage and selfless determination saved much valuable military equipment from possible capture or destruction by the enemy.
Entered military service from Little Rock, Arkansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to WILLIAM J. APPLE, 34 678 081, Sergeant, Infantry, Company F., 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945, near Rain, Germany. During the Lech River crossing, Sergeant Apple's mortar section found itself running short of ammunition. Without regard for his personal safety, he went back voluntarily under heavy enemy fire to the supply point and returned with a heavy load of ammunition across the same fire swept terrain. Sergeant Apple's courageous action enabled his section to continue to give vital supporting fire to the advancing rifle troops.
Entered military service from Greensborough, North Carolina.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to IVAN W. BUSH, 33 847 967, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 26 April 1945, near Rain, Germany. When his mortar section became low on ammunition, Private Bush voluntarily crawled over three hundred yards of terrain through a heavy concentration of enemy mortar and small arms fire to the supply point and returned with a heavy load of ammunition. Through his extremely courageous action, the mortar section was able to continue to give vital supporting fire to the attacking riflemen. Entered military service from Great Bend, Pennsylvania.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EUGENE W. HUSKEY, 34 739 731, Corporal, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945 near Rain, Germany. When two engineers were seriously wounded by an infiltrating enemy machine gunner, Corporal Huskey ran unhesitatingly under the intense fire, dragged the wounded men one at a time, to the safety of a defilade position where he rendered immediate first aid. His courageous and prompt action undoubtedly saved the two injured men from further wounds or death. Entered military service from Sevierville, Tennessee.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to EDWARD J. FINK, 33 556 314, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945 near Altsheim, Germany. When his mortar section had almost exhausted its supply of ammunition, Private Fink unhesitatingly exposed himself to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire to go back to the ammunition supply point. Returning with a double load by a different route, he was forced to cross open terrain raked by enemy rifle and machine gun fire before delivering the ammunition. By his outstanding courage and devotion to duty, Private Fink enabled his section to continue to place accurate fire on the enemy positions, inflicting many casualties.
Entered military service from Baltimore, Maryland.

The Second Battalion, upon crossing the canal, was heavily engaged by a force and to keep from exposing its flank to enemy fire, was ordered to change its direction of attack from east (town of Rain) to the south and capture the objective initially assigned to the Third Battalion. The Third Battalion, crossing after the Second Battalion, continued on the Second Battalion's initial mission and captured the town of Rain. The First Battalion, after crossing, cut to the north and completed the establishment of the bridgehead. At this time the Regimental CP was established at a farmhouse north of Genderkinger (310180). The 222d Infantry began passing through the regiment on the afternoon of April 27 to continue the advance to Munich.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JAMES L. BAKER, 36 979 094, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945 near Genderkinger, Germany. While leading his squad on a mission to secure and hold a small group of houses near Genderkinger, Private Baker located two enemy machine gun positions. Armed with only his rifle, he personally led his squad in an attack on the gun positions. Private Baker's aggressive and courageous action neutralized the enemy installations and eliminated a dangerous pocket of resistance in the path of our troops. Entered military service from Trenton, Michigan.



The SILVER STAR **(POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to CLAUDE E. TOWNSEND, 37 155 204, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 April 1945, near Ob-Peiching, Germany. When another platoon of his company was held up by heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Townsend led his platoon on a flanking attack of the enemy's position. Exposing himself to intense bazooka, machine gun and sniper fire, he directed such persistent and accurate rifle fire on the enemy that his platoon was able to advance and take up firing positions. After personally killing six of the enemy and disorganizing their defensive positions, Sergeant Townsend was mortally wounded by sniper fire. Sergeant Townsend, by his indomitable courage and leadership, thus made a major contribution to the successful completion of his company's combat mission. Name and address of nearest relative: William H. Townsend (Father), Camp Crook, South Dakota. Entered military service from Camp Crook, South Dakota.

At 2037 that night all elements were alerted for movement to the south. At 2340 the First Battalion was ordered to move immediately to Wiesbach, with the Third Battalion, in reserve, following behind. The Second Battalion was ordered to displace to Ober Baar [Oberbaar].

On 27 April, the 2d Bn, 232d Inf, continued the attack across the LECH River and moved toward the south. The Bn received heavy small arms and machine gun fire from the vicinity of the railroad crossing over the LECH River (T326156). After stiff fighting the 2d Bn broke the resistance and continued the attack. The 3d Bn crossed the LECH River behind the 2d Bn at approximately 0200B and moved toward RAIN (T3314). The Bn met strong small arms and machine gun fire just west of RAIN. After the resistance was knocked out, the 3d Bn attacked RAIN and captured the

town against small arms, machine gun, and panzerfaust fire. The 1st Bn moved across the LECH River at approximately 0330B and attacked NEIDER-SCHONENFELD (T3518) against light resistance. The 2d and 3d Bns continued the attack to the south for 4 miles and captured SALLACH (T3712), UNTER PEICHING (T3312), OBER PEICHING (T3211) and BAYERDILLING (T3711). The 1109th Engr Gp constructed a heavy treadway bridge across the LECH River at (T3216). The 222d Inf moved across the DANUBE River into an assembly area 5 miles south of DONAUWORTH, and from there moved across the LECH River at 1400B. The Regt turned south, passed through the 232d Inf Regt, and continued the attack to the south, with the 1st Bn on the right, 2d Bn on the left, and 3d Bn in reserve. UNTERBARR (T3704) and OBERBARR (T3803) were captured and the regiment reached the Corps bridgehead objective. The 242d Inf prepared to move into an assembly area in the vicinity of (T3012). The Division CP moved to RAIN.

After only 2 days of fighting the Rainbow had forced a crossing of the swift DANUBE and LECH Rivers to secure the Corps Bridgehead. The Rainbow was the first unit in XV Corps to reach the DANUBE and the first to cross. The gallant infantry then prepared for the march on MUNICH.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JESSE H. WILLIAMS, 16 071 923, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 27 April 1945 near Ob-Peiching, Germany. When his squad was suddenly fired on by intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire, Sergeant Williams exposed himself to find firing positions for his men, covering their advance with his rifle. Noticing one of his men lying wounded, he moved under the heavy enemy fire to bring the man to safety, then returned and continued to use his rifle against the enemy. Sergeant Williams' courage and prompt action contributed materially to the final defeat of the enemy. Entered military service from East Saint Louis, Illinois.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to DONALD W. SCHAEFFER, 37 611 380, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 27 April 1945, at Ob-Peiching, Germany. When the machine guns of his company's second platoon ran low on ammunition during a critical attack, Private Schaeffer volunteered to replenish the supply. Under direct observation of the enemy and in the face of German machine gun fire, he brought the vitally-needed ammunition across open terrain. His courageous act enabled the platoon to hold its positions and continue fighting.
Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RAYMOND P. KRAUSE, 36 228 247, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 27 April 1945, at Ober-Peiching, Germany. During the attack on Ober-Peiching, Private Krause and his platoon were suddenly met by intense rifle and machine gun fire. Without hesitating, he moved from one vantage point to another under the heavy fire so that he could place direct fire on the enemy with his automatic rifle. Private Krause's outstanding courage and aggressiveness pinned the enemy down so effectively that his platoon was able to move into town and secure their objective. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to LOUIS J. VOLLAT, 35 794 040, Corporal, Infantry, Company E, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 27 April 1945, near Furth, Germany. Company E's advance on Furth was suddenly halted by intense enemy machine gun, machine pistol, and rifle fire coming from well concealed dug-in positions. Corporal Vollat advanced upon the nearest concrete bunker under a terrific hail of enemy fire, threw grenades inside, and occupied the position. From this location he observed enemy positions and directed the fire of his comrades upon the enemy troops. By his courageous action and selfless determination, Corporal Vollat enabled his company to overrun the enemy positions and continue their successful advance.
Entered military service from Cincinnati, Ohio.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to RICHARD J. MORGAN, 37 571 276, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 27 April 1945, near Ober-Peiching, Germany. While providing flank security for his company near Ober-Peiching, Private Morgan suddenly encountered an enemy machine gun squad in well-dug in positions to the front. He opened fire with his automatic rifle, killing the gunner. A terrific concentration of mortar fire was then directed upon him, but he continued to advance, locating the mortar gunners, killing two and capturing five. Private Morgan's courage and aggressiveness in the face of overwhelming opposition contributed immeasurably to the successful advance of his company.
Entered military service from Long Pine, Nebraska.

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to JOHN M. PHELAN, 37 645 930, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 27 April 1945, near Ober-Peiching, Germany. During the action at Ob-Peiching, one of the men in Private Phelan's platoon was suffering from severe shock while in one of the forward positions. Without regard for his personal safety, he crawled forward under heavy machine gun and rifle fire to help an aid man carry the shock victim back to the aid station. He then crawled forward alone and under continued heavy enemy fire he carried the body of a dead comrade back to the rear. Private Phelan's courageous action under fire was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Rainbow Division.
Entered military service from St. Louis, Missouri.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to BUELL H. UNDERWOOD, 38 664 221, Private First Class, Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 27 April 1945, near Rain, Germany. While establishing a bridgehead across the Lech River, the right flank of the Second Battalion was halted by severe enemy machine gun and Panzerfaust fire. Exposing himself to the intense enemy fire, Private Underwood, acting as a heavy machine gun squad leader, sought a position for his gun, set it up under fire, brought it into action, and directed an effective volume of fire on the enemy. Private Underwood's action forced the enemy to withdraw and enabled his Battalion to drive on to its objective.
Entered military service from Fort Smith, Arkansas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to MARIO SANCHEZ, 38 555 759, Technicial fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 27 April 1945 near Rain, Germany. When two riflemen were seriously wounded by enemy fire during the advance on Rain, Corporal Sanchez crawled and ran across an open field under intense enemy mortar fire to treat the wounded. After administering first aid, he then carried them, one at a time, to a safe position until they could be evacuated to the aid station. Corporal Sanchez' outstanding courage and unswerving devotion duty undoubtedly saved the wounded men from death or capture. Entered military service from Laredo, Texas.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to ARTHUR E. CROWSTON, 37 694 441, Private First Class, Cavalry, 42nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, 42nd Infantry Division, for heroic achievement in action on 27 April 1945 near Mannheim, Germany. When the patrol of which he was a member was forced to withdraw by heavy enemy fire, Private Crowston and a reconnaissance sergeant continued forward to locate the enemy position. As they advanced, the sergeant was wounded and increasing fire forced them to abandon the quarter-ton truck in which they were riding. Assisting the wounded man back to cover, Private Crowston then returned through the fire, recovered his vehicle, and drove it back to his own lines. His courage and determination prevented the possible death or capture of a fellow soldier and loss of valuable property. Entered military service from Cedar Falls, Iowa.

