

1-4-1945

"Mack" McCormack Given Citations 1-4-1945

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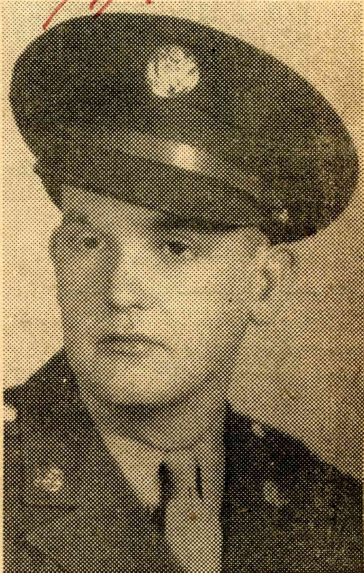
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"Mack" McCormack Given Citations



Decorations of the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart have been awarded to Private Maurice L. McCormack, according to information received by his wife in St. Louis and by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy McCormack in Newton.

These citations as announced by the War Department makes Private McCormack one of the outstanding heroes from Jasper county in the present conflict on French and German soil.

Immediately before entering the service Maurice was employed as a bacteriologist at the Anheuser Busch plant in St. Louis and before that was employed as a member of the faculty of Newton Community High School.

His recommendation for the Silver Star was for gallantry in action. The Purple Heart was awarded Sept 17th for wounds received in battle, some time during August, and on October 14th he received the Bronze Star, it being awarded him for gallantry in action. He received the following official citation;

(1) For giving aid to casualties under fire, while the Company was tied down in their Fox holes.

(2) For Giving aid to a soldier who had been shot and wounded by a German sniper, and while the same sniper was shooting at him.

(3) For going out between the lines and assisting three wounded soldiers out when other aid men had refused.

(4) For crawling out into the enemy lines at night, rescuing a wounded soldier that could not be reached during daylight. The batallion with which he was connected during the siege and capture of Brest was awarded the "Presidential Citation."

Maurice has also had the experience of capturing over a hundred German prisoners with only the assistance of two dough boys. On this occasion a German officer came out under a white flag and stated that he had some German soldiers that were ready to surrender, but wanted to surrender to some one wearing a Red Cross emblem in order that they might be protected from the French by the Geneva convention. Maurice volunteered for this esrvice, and two soldiers were sent along with him armed with machine guns. One soldier stationed himself at the back of the building where the Germans were quartered, the other at the front and Maurice went in and brought them out, and escorted them to the American lines.

His parents received a letter from him this week that had been dated December 18 and this brought them a measure of relief, since they had no word from him since the start of the big German assult on December 16. In a previous letter, dated December 4, he stated he was stationed in Germany in a hospital set up in an old school building that had many battle scars on it. At that time he was working in the dispensary of the hospital.