VI CAPTURE OF MUNICH

On 27 April, the 20th Armored Division was directed by XV Corps to assemble north of DONAUWORTH, and be prepared to cross the DANUBE River on order, pass through the 42d and 45th Infantry Divisions, and continue the attack to the south toward MUNICH. The 42d Infantry Division was directed to follow the armor closely with one RCT motorized using organic transportation.

The 222d Inf continued the attack to the south early 28 April. The 2d Bn received strong resistance in the vicinity of (Y408992) in the form of a defended road block. This resistance was broken after stiff fighting, and the 2d Bn pushed on for 1 mile. The 1st Bn encountered light resistance on the right in the Division zone and pushed 1 mile south of the Corps Bridgehead and consolidated the position. The 232d Infantry began moving to an assembly area at 0001B. The regiment closed in the area at 1030B with the 1st Bn located at (T4104), 2d Bn (T3803) and the 3d Bn (T3706). The 242d Infantry moved to the south and closed in an assembly area at 1030B, with the 1st Bn at (T3801), 2d Bn (T3400) and 3d Bn (T3400).

The 27th Tk Bn was relieved of attachment to the 42d Infantry Division and reverted to control of the 20th Armored Division on 28 April. The 42d Infantry Division cleared passages for the 20th Armored Division early 28 April. The armor passed through the Division, and continued the attack to the south toward MUNICH. The 42d Infantry Division CP moved to UNTER BARR (T375043).

By 0830, **28 April**, all units closed into their assigned areas, and continued preparations for further commitments to the southwest. The Regimental CP was located in Rain.

On 29 April, the 42d Infantry Division was directed to continue the advance, along with the 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions, and capture MUNICH. The Rainbow was given a zone to include the center of the city, while the 45th Division zone included the north outskirts, and the 3d

Division zone included the south outskirts. The 20th Armored Division was directed to continue the attack to the railroad running north and south on the western outskirts of the city.

Since all major roads in the Division zone were being used by armor, the 42d Infantry Division had to use secondary roads in the rapid advance on MUNICH.

At 0500B, 29 April, combat team attachments were in effect. RCT 222 conducted reconnaissance of the roads in the left half of the Division zone, and at 0635B, the 2d Bn, motorized, began movement to the south toward MUNICH. The 1st Bn followed the 2d Bn and the 3d Bn moved through the regimental zone and cleaned up by-passed enemy resistance. Movement progressed very rapidly and the 2d Bn reached DACHAU (Y7469) at 1300B. After enemy resistance was broken the 2d Bn entered DACHAU and captured the famous concentration camp which contained approximately 32,000 political prisoners. The inhuman sights that were seen there cannot be adequately described. Thousands of dead bodies were found in boxcars, the incinerators for burning the bodies were still operating, and thousands of inmates were walking around on skeleton legs. Co E, 2d Bn, 222d Inf, forced a crossing of the AMPER River, moved ahead for 5 miles, and sent out patrols which entered the outskirts of MUNICH. RCT 242 also moved to the south on secondary roads. The 3d Bn, motorized, began movement to the south toward MUNICH at 0530B. The 1st Bn followed the 3d Bn. Movement was very rapid, and the 3d Bn reached the AMPER River at 1600B. The 1st Bn closed in an area along the AMPER River and one (1) company was sent across the river in the vicinity (Y685655) to secure a bridge site. The 2d Bn cleared the 242d Infantry zone of by-passed enemy resistance. The regiment moved over 30 miles during the day. RCT 232 attacked at 1300B, following CCA, 20th Armored Division. Movement was very rapid and the RCT closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of (Y7368) at 2400B, and was designated as XV Corps Reserve. The 27th Tk Bn was attached to the 42d Infantry Division. The Division CP displaced to ROSSBACH (Y5775).

On **29 April** the regiment was motorized and ordered to move as a Combat Team to the southeast with the mission of clearing routes forward in the division zone. The regiment jumped off at approximately 1250. The first and Second Battalions, leading, the First on the left. The Third Battalion reverted to regimental reserve. Only light enemy resistance was encountered during the move. The Regimental CP was established at Ober-Bachern [Oberbachern]. The Third Battalion was assigned T-Force duty under the command of Captain ALEXANDER and under control of the 6th Army Group, in the city of Munich.

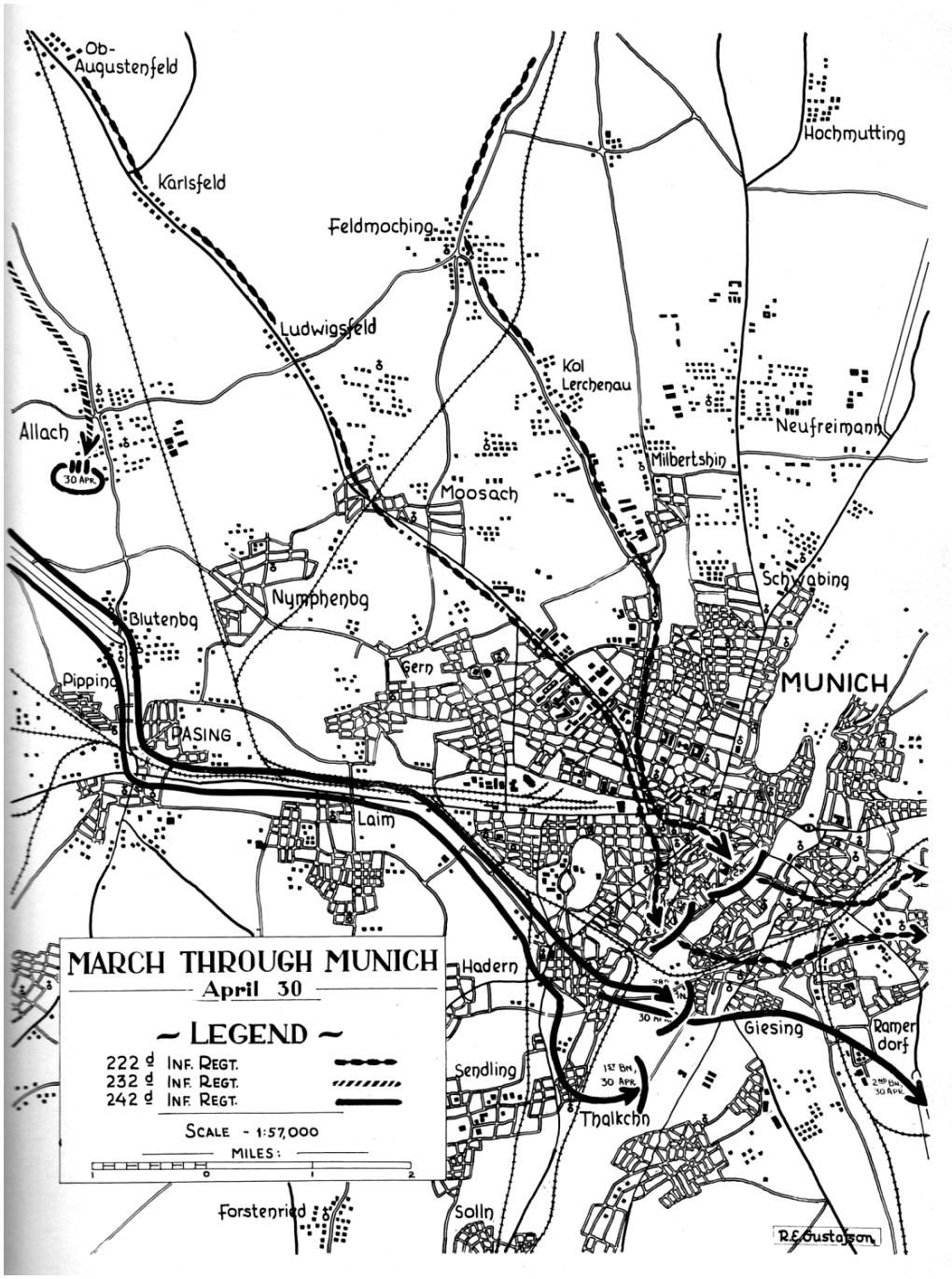


Once Munich was reached, entry into the city met almost no resistance. Thousands of Allied PWs and slave laborers cheered troops and German soldiers were ready to quit. Here, tank destroyers loaded with infantry roar into the city while prisoners march out.

Blown bridges as well as a large amount of armor on the roads held up the advance of the Division. The 1109th Engr (Y685655) early 30 April. The 20th Armored Division was directed by XV Corps to halt in place, clear the roads, and allow the 42d Infantry Division to pass.

The 222d Infantry attacked at 1100B, 30 April, with the 1st Bn on the right, 2d Bn on the left, and the 3d Bn in Reserve. The advance progressed rapidly, and in a short time troops were in the center of MUNICH. The 2d Bn was first to reach the ISAR River and all bridges in the Regimental zone were captured intact. Small units were sent across the River to the eastern side of MUNICH to secure the bridges. The 242d Infantry attacked at 1200B with the 1st Bn on the right, 3d Bn on the left, and the 2d Bn in Reserve. The attack moved very rapidly and elements entered MUNICH in a short time. The attack continued and the 2d Bn moved down to the autobahn and crossed the ISAR River in the center of MUNICH. The 1st and 2d Bns reached the ISAR River and all bridges were captured intact. The 232d Infantry remained in XV Corps Reserve and moved to an assembly area vicinity (Y753620). The Division CP moved to OBER MENZING (Y7659).

On **30 April** the regiment reverted to Corps reserve, and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Allach during the afternoon to await further orders. Companies E and G were placed on special duty with division guarding the Dachau Concentration Camp and Autobahn bridge, respectively.



After three (3) days of marching and fighting the Rainbow had moved for 50 miles and captured the Nazi city of MUNICH, liberated 900 American PWs, and captured over 2,000 enemy PWs.

The Rainbow immediately pushed out of the city and toward SALZBURG in its campaign against Naziism, war criminals, and inhuman acts. The glorious fighting ability of the Rainbow had moved the Division 260 miles during the month of April.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to GEORGE T. VAN ALLEN, 01 118 302, Second Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142d Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 1 May 1945 in Dachau, Germany. Lieutenant Van Allen was given the mission of constructing a bridge across the river running through Dachau. Time was short and the situation required a bridge that could carry heavy tanks, but work had scarcely begun when enemy artillery started to fall in the vicinity. When his men became disorganized and scattered for cover, Lieutenant Van Allen, without regard for

his personal safety, walked boldly out upon the bridge and rallied his men to their task. His courageous action so inspired the men, that they remained on the job throughout the entire barrage and completed the bridge in record time.
Entered military service from New Market, New Jersey.

During the period **1 – 6 May**, the 232d Infantry, in Corps Reserve, was following the 222d and 242d Infantries by bounds on division order in a general southeast direction, while the Third Battalion remained in Munich on T-Force duty. At 1330 on 1 May the regiment moved from the vicinity of Allach to the vicinity of Kirch-Trudering.



The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to STANLEY J. URSIC, 36 825 121, Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 May 1945 near Rain, Germany. While placing his men in a flanking position during the attack on Rain, Sergeant Ursic constantly exposed himself to heavy enemy rifle and machine gun fire to secure his positions and to direct fire on a numerically superior enemy. When his light machine gun squad exhausted their ammunition, he helped reload the empty belts from M-1 rifle clips. Sergeant Ursic's extreme courage and leadership under fire made a vital contribution to the successful assault on the city and resulted in numerous casualties to the enemy.
Entered military service from Waukesha, Wisconsin.

At 0820 on **2 May**, Companies E and G were relieved from special duty with division guarding the Dachau Concentration Camp and Autobahn bridge respectively. At 1300 on **1 May** the regiment continued movement to the southeast, with the Regimental CP established at Harthousen (0048). At this time the 3rd Infantry Division was on the right flank and the 20th Armored Division, on the left. On **3 May** the regiment continued its advance to the southeast unopposed, and closed in the vicinity of Straussdorf (1745) by 1500. The movement was continued on **4 May** to Pittenhart (4741), with all units closing by 1600.

On **May 3** the Rainbow crossed the Inn River and then moved ahead toward the Austrian border. The formation, used since leaving Munich, was with the 222nd and 242nd Regiments abreast and the 232nd Infantry in reserve. There was no resistance now, but only a tremendous job of rounding up prisoners and evacuating them to the rear. Shortly after noon on **May 4** the leading elements of the Rainbow reached the Austrian border north of Salzburg and patrols crossed it. Orders were then received for the Division to move into assembly areas along the border. The end of the war was now only a few hours away. When the actual surrender came on **May 7** and the German Army Group surrendered to the Sixth Army Group there was little celebration on the part of the Rainbowmen. They had been marching and fighting and working without rest since March 15. They were tired and they wanted most of all to sleep. Then they wanted a chance to clean up and eat a hot meal and go to sleep again.

The day the surrender was formally announced the chaplains of the Division held services and the men gave thanks that they were alive and well and they said a prayer for their friends who had died in making the victory possible.

During the period from **5-12 May**, the regiment moved and was located in the vicinity of Tittmoning (7453). Shakedown inspections of equipment were held, and a program of refitting and rehabilitation was begun. At 1800, **7 May** the Third Battalion was released from its T-Force duty in Munich. The regiment was given the mission of policing, maintaining order, preventing riots and securing the area. Road blocks and roving motor patrols were established to check the security of the area. A program of training was begun, with an Information and Education course established. Company B and one platoon of Company D, 27th Tank Battalion, moved to assist the Third Battalion in controlling its sector in the vicinity of Schonstett.

On **13 May** the regiment moved to the vicinity of St. Johann, Austria (5391) to relieve the 141st Infantry, 36th Infantry Division. Upon completion of relief of the 141st Infantry, a complete system of roadblocks and guard posts was established. A regimental training program was begun with stress being placed on military bearing, courtesy, Information and Education, and Athletics and Recreation. The Third Battalion was located in the vicinity of Walch See [Walchsee], while the Second Battalion had its CP and one company in Kirchburg [Kirchberg], east of Munich guarding road blocks, two companies guarding the Division CP at Kitzbuhel, and another company at Zonnading [Zornading].

HEADQUARTERS First Battalion
232d Infantry
APO 411 c/o PM NY

13 May 1945

SUBJECT: Order of the Day
TO: Officers and Men, 1st Bn., 232d Infantry, 42d Div.

At last the day of victory is upon us. As we pause here in St. Johann, Austria, in a peaceful little valley in the Tyrolian Alps, for occupational duties and a well earned rest, it is hard to realize that the longest and bloodiest war in world's history has come to an end.

When we went into the lines in Alsace on Christmas Eve of last year, little did we dream of the hardships, suffering and sacrifices we would be called upon to endure before the day of Peace could become a reality. In the Alsacian foxholes of Runtzheim, Auenheim, Sessenheim, Stattmatten, Drusenheim and Gambsheim, our first baptism to combat was sudden and without preliminary. In our first

month of action we fought and held the best Panzer, Panzergrenadier, SS, and Paratrooper divisions that the German Army could throw against us in a vain effort to regain the rich Alsacian plains. We fought against tremendous odds at all times, always outnumbered, due mainly to the fact that the battalion was stretched over a defensive sector eleven and one half miles in length.

During our months of combat you endured without complaint the bitter cold winter of France, the rugged, almost impassable terrain of the Hardt Mountains, the deadly mines and the withering fire of the Siegfried Line, and the murderous artillery, automatic weapons, and sniper fire in our advance thru Germany.

Your record is a proud one. We have advanced and fought for a distance of 750 kilometers since Strasbourg, 500 of which was on foot, and the balance as a motorized combat team. Since landing at Marseilles, we have traveled over 1600 kilometers thru France, Germany and Austria. You have killed undetermined numbers of Germans, captured 72 towns and villages, approximately 4500 prisoners, 1 Tiger tank, 2 artillery pieces, 4120 mortars, thousands of machine guns, rifles and pistols, and several dumps of ammunition and signal equipment.

For our action on 23 April 1945, we received a letter of congratulations from our Commanding General. On that date we advanced 13 miles thru mud and snow, much of the way under enemy artillery fire, captured 8 towns, 1 artillery piece and 50 prisoners, knocked out another artillery piece and two troop wagons, blew up a gas dump, killed and wounded approximately 50 enemy and at dusk captured intact a bridge that the division needed for a crossing and secured a strong bridgehead that same night. To accomplish this, we advanced 3 miles beyond the forward elements of the Division, and were surrounded on all sides by enemy troops.

You have fought to the limit of human endurance. I have ordered you forward when it seemed that each of you would drop from sheer exhaustion. You have proved the old adage that the Infantry can always take another step and fire another shot. I have witnessed an untold number of deeds of gallantry and heroism by you men – deeds that have been surpassed by no one. You have fought with a determination and savagery that the enemy could not match.

The sad note in our record is our casualty list which totaled 490 officers and men. I trust that those captured have by now been liberated and are on their way home. My best wishes go to our wounded, still in hospitals, for a speedy recovery and reunion with their families. May the families of those killed in action find some consolation in the knowledge that each one died a hero's death so that their loved ones and ours might live in safety and security from the world domination designs of the monstrous Nazi war machine.

There is much to be done in the Pacific Theatre before the last of the Axis powers is thoroughly and completely crushed. Should it be our lot to do our bit there, I hope I may have the privilege of being your commander. I know you will acquit yourselves as admirably as you have done here.

I trust each of you realizes how proud I am of you. Mere words cannot express my feeling of admiration and pride as you march past me at Retreat Parade – a battalion of fighting men who have faced death without flinching. My only hope is that I have proved myself worthy of being your commander. You have my undying gratitude for the cooperation, loyalty and respect you have shown me.



May God speed the day when each of you will be reunited with your loved ones at home, and may you enjoy with them a life of happiness which you so richly deserve.

BRICE C. W. CUSTER
Lt. Col. Commanding

On **20 May** the regiment moved northeast in the vicinity of Bad Aibling, Germany to assume responsibility for the 20th Armored Division Area, with the mission of enforcing terms of surrender and preparing plans for the location of the German First Army within the area. The 232d Infantry, as part of the XV Corps, moved under control of the Third Army for tactical operations and training, and remained in the 7th Army for supply and administration. The regiment established a perimeter defense and maintained order in that area. German troops began movement into the regimental area for discharge and demobilization. The 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion was relieved from attachment to the regiment on **25 May**.

On **27 May** the regiment moved again into the division area, taking up occupational duties in the vicinity of Wörgl, relieving the 222d Infantry. The First Battalion was located in Achrenrain [Achenrain]; the Second in Zell, and the Third in the vicinity of Kirchbichl. The training program was continued: a rifle range was completed, and plans were made for the construction of a combat course. The primary mission of the regiment was enforcing the terms of surrender, evacuating German prisoners of war and surrenderees, locating and evacuating German materiels of war such as small arms, ammunition, caches of food and supplies, patrolling the sector, and screening the townspeople.

The SOLDIER'S MEDAL is awarded to EUGENE F. TOWNSEND, 42 166 872, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232nd Infantry Regimnent, for heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy on 1 October 1945, near Abtenau, Austria. While Private Townsend and his assistant driver were on a road near Abtenau, Austria, the quarter-ton truck he was driving struck a soft spot, overturned, and rolled down an embankment into a stream, throwing the assistant driver into the swift current in an unconscious condition. Despite the severe injuries he had received, Private Townsend leapt into the water and, after a seventy-yard struggle against its strong flow, succeeded in pulling his comrade onto the surface of a large rock in midstream, where he immediately proceeded to give artificial respiration until aid arrived. Private Townsend's heroic action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Clinton, New York.

The MERITORIOUS SERVICE PLAQUE is awarded to THE SERVICE COMPANY, 232D INFANTRY, for superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks from 26 December 1944 to 12 March 1945, inclusive, in France and Germany.

[this presentation has been made available by the *Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation (RDVMF) Millennium Chapter for families and descendants of Rainbow Division Veterans*.]

The 232D Regimental Crest on page 1 was designed and contributed by Kenneth H. Carpenter, Co. H, 2nd Bn, 232D Inf.

Web site: <rainbowvets.org>

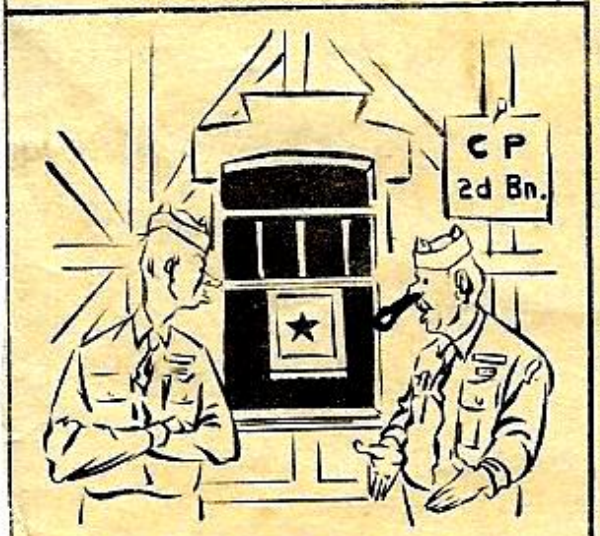
From The Rainbow REVEILLE, Friday 22 June 1945, contributed by the family of PFC Frank J. Caserta, Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division

German Intelligence Noncom Gives G-2 View of 42d

A German G-2 view of the Rainbow was gained when interrogators questioned a PW who was a professor of English in German schools and when called into the German Army, became an interpreter, a translator of captured English documents and an instructor in English as a member of the G-2 Section, 82d Corps, First German Army.

Here are his comments on the Infantry when he had his first contact with it, when as Task Force Linden it was moved into the line in the vicinity of Strasbourg:

"The division was identified at that time by the shoulder patches of the men we captured. I did not personally handle the documents myself, but I know that the officers in the intelligence section had a book which gave the history of all the American divisions and they knew when the division was activated and where it was trained. They also knew when it left the United States, when it landed in Marseilles and the route it took in moving north. I don't know where they obtained this information, but I know they were familiar with every move of the division."



"That's for Joe — he went home on points."

Hatten and Rittershoffen: "I know the G-2 officers were very much surprised at the way the division fought. They always believed the Americans were able to defeat us only if your infantry had overwhelming air and armor and artillery support. They knew your infantry was not supported strongly at Hatten and they thought our infantry and tanks would be able to run right through your green troops. They were amazed at the way your men continued to fight even when they were surrounded and the way they refused to surrender. I have no definite figures, but I know we suffered very heavy losses, much larger than was anticipated, because of the way your men fought. I have heard our officers refer to the 42d Division as 'madmen.'"

Wingen and Wimmenau: "The Division was then considered to be the most active division in our zone and was constantly harrassing us."

Schweinfurt: "We were surprised at the speed with which the division advanced. We didn't believe it possible to move so swiftly through the defenses we had prepared."

The Danube and Lech Rivers: "Both rivers were so swift that it was believed you would not make a crossing, but instead would turn west and go over the bridge which had been seized intact in the vicinity of Dillingen. Certainly we never thought you would cross both rivers the same day."

A listing of American Cemeteries in which rest those WWII Rainbowmen of the 232D Infantry Regiment who made the Supreme Sacrifice and were never repatriated. From "In Search of Rainbow Memorials" by Lise M. Pommois with Charles Fowler, Aegis Publishing Company; available to view online here: https://rainbowvets.org/memorials/

World War II American Cemeteries

LO= Lorraine Saint-Avold (France) – EP= Epinal (France) – HC= Henri Chapelle (Belgium) – LUX= Luxembourg – NE= Netherlands (Margraten) – AR=Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial, Neuville en Condroz (Belgium) – RH=Rhône-Draguignan (France).

232nd Infantry Regiment

ABERCROMBIE James D.	Pvt	CA	03.01.1945	EP
ANDRECHUK Henry	T/Sgt	NY	04.04.1945	LO
BAKER Charles A.	Pfc	LA	01.14.1945	EP
BENNETT Donald D.	S/Sgt	WI	04.06.1945	LO
BERTLER Gerald L.	Sgt	WI	03.19.1945	LO
BILZ Lewis D.	Pvt	IN	01.06.1945	EP
BOYLE William J.	Pfc	MT	01.19.1945	EP
BREITGHAM Le Roy A.	Pfc	WA	03.03.1945	LO
CANTER Elvin M.	Pfc	VA	03.07.1945	LO
CARLSON Edward C.	Pfc	MN	01.19.1945	LO
CARNEY Leo R.	Sgt	OH	07.03.1945	LO
CASSESE Anthony J.	Pfc	NY	03.19.1945	LO
CASTLE John C. (MIA)	Pvt	OH	03.08.1945	EP
CHRISTMAN R. L. (MIA)	Sgt	CA	01.05.1945	EP
CIZMARIK Andrew	T/Sgt	IL	03.12.1945	LO
CLARKE William J. Jr	1 Lt	CA	01.06.1945	LO
CONNER John R.	Capt	TN	01.05.1945	EP
COPPENRATH George R.	1 Lt	MA	04.09.1945	LO
CRAIG Verlin L.	Pvt	IL	04.04.1945	LO
CZINSKI Alexander P.	S/Sgt	CT	04.24.1945	LO
DEERING Edward W.	Pfc	IL	03.20.1945	LO
DI MAGGIO George F.	Pvt	MD	01.05.1945	LO
DURDA John (MIA)	Pfc	NY	01.18.1945	EP
EVANS Jim	Pfc	AL	07.16.1945	EP
FOWLER John F.	Pfc	OH	04.08.1945	LO
FREDERICKS John D.H.	Pfc	CA	01.20.1945	LO
FUQUA Clarence E.	Pfc	WA	04.08.1945	LO
GAWRLYCZIK Ray C.	Pfc	NY	01.17.1945	LO
GEIGER Byron W.	Pfc	OH	01.18.1945	LO
GLENN Thomas S.	Pvt	MS	03.17.1945	LO
GOVERSKI Frank J.	S/Sgt	NY	01.19.1945	EP
HEMBY Otha D.	Pfc	MS	03.17.1945	LO
HIMELHOCH G. J. (MIA)	Pfc	MI	01.05.1945	EP
HOBART James A	Sgt	IL	01.14.1945	EP
HOWARD John C.	Pvt	FL	01.19.1945	LO
JACKS Worley D. (MIA)	Pfc	OH	03.07.1945	EP
JEPSON William L.	Pfc	WA	04.23.1945	LO
JONES Lloyd A.	Pfc	NE	01.17.1945	LO
JUNE Martin W.	Pfc	NY	03.15.1945	LO
JUNGEN Joseph M.	Pfc	WI	03.27.1945	LO
KAMINSKI Frank E.	Pfc	NY	01.05.1945	LO
KARDONG Edward R.	S/Sgt	WA	01.06.1947	LO
KESSLER Arthur D.	Pfc	IN	02.23.1945	EP
KILE Robert J.	Pfc	IL	05.05.1945	HC
KINSIE William W. (MIA)	Pfc	MO	01.18.1945	EP
KIRBO Everett W.	Pfc	TX	01.06.1945	LO
KITTELSON Elmer	T4	MN	03.25.1945	LO
KOSTKA Harold R.	Pfc	MN	03.08.1945	EP
KUBAS Stanley F.	Pfc	IL	01.05.1945	LO
LAPIDES H. Leon. (MIA)	Pfc	MO	01.21.1945	EP
LAYE Henry M. Jr	2 Lt	SC	01.19.1945	AR
LINDBERG John H.	2 Lt	MN	04.24.1945	LO
LITTERALL Fred Jr	Sgt	OH	03.16.1945	LO
LOWE Frank L.	Pvt	NC	03.17.1945	LO
LUNDSTROM Richard A.	Pfc	OR	03.07.1945	LO
MAGUIRE James D.	Pfc	CA	01.05.1945	EP
MANNIELLO Antonio J.	2 Lt	NY	02.19.1945	EP
MARTINEZ Jess R.	Cpl	LA	03.15.1945	LO
MCCURDY Gerald J. Sr	Sgt	LA	01.05.1945	LO
MCMULLEN Jos. B. (MIA)	Pfc	IL	01.19.1945	LO
METCALFE James R. (MIA)	Sgt	CT	01.19.1945	EP
MILLER Bedford C.	T5	IL	02.26.1945	EP
MILLER Earl F.	T/Sgt	PA	01.05.1945	EP
MURPHY Matthew F.	Pfc	W VA	01.18.1945	LO
PASCO Carl L. (MIA)	S/Sgt	IL	01.19.1945	EP
PATRICK Benjamin	Pfc	KY	04.08.1945	LO
PEELER Franklin H. (MIA)	Pfc	NC	01.18.1945	EP
PITTMAN John M.	Pfc	MO	03.20.1945	LO
PLANT Vernon T.	Pvt	VA	03.21.1945	LO
POPE Ellis M.	Pvt	NC	03.19.1945	LO
RAPP William E.	Pfc	MD	04.07.1945	LO
RAUCH Raymond C.	Pvt	OH	03.11.1945	EP
SAENZ Manuel (MIA)	Pvt	CA	01.17.1945	EP
SAILOR Robert W.	Sgt	OH	01.05.1945	EP
SCHKADE B. W. (MIA)	Pvt	TX	01.19.1945	EP
SCHULZ Kenneth C.	Pfc	WA	02.28.1945	EP
SEAL Leon P.	Pfc	LA	01.31.1945	LO
SETHNE Orville J.	Pfc	SD	03.16.1945	LO
SEVIER Charles E.	Pfc	PA	04.05.1945	LO
SHAW David G.	Pvt	NE	01.06.1945	EP
SHY Carnes L.	Pfc	MO	04.06.1945	LO
SILVER Lee	Capt	FL	02.23.1945	EP
SJOGREEN Glenn N.	Pfc	WA	01.15.1945	EP
SLATER Orval P.	Sgt	TX	03.15.1945	LO
STEARNS Charles E.	Pfc	AR	03.02.1945	LO
STEVENS Robert B. (MIA)	Pfc	MD	01.18.1945	BR
TAYLOR Frank D.	1 Lt	NM	04.24.1945	LO
VERRETT Ranny J. (MIA)	Pvt	LA	01.05.1945	EP
VINSON Joseph W.	Pvt	SC	01.06.1945	EP
WATSON David M.	Pfc	MA	01.06.1945	EP
WEED Charles M.	Pfc	NY	01.18.1945	EP
WHITE Richard D.	Pvt	IA	01.06.1945	EP
WOOLLEY William J.	Pfc	MI	03.10.1945	EP

232D Infantry Regiment Battle Deaths

Pages from the 2008 booklet, 42nd "Rainbow" Division Battle Deaths, WWII

A listing of those Rainbowmen who made the Supreme Sacrifice

"For Your Tomorrow, They Gave Their Today"

Military order of The Purple Heart slogan

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Unit	Serial	Date of Death	
Krauch	Arthur F	S/SGT	232-A	32040058	01/19/45	KIA
Lott	Johnnie E	PFC	232-A	34207254	01/18/45	KIA
Murphy	Mathew F	PFC	232-A	35210262	01/18/45	KIA
Pasco	Carl L	S/SGT	232-A	36613244	01/19/45	KIA
Petersen	Gordon V	SGT	232-A	36274079	01/12/45	DOW
Porter	Melvin F	PFC	232-A	31210677	03/03/45	DOW
Saenz	Manuel	PVT	232-A	39566632	01/17/45	KIA
Schkade	Bernhard W	PVT	232-A	38080030	01/19/45	KIA
Schosser	William M	PFC	232-A	36419936	01/18/45	KIA
Seal	Lon P	PFC	232-A	38312568	01/31/45	DOW
Sethne	Orville J	PFC	232-A	37600485	03/16/45	KIA
Shy	Carnes L	PFC	232-A	37640701	04/06/45	KIA
Cepala	Albert J	PFC	232-A/T	36465073	03/07/45	KIA
Carlson	Edward C	PFC	232-AT	37591935	01/19/45	DOW
Tirro	Bartholomew P	PFC	232-AT	42113952	01/19/45	KIA
Bilz	Lewis D	PVT	232-B	35840196	01/06/45	KIA
Bowen	Eugene J	PFC	232-B	37743357	01/31/45	KIA
Castle	Raymond L	PFC	232-B	42146573	03/17/45	KIA
Chadborne	Donald E	PVT	232-B	31321105	01/05/45	KIA
Chavez	Pedro R	PFC	232-B	38581191	03/15/45	KIA
Chessher	Richard S	PFC	232-B	38632237	03/15/45	KIA
Clarke	William J Jr	1 LT	232-B	01043896	01/06/45	KIA
Cohen	Joseph D	PFC	232-B	32808287	01/16/45	KIA
Donovan	Gladstone W	PFC	232-B	33884975	03/15/45	KIA
Elms	James D	PFC	232-B	37771598	03/15/45	KIA
Geiger	Byron W	PFC	232-B	35220850	01/18/45	DOW
Geisler	Leroy	S/SGT	232-B	38075541	03/15/45	KIA
Grebe	Nelson L Jr	SGT	232-B	37636121	04/20/45	KIA
Hernandez	Hector	PFC	232-B	38579913	04/04/45	KIA
Jones	Lloyd A	PFC	232-B	37743508	01/17/45	KIA
Joslyn	Arthur L	PFC	232-B	36978520	01/17/45	KIA
June	Martin W	PFC	232-B	32200281	03/15/45	KIA
Kirbo	Everett W	PFC	232-B	38414196	01/06/45	KIA
Litterall	Fred Jr	SGT	232-B	35204392	03/16/45	DOW
Maksudian	Herman	S/SGT	232-B	36045700	04/11/45	DOW
Martinez	Jess R	CPL	232-B	39165470	03/25/45	KIA
McGowan	Bernard H	PFC	232-B	16126533	01/17/45	KIA

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Unit	Serial	Date of Death	
Stewart	George Jr	SGT	222-K	32645370	01/26/45	KIA
Towse	Daniel N	S/SGT	222-K	11054380	04/18/45	KIA
Wharton	William G	PFC	222-K	35417417	01/18/45	KIA
Burmester	Herbert G	PVT	222-L	36484451	01/07/45	KIA
DeMatteo	Vincent J	S/SGT	222-L	42023363	01/06/45	KIA
Garza	Adolphe Jr	PFC	222-L	38417145	01/23/45	KIA
Hasz	Bethuel T	PFC	222-L	38696137	07/07/45	DOW
McGraw	Joe A	PFC	222-L	35203352	01/26/45	KIA
Riddick	James B	SGT	222-L	20741048	01/07/45	DOW
Rivera	Jose M	PVT	222-L	38677346	01/09/45	KIA
Svec	Robert J	PVT	222-L	37748205	02/21/45	KIA
Taylor	Charles R	PFC	222-L	31262447	01/23/45	KIA
Thompson	Robert J	PVT	222-L	39098316	05/09/45	KIA
Van Nest	Franklin W	PFC	222-L	39037927	01/26/45	KIA
Young	John F	PFC	222-L	37516472	03/10/45	KIA
Fitzgerald	William R	PFC	222-M	33888157	01/25/45	KIA
Yanke	Otto H	2 LT	222-M	01081588	01/28/45	DOW
Appleby	Walter E	TEC5	222-MED	15331317	03/19/45	DOW
Senger	Harry	TEC4	222-MED	15063355	04/05/45	KIA
Silverfarb	Seymour	PFC	222-MED	32433095	04/11/45	KIA
Struba	Joseph A	PFC	222-MED	33019737	04/27/45	KIA
Fredericks	George R	PFC	222-RHQ	12126603	04/01/45	KIA
St Amand	Walter D	CPL	222-RHQ	11130599	04/01/45	KIA
Tyler	Maurice L Jr	PFC	222-RHQ	13063933	04/01/45	KIA
Williams	John H Jr	PFC	222-RHQ	15341485	03/31/45	KIA
Duplisis	Joseph N	TEC5	222-SV	31013518	01/24/45	KIA
Patrick	Benjamin	PFC	232	35089225	04/08/45	KIA
Abercrombie	James D	PVT	232-A	39592478	03/01/45	KIA
Barnett	John T Jr	SGT	232-A	38677787	03/16/45	KIA
Bartlett	Jack	PVT	232-A	35074578	01/19/45	KIA
Campanella	Silvio C	PFC	232-A	32739715	01/31/45	DOW
Coppenrath	George R	1 LT	232-A	01049449	04/09/45	KIA
Duren	Jack	PFC	232-A	34839187	03/16/45	KIA
Evans	Jim	PFC	232-A	34338236	07/16/45	DOW
Hilterbrand	Harold J	SGT	232-A	35671322	01/18/45	KIA
Howard	John C	PVT	232-A	34979775	01/19/45	KIA
Jaquay	Andrew A	S/SGT	232-A	13000912	03/15/45	KIA

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Unit	Serial	Date of Death	
Metcalfe	James R	SGT	232-B	20128584	01/19/45	KIA
Reeder	William F	PFC	232-B	37524283	01/06/45	KIA
Samra	Nicholas	PVT	232-B	36873541	07/02/45	DOW
Shaw	David G	PVT	232-B	37363900	01/06/45	KIA
Snow	Joseph K	PFC	232-B	37749944	03/15/45	KIA
Steburg	Donald A	PFC	232-B	37696959	04/06/45	KIA
Thrasher	Doil M	PVT	232-B	34990694	03/16/45	KIA
White	Richard D	PVT	232-B	37696793	01/06/45	KIA
Woolley	William J	PFC	232-B	36976891	03/10/45	DOW
Andrechuk	Henry	T/SGT	232-C	6980133	04/04/45	DOW
Bennett	Donald J	S/SGT	232-C	36808063	04/06/45	KIA
Booth	Thomas A Jr	S/SGT	232-C	38144597	04/05/45	DOW
Clark	Rulon J	SGT	232-C	19010737	02/28/45	DOW
Craig	Verlin L	PVT	232-C	36097840	04/04/45	KIA
DeMelas	Salvatore J	PFC	232-C	33476517	04/09/45	DOW
Diminico	Nicholas	PFC	232-C	31427104	04/04/45	KIA
Kardong	Edward R	S/SGT	232-C	39212722	01/06/45	KIA
Lowe	Frank L	PVT	232-C	34380086	03/17/45	DOW
McCord	Richard L	PVT	232-C	37748760	03/19/45	KIA
Rauch	Raymond C	PVT	232-C	35844757	03/11/45	KIA
Slater	Orval P	SGT	232-C	38433076	03/15/45	KIA
Boyle	William J	PFC	232-D	39610892	01/19/45	KIA
Davis	George H	2 LT	232-D	01328015	04/09/45	KIA
Dillon	Stephen A Jr	PFC	232-D	33767070	03/15/45	KIA
Green	Everett E	PVT	232-D	6936312	01/19/45	KIA
Scheuer	Donald A	SGT	232-D	35548676	01/19/45	KIA
Stowe	Philip H	PVT	232-D	34932736	04/09/45	DOW
Callinan	Thomas R	2 LT	232-E	O-549519	01/06/45	KIA
Cantu	Claude N	PFC	232-E	38364561	04/08/45	KIA
Cizmarik	Andrew	T/SGT	232-E	36000056	03/12/45	KIA
Crabtree	Hosea E	PFC	232-E	34794701	01/06/45	KIA
Fowler	John F	PFC	232-E	35930047	04/08/45	KIA
Hart	Carl A	PFC	232-E	38699741	01/05/45	KIA
Lindberg	John H	2 LT	232-E	01049558	04/24/45	KIA
McCrone	Henry M Jr	PFC	232-E	44005265	04/08/45	KIA
McDavid	Randolph B	SGT	232-E	34842555	04/01/45	KIA
Novakofski	Raymond A	PFC	232-E	36812879	04/17/45	KIA

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Unit	Serial	Date of Death	
Rudd	Jonathan	2 LT	232-E	01081625	01/06/45	KIA
Simpson	Horace E Jr	PFC	232-E	20224301	01/06/45	KIA
Watson	David M	PFC	232-E	31359043	01/06/45	KIA
Wolfe	William A	PFC	232-E	35243638	01/06/45	KIA
Amarante	Frank	PFC	232-F	32990393	04/19/45	KIA
Beindorf	Robert W	PFC	232-F	35553056	01/26/45	KIA
Briant	Fred J	PFC	232-F	37744707	04/10/45	KIA
Bumpus	Joseph V	PVT	232-F	36979265	01/06/45	KIA
Canales	Arcadio	PFC	232-F	38677619	01/05/45	KIA
Churetta	John S	PFC	232-F	33620037	03/20/45	KIA
Coleman	Edward J	S/SGT	232-F	34278746	01/14/45	KIA
Crane	Ralph L	PVT	232-F	35840771	01/06/45	KIA
Deering	Edward W	PFC	232-F	36908127	03/20/45	KIA
Fishman	Irwin S	PFC	232-F	12226874	04/09/45	KIA
Frum	Andrew J	PVT	232-F	35086999	01/14/45	KIA
Goldberg	Irwin E	PFC	232-F	31412272	03/20/45	KIA
Hobart	James A	SGT	232-F	16003741	01/14/45	KIA
Pittman	John M	PFC	232-F	37749911	03/20/45	KIA
Roark	Henry K	2 LT	232-F	O-555586	01/06/45	KIA
Townsend	Claude E	T/SGT	232-F	37155204	04/27/45	KIA
Vinson	Joseph W	PVT	232-F	34382458	01/06/45	KIA
Bertler	Gerald L	SGT	232-G	36981862	03/19/45	KIA
Breitgham	Le Roy A	PFC	232-G	39467459	03/03/45	KIA
Cassese	Anthony J	PFC	232-G	42176635	03/19/45	KIA
Chicco	Anthony J	PFC	232-G	33616096	03/19/45	KIA
Christman	Robert L	SGT	232-G	19186994	01/05/45	KIA
Cole	Robert M	PVT	232-G	35233024	01/05/45	KIA
DiMaggio	George F	PVT	232-G	33890029	01/05/45	KIA
Glenn	Thomas S	PVT	232-G	34874759	04/17/45	KIA
Gwyn	Charles E	PFC	232-G	44016398	03/19/45	KIA
Haldeman	John E	PFC	232-G	42096212	03/19/45	KIA
Himelhoch	Gilbert J	PFC	232-G	16113015	01/05/45	KIA
Howard	William R	PFC	232-G	38569915	03/19/45	KIA
Jones	Burley E	PFC	232-G	36977142	03/19/45	KIA
Jungen	Joseph M	PFC	232-G	36844462	03/27/45	DOW
Kaminski	Frank E	PFC	232-G	42141427	01/05/45	KIA
Kile	Robert J	PVT	232-G	36704403	05/05/45	PWC

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Unit	Serial	Date of Death	
Kubas	Stanley F	PFC	232-G	36781872	01/05/45	KIA
Lipschultz	Norman E	PFC	232-G	36674581	04/04/45	DOW
Maguire	James D	PFC	232-G	39565350	01/05/45	KIA
McCurdy	Gerald J Sr	SGT	232-G	38497983	01/05/45	KIA
Mooney	Charles M	PFC	232-G	32566315	02/22/45	KIA
Nash	Curtis A	PFC	232-G	33859089	03/19/45	KIA
Pontarelli	Dominick	PFC	232-G	36967519	01/05/45	KIA
Pope	Ellis M	PVT	232-G	34258765	03/19/45	KIA
Rapp	William E	PFC	232-G	33908793	04/07/45	DOW
Silver	Lee	CAPT	232-G	01640007	02/23/45	KIA
Sinks	Edward W	SGT	232-G	16070352	03/15/45	KIA
Summers	Eugene P	PFC	232-G	35040941	01/05/45	KIA
Teegarden	Roy T	PFC	232-G	35088019	01/05/45	KIA
Sebrell	Virginius F	PFC	232-H	13117667	01/07/45	KIA
Davis	Dudley L	PVT	232-H1B	38656207	03/15/45	KIA
Durda	John	PFC	232-H1B	32663911	01/18/45	KIA
Froehlich	Mathew C	TEC5	232-H1B	37171827	01/06/45	KIA
Fuller	William C Jr	PFC	232-H1B	34822729	01/19/45	KIA
Goverski	Frank J	S/SGT	232-H1B	32047380	01/19/45	KIA
Jepson	William L	PFC	232-H1B	39333604	04/23/45	KIA
McMullen	Joseph B	PFC	232-H1B	36378797	01/19/45	KIA
Plant	Vernon T	PVT	232-H1B	33907567	03/21/45	DOW
Vidrine	William	PVT	232-H1B	38654412	01/17/45	KIA
Clayton	Charles L	PVT	232-H2B	35841271	01/07/45	KIA
Mandel	Sidney D	CPL	232-H2B	12147427	01/06/45	KIA
Carney	Leo R	SGT	232-H3B	35315523	07/03/45	DOW
Davis	Eustace B	1/SGT	232-H3B	34113417	04/27/45	DOW
Puhn	George D	1 LT	232-H3B	01081716	03/17/45	KIA
Taylor	Frank D	1 LT	232-H3B	O-551739	04/24/45	DOW
Baker	Charles A	PFC	232-I	38656582	01/14/45	KIA
Beckwith	Charles G	S/SGT	232-I	36680972	03/19/45	KIA
Brewster	Haywood D	PFC	232-I	38602819	03/07/45	KIA
Derooy	Felix J	2LT	232-I	O-550607	01/06/45	KIA
Fredericks	John D III	PFC	232-I	19132453	01/20/45	KIA
Gage	Donald F	PFC	232-I	39023459	04/09/45	KIA
Greene	Floyd L	S/SGT	232-I	39150942	03/16/45	KIA
Haynie	Joe W	S/SGT	232-I	6393450	03/17/45	KIA

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Unit	Serial	Date of Death	
Hemby	Otha D	PFC	232-I	34914405	03/17/45	KIA
Hensley	W B	PFC	232-I	34924775	01/15/45	KIA
Hunsinger	Richard W	PFC	232-I	16123532	01/15/45	KIA
James	Styron P	PFC	232-I	44010554	03/15/45	KIA
Kemp	Norman A	PFC	232-I	36473530	04/09/45	KIA
Kennedy	James A	PFC	232-I	39423416	03/13/45	KIA
Kessler	Arthur D	PFC	232-I	35140332	02/23/45	KIA
Kittelson	Elmer	TEC4	232-I	37271531	03/25/45	DOW
Lynd	James D	PFC	232-I	37750793	04/09/45	KIA
Myrick	Charles	PFC	232-I	34916299	04/09/45	DOW
Schulz	Kenneth C	PFC	232-I	39476183	02/28/45	KIA
Sevier	Charles E	PFC	232-I	13197179	04/05/45	KIA
Shade	Richard O	PVT	232-I	35088993	04/05/45	DOW
Sharich	Paul J	SGT	232-I	37303019	01/05/45	KIA
Sjogren	Glenn N	PFC	232-I	39476187	01/15/45	KIA
Swafford	Wiley J	PVT	232-I	38666060	01/07/45	DOW
Cox	Marion J	PFC	232-K	35129912	04/06/45	DOW
Czcinski	Alexander P	S/SGT	232-K	31281402	04/24/45	KIA
Gawrlyczik	Raymond C	PFC	232-K	42141332	01/17/45	KIA
Gilson	Floyd W	S/SGT	232-K	36109373	01/05/45	KIA
Jahr	Werner A	PFC	232-K	37310540	09/01/45	DOW
Kinsie	William W	PFC	232-K	37743728	01/18/45	KIA
Lapides	H Leonard	PFC	232-K	37511823	01/21/45	KIA
Laye	Henry M Jr	2 LT	232-K	O-552664	01/19/45	KIA
Mulch	Harry J Jr	PFC	232-K	42083795	04/10/45	KIA
Peeler	Franklin H	PFC	232-K	20454924	01/18/45	KIA
Rieger	Joseph T	SGT	232-K	32973395	12/24/44	KIA
Sailor	Robert W	SGT	232-K	35629970	01/05/45	KIA
Stearns	Charles E	PFC	232-K	18249316	03/02/45	KIA
Stevens	Robert B	PFC	232-K	33390096	01/18/45	KIA
Twombly	Richard W	2 LT	232-K	O-549791	01/06/45	KIA
Weed	Charles M	PFC	232-K	32843061	01/18/45	DOW
Cagle	A J	SGT	232-L	34827582	03/07/45	KIA
Canter	Elvin M	PFC	232-L	33663553	03/07/45	KIA
Castle	John C	PVT	232-L	35072353	03/08/45	KIA
Fuqua	Clarence E	PFC	232-L	39346094	04/08/45	KIA
Gudgell	Lloyd W	PFC	232-L	16012286	01/15/45	KIA

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Unit	Serial	Date of Death	
Higdon	James J	PVT	232-L	34737577	03/07/45	KIA
Jacks	Worley D	PFC	232-L	35087716	03/07/45	KIA
Kostka	Harold R	PFC	232-L	37600070	03/08/45	KIA
Lackey	William H	CPL	232-L	18214039	01/08/45	DOW
Larios	Augustin C	PFC	232-L	38061123	01/05/45	KIA
Manniello	Antonio J	2 LT	232-L	02006222	02/19/45	KIA
Miller	Bedford C	TEC5	232-L	36726472	02/26/45	DOW
Orem	Donald W	PVT	232-L	35092448	05/05/45	KIA
Pennington	Algie L	PFC	232-L	38668894	04/15/45	KIA
Stuart	Frederick D	PFC	232-L	36861370	01/05/45	KIA
Suire	Olan J	PFC	232-L	38490823	01/05/45	KIA
Umfress	Cecil V	PFC	232-L	34939902	03/07/45	KIA
Verrett	Ranny J	PVT	232-L	38656431	01/05/45	KIA
Childress	William H	CPL	232-M	35689013	01/05/45	KIA
Conner	John R	CAPT	232-M	01283377	01/05/45	KIA
Fiedorczyk	Edward J	PFC	232-M	36672587	01/26/45	KIA
Lewis	Robert	CPL	232-M	34258982	03/16/45	KIA
Lundstrom	Richard A	PFC	232-M	19202195	03/07/45	KIA
Miller	Earl F	T/SGT	232-M	06947298	01/05/45	KIA
Thompson	James W	PVT	232-M	37356758	04/12/45	KIA
Cassel	Robert R	TEC5	232-RHQ	16075583	04/10/45	DOW
Durian	Harold D	PVT	242-A	37696928	01/09/45	KIA
Finley	Harold L	PVT	242-A	15807072	01/09/45	KIA
Gerow	Norman E	PVT	242-A	36979091	01/27/45	KIA
Joplin	James B	PVT	242-A	37640709	04/09/45	KIA
McCann	John B	PVT	242-A	32511262	03/19/45	KIA
Prosser	Laurel E	CPL	242-A	35147987	04/17/45	KIA
Smith	Bill Jr	PFC	242-A	37061276	01/09/45	KIA
Starling	Jasper E	S/SGT	242-A	14012907	01/09/45	KIA
Watkinson	Gordon L	PVT	242-A	39206548	01/09/45	KIA
Wedding	Robert C	TEC5	242-A	35505918	01/09/45	KIA
Wittman	Everett C	S/SGT	242-A	42006819	01/08/45	KIA
Chaney	Glenn F	PFC	242-AT	35707824	02/24/45	KIA
Mastalir	Joseph	SGT	242-AT	32615082	01/15/45	KIA
Mastel	Joe W	S/SGT	242-AT	37089876	01/13/45	DOW
Milam	Otis G Jr	CPL	242-AT	18098875	01/09/45	KIA
Mundy	Jack C	CPL	242-AT	34777267	01/18/45	DOW

TELL THE CHILDREN

Tell the children, they ought to know,
Why there's freedom here today.
Tell the children, make them understand,
The price some had to pay.
Of those who stood up for freedom,
Teach them never to forget
Of the fields scarred with sacrifice
By those they never met.
Tell the children they can dream of tomorrow
Because of brave men yesterday,
Who fought on desert sands and stormy seas
In places far away.
Tell the children about our veterans,
So they need not ask why.
And to feel the pride within,
As they fly our flag on high.
Tell the children so that they will know,
Why there's peace here today,
And perhaps when childhood passes through,
They will honor yesterday.



[This poem was printed in the April 2000 issue of REVEILLE, two months after the Millennium Chapter was presented with its charter as an official part of the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. and signed, "Your Editor." The REVEILLE Editor at that time and for twenty years was Ken Carpenter, who served in H Co. 232nd Inf. Regt. Prior to serving in the 42D "Rainbow" Division, Ken served in Sicily in the 82nd Airborne Division. He was awarded The Bronze Star Medal and two Silver Stars and the Purple Heart. He passed 'over The Rainbow' in January 2010]

Reprinted from the January 2017 issue of REVEILLE



4-STAR GENERAL MARK W. CLARK WAS MY BOSS!
From Louis E. Hubach, B/232nd Infantry, 42nd "Rainbow" Division
Photo General Mark W. Clark at presentation of the Army Commendation Medal to Sergeant Louis E. Hubach

At the end of fighting in May 1945 my Rainbow Division was assigned occupation duty in Austria. During the earliest days I was able to put my 2 years of high school German language to good use. In two separate assignments I was Interpreter for a team sent into high Alps Mountains by Jeep to two different jobs. First, since there had been rumors of Nazis hiding out in remote towns, we were trying to find them. Mostly the dreaded SS were our targets. All in all, we located about 20 of them, and they were arrested. The other job consisted in going back to those same towns and trying to interview applicants for telephone operators. It was tough tm bm alking with all those pretty young Fräuleins!



After some weeks we were transferred to the City of Salzburg, famous for being the home of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. During that time we were an Honor Guard Company available to parade for important Visitors. My job was an honor to carry the Stars & Stripes!

During that time, I got a call from Company Headquarters to report for an interview. It was because of my German language. It turned out from the four U.S. Divisions in Austria that meant 12 Regiments, from each Regiment in the U.S. Occupation Forces in Austria. They asked for two candidates from each Regiment to report for an interview for a mystery job. Again, because of my "vast experience" of two years of High School German, I was one of two from the 232nd Regiment.

After preliminary interviews in Salzburg, a few, I'm not positive, but probably 6 of us were sent to Vienna, where Headquarters was located. To be brief, it was for the job of sole Bodyguard/Interpreter for 4-Star Commanding General Mark W. Clark. I was picked for the job.

The main duty was to ride "shotgun" in the General's 7-passenger Cadillac Limousine! Wherever the General wanted to go, his driver, Ray Van Noy and I took him. From his Villa to office and back plus numerous evening engagements including one to the Villa of Marshal Ivan Koniev, Russian Commander in Austria. The Russian driver for Koniev was very protective of our driver, Ray, but his buddies tried unsuccessfully to put me under the table with vodka. It was fun since the trip was escorted up to the Russian border by our 8-motorcycle escort.

Most days were rather plain trips but it was fun. Incidentally, beside my .45 Automatic Pistol side arm, beneath my seat was a .45 Tommy gun which I never had to show.

The General's car had a special license plate – chrome frame, red panel and 4 big silver stars. It was my job to be sure that was covered when he was not aboard.

We did take a few trips. After the war the Italians, who loved the General, gave him the train of 5 Special Cars, former train of Mussolini, Italian Dictator, including two built to load 4 cars. One trip was a vacation to Switzerland. The Swiss would not allow the train into their country, so we took the Cadillac. When we got to Berne, the General hired a Swiss driver and car to give us a rest. I was fortunate to find that an old college friend of my mother had married a Swiss

man and they had a son, Robin. I had to take a Swiss train from Berne to Zurich. I stayed only a couple of days before going back to join driver Ray.

Another trip was to Rome, Italy, where the General had been invited by the Vatican to attend a Consistory of Cardinals, the first from the end of the war. We took the train, no outriders, just the General's car going through the Brenner Pass into Italy. The Italian rail folks provided four locomotives to assure maximum speed through the Pass. It was fun as we stayed at the Excelsior Hotel, reserved for Majors and & higher rank, nurses on their own floor, and only two enlisted men, Ray & me! I went "on the town" one evening to a local USO club and ran into 8 of my old buddies from Company B, my company. Small world.

Since the General had been vacationing on the Isle of Capri, off Naples, we had to drive there to pick him up and bring him up to Rome for the Vatican Ceremonies. Ray and I did not get into the ceremony, but sat in the car talking to the Swiss Guards. The trip home was uneventful.

The only other trip was to a hunting-fishing lodge he had in Hinterstoder, Austria. It was a short car trip into the mountains. He took a guest along; they were old West Point pals. The guest was General Clark's boss, Ike Eisenhower. They wanted minimum attendance while fishing, but asked me to come help them. Mainly, my job was to jump on the trout they caught, remove the hook, put the fish in their creel, re-bait the hook, etc. So, you could say that for awhile I was also bodyguard to Ike!

Lastly, we had a visitor from the states who was Ex-President Herbert Hoover, who was appointed by FDR to do a survey of the food and living conditions of the civilians, as he had done this after WWI. The General released his car, driver and me to chauffer Mr. Hoover around for his visit of some days. That's President #2!

My term with General Clark went from August 1945 to July 1946 when I was sent home. I had enjoyed living in his villa until his wife and teenaged daughter came to live for a while. I was sent back to the home behind the Villa, where Ray stayed.

While in Vienna, I was officially assigned to the C.G. Section, C.G. standing, of course, for Commanding General. There were 8 or 10 others also serving as Military Police and outriders with motorcycles and sirens. Those guys had a pet mascot dog. While they were away, they needed a dog sitter. An interesting First

Lt. named John Eisenhower was their man. General Clark's son, Bill had also graduated in June from West Point so he got assigned to my Rainbow Division, but visited his father often. His main contribution that I saw was to take the General's gift from the Italians of an Alpha Romeo sports car out for a ride and back into a pole causing our maintenance people to repair the aluminum body damage. Ray and I rode it a few times in the Vienna woods just behind the Villa.

Our meals were taken in the General's kitchen where he had 2 Italian waiters, and the Executive chef from the Excelsior Hotel in Rome, and all of the best that his two Mess Sergeants could find from the Commissary.

It was a very unusual assignment, one I enjoyed thoroughly, and created many of my fondest Army memories. Signed, Ex-Sergeant Louis E. Hubach, 15399642, who was grateful to make it home alive.



The sketch showing Sgt. Louis "Deutch" Hubach studying a German dictionary was sent by Louis Hubach – it is one of a number of sketches of members of Company B, 232nd Infantry Regiment created by PFC Edward F. Pepan. PFC Pepan later became Assistant to the Director of Public Information at Marquette University. His photo image, from the yearbook, HILLTOP (1962) is credited to the "Department of Special Collections and University Archives, Marquette University Libraries."

The complete scroll of color sketches by PFC Edward F. Pepan may be viewed at
The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida. The caricatures scroll's Object ID is 2002.1.3 and the Memoir scrolls Object ID 2006.2.69.
Cody Rademacher, Curatorial Specialist
The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida
239-263-9200 ext. 208 cody@holocaustmuseumswfl.org
www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org



UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA

Certificate of Commendation

IS AWARDED TO

SERGEANT LOUIS B. HUBACH

CITATION

LOUIS B. HUBACH, 15399642, Sergeant, Infantry, United States Army, for commendable service from 5 January 1946 to 12 April 1946. Sergeant Hubach served as driver and interpreter to the Commanding General, United States Forces in Austria, accompanying him on his frequent trips to the outlying areas of the command. He willingly and efficiently performed his duties at all times and under all conditions, with no regard for personal comfort or leisure time. His consistently excellent performance of his duties at all times reflects great credit upon him. Sergeant Hubach is hereby authorized to wear the Army Commendation Ribbon by direction of the Secretary of War.

Mark W. Clark

MARK W. CLARK
GENERAL U.S.A.
COMMANDING

HEADQUARTERS 232D INFANTRY
APO 411 US ARMY

PHASES OF OPERATION AND REGIMENTAL COMMAND POST LOCATIONS OF THE 232D INFANTRY IN THE ETO

As unit of Task Force Linden through 5 February 1945 and as unit of 42 Infantry "Rainbow" Division beginning 6 February 1945
(Note: Dates of CP locations are opening dates. Troops and CP's of lower echelons frequently entered the same towns on earlier dates.)

A. STAGING AREA (8-19 Dec. 1944):
   1. Dec. 8 CP 2 near Marseille, France

B. MOTOR AND RAIL MARCH TO ASSIGNED SECTOR (20-23 Dec. 1944):
   2. Dec. 20 Airport near St. Rombert
   3. Dec. 21 Dijon
   4. Dec. 22 Merhange
   5. Dec. 23 Schiltigheim

C. WATCH ON THE RHINE (24 Dec. 1944 - 4 Jan. 1945):
   6. Dec. 31 Reichstett

D. DEFENSE OF STRASBOURG AND ALSACE (5-8 Jan. 1945):
   7. Jan. 5 La Wantzenau

E. REGROUPING AND CONTINUED DEFENSE OF ALSACE (9-20 Jan. 1945):
   8. Jan. 9 Camp d'Oberhoffen
   9. Jan. 14 Schirrhoffen
   10. Jan. 19 Haguenau Forest (west side)
   11. Jan. 20 Haguenau Forent (east side)

F. BREAK IN CONTACT (21-24 Jan. 1945)
   2. Jan. 21 Haguenau
   13. Jan. 21 Bossendorf

G. BATTLE OF THE MODER (25-26 Jan. 1945):
   14. Jan. 25 Berstheim
   15. Jan. 25 Deffendorf
   16. Jan. 26 Ettendorf

H. RE-EQUIPPING AND REGROUPING WITH DIV ARTY AND SP TRS

(27 Jan. - 16 Feb. 1945):
17. Jan. 27 Moncel

I. ACTIVE DEFENSE AND PREPARATIONS FOR DRIVE (17 Feb. -15 Mar. 1945):
18. Feb. 17 Wimmenau
19. Mar. 14 Dugouts near Lichtenberg

J. BEGINNING OF DRIVE - BATTLE OF HARDT MOUNTAINS (16-18 Mar. 1945):
20. Mar. 17 Barenthal
21. Mar. 17 Phillipsbourg
22. Mar. 18 Neunhoffen
23. Mar. 18 Obersteinbach

K. BREACH OF SIEGFRIED LINE (19-22 Mar. 1945):
24. Mar. 19 Petersbachel, Germany
25. Mar. 22 Ludwigswinkel
26. Mar. 23 Schindhard

L. PINCH-OUT (23-30 Mar. 1945):
27. Mar. 23 Oberschlettenbach

M. CROSSING OF THE RHINE (31 Mar. - 1 Apr. 1945):
28. Apr. 1 Monchberg

N. CROSSINGS OF THE MAIN AND DRIVE ON WURZBURG (2-5 Apr. 1945):
29. Apr. 2 Unter Altenbach
30. Apr. 3 Esselbach
31. Apr. 3 Grueussenheim
32. Apr. 4 Hochberg
33. Apr. 5 Wurzburg

O. MOPPING UP - ATTACK ON SCHWEINFURT (6-13 Apr. 1945):
34. Apr. 7 Guntersleben
35. Apr. 8 Thungen
36. Apr. 9 Heugrunbach
37. Apr. 9 Schwebenreid
38. Apr. 9 Obbach
39. Apr. 10 Obenhausen
40. Apr. 11 Hambach
41. Apr. 11 Dittlebrunn
42. Apr. 12 Obbach

P. ATTACK ON FURTH-NURNBURG AREA (14-20 Apr. 1945):
43. Apr. 14 Willanzheim

44. Apr. 15 Markt Bibart
45. Apr. 16 Unternesselbach
46. Apr. 17 Shellert
47. Apr. 17 Laubendorf
48. Apr. 17 Rossendorf
49. Apr. 18 Cadolzburg
50. Apr. 19 Zirndorf

Q. APPROACH TO AND CROSSING OF THE DANUBE AND THE LECH (21-26 Apr. 1945):
51. Apr. 21 Gross Weismannsdorf
52. Apr. 21 Kammerstein
53. Apr. 21 Berthelmesaurach
54. Apr. 22 Wassermungenau
55. Apr. 23 Absberg
56. Apr. 23 Dittenheim
57. Apr. 23 Degersheim
58. Apr. 24 Dockingen
59. Apr. 24 Funfstetten
60. Apr. 25 Itzling
61. Apr. 25 Buchdorf
62. Apr. 26 Altisheim
63. Apr. 26 Genderkingen
64. Apr. 26 Muhlflecken

R. PURSUIT TOWARD MUNICH (27 Apr. - 1 May 1945):
65. Apr. 27 Rain
66. Apr. 28 Unter Barr
67. Apr. 29 Oberbachern
68. May 1 Allach
69. May 1 Kirch-Trudering

S. CONTINUED PURSUIT AND MOPPING UP (2-8 May 1945):
70. May 2 Harthshausen
71. May 2 Hunting Lodge west of Zorneding
72. May 3 Straussdorf
73. May 4 Schonstett
74. May 4 Pittenhart
75. May 5 Tittmoning

T. GERMAN SURRENDER - OCCUPATION (9 May 1945-):
76. May 12 St. Johann, Austria
77. May 20 Bad Aibling, Germany
78. May 27 Worgl, Austria

"RAINBOW FAREWELL"

Rainbow is more than the color in the sky – more than the sunlight shining on the rain. It is to us, a symbol of the strength and character of the finest fighting men in America; a symbol of our love of country and comrades, transcending the love of life itself. As God gave the rainbow to man as a sign of eternal promise, so have "Rainbowers" accepted it as their pledge in turn, that Freedom - Equality – Justice – and Humanity – shall prevail.

For all this many of our comrades, under the tender coverlet of Old Glory, have been carried to the end of the Rainbow. In tribute to their services and sacrifices, these final words are said in farewell,

"Dear Departed Comrade:

It seems but a few short years since we stood shoulder to shoulder under that brilliant hued ARC that stretched from the old province of Lorraine to the tangled forests of the Argonne in WWI and from Strasbourg to Vienna in WWII.

How well we remember the toil, the sweat, the fears, those days when so many of our comrades were called upon to give the supreme sacrifice.
A friendship such as ours would only have been conceived in battle, at a time when our lives depended so much upon one another.

It has only been through the Grace of God that we have been given the privilege of continuing our comradeship these many years. We are proud to have been your friend. God has given us a fellowship that we in our hearts believe has never been equaled.

No words could ever mar, no deeds could end this comradeship of ours, dear friend.

Your mission in following the Rainbow to its glorious end was not to find the proverbial pot of gold, but rather the noble purpose of bringing added glory to the Flag of Our Country. This you have done.

We salute you.

You have now answered the call of the Celestial Bugler. With silent marching feet you have enrolled in that great Spirit Army.

We pray God, that we too may find the way – some day - and assemble with you upon that Eternal Parade Ground."

Writer Unknown
The Minnesota Rainbow Chapter Veterans, 42nd Division Veterans Association
Given to Dee R. Eberhart by Vassil "Rube" Evanoff, February 1992.

In honor of and with deepest respect for the service and lives of men of the Rainbow Division we include this poem, read in remembrance by many families over the years –

He had walked among these tall trees many times before,
Marching up these same grassy slopes with fellow officers and men
To offer solemn tribute to other fallen comrades…
In full bright sun, in sleet-gray mists, and in all seasons.
The walks weighed heavily these past few years, slowing his pace.
The farewells sharpening the pain of final separation.
And yet today, this day, when he must walk on ahead, alone,
He felt his stride stronger, surer than it had been in years.
This final mission held no fear for him…
He had faced this adversary many times before.
And there, up ahead, stood his comrades, his special honor guard,
Old, dear friends, lining his pathway.
With orders in hand, with one last brief look backward,
He moved from us into the realm of Almighty God.
By his steadfast, unwavering example,
To remain deep in our hearts for all eternity.

--- Robert J. Baker