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# V.J. AWARD CEREMONY

In a special "Victory" award presentation ceremony last night, Col. Francis X. Purcell, Jr., Commanding Officer, 1301st Engineer Regiment, presented one Soldier's Medal, sixteen Bronze Star Medals and three Purple Hearts to members of this Regiment.

The awards had been granted by General George S. Patton, Jr., Commanding General, Third United States Army, just before this unit had left the St. Victor-et Staging Area.

The presentation speech by Col. Purcell follows:

"In the hour of victory, as in less happy hours in the past, it is my proudest privilege to salute the men that have made the 1301st Engineers the finest regiment in the army, and particularly those whose outstanding performance has merited individual recognition."

"Some of these awards have been long in coming. Many more deserved, but it is impossible to place the credit where it is due. When I think of the bold tactics of our companies during the race across Normandy, the bitter work in the rain and mud around Verdun, the mine fields and artillery fire of the Moselle and the Saar, and the grueling day and night effort on the Rhine, the Main and the Danube, I feel that everyone in the regiment has earned a dozen medals. The few that we are issuing today, together with those already issued, represent the appreciation of the government and people of the United States for the exceptional work of these men and, by reflected glory, for us who fought and worked with them.

There are many events in our history that we can speak of with just pride, whether we find ourselves among combat infantrymen or the courageous men of our Navy, or the brave fliers of our Air Force. The engineers needn't take off their hats to anyone."

"There was the time, back in Normandy, when the army engineer assigned us a sector forty miles long for road maintenance on the main supply route. I asked him, 'Who is in front of us?' and he said the 1101st Engineers. I asked, 'Who is on our right?' and he said the 1306th

Engineers. I asked him who is on our left?' and he said, 'Five German Panzer divisions!' "A" Company sent out a few scouts to keep the German Panzers under control, and went ahead with their work. "B" Company was not quite so close, so they just ignored the Germans. "C" Company, in addition to their other duties, took over a German ammunition dump."

"Then there was the job that "C" Company did, back near Avranches, when the German spearhead threatened to pinch off the whole Third Army and the Luftwaffe was raining down bombs on the narrow neck of land that remained to us. But the bridge had to be built, and they built it."

"There was "D" Company's bridge over the Marne at Joinville, when they fought rising water night after night to keep the only supply route open."

"There was "F" Company's heroic stand at Pont-a-Mousson, when the whole right wing of the Third Army depended upon their holding the bridge and the dyke. For a solid week the fight went on, and there was no saying who would win. But when the river subsided, not one hour had been lost because of the flood!"

"On all of these jobs, the equipment operators and drivers and surveyors of Headquarters Company worked with the line companies, and the administrative men kept their records by candle light."

"Now it is all over. These are the happiest days that the world has seen in six dreary, dismal years. But we will never forget the comradeship of the dark days, or regret the sacrifices that we have made for our children, our country and the world."

"And now, we salute the men who are now about to receive the just award of their special sacrifice and effort."

## SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Tec 4 John A. Holleri, "D" Company

## BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Chaplain (Captain) Clifford H. Winfordn

1st Lt. Robert D. [unclear]

1st Lt. Frank A. [unclear]

1st/Sgt Jacob Lang [unclear], Jr., "B" Company

S/Sgt Herbert J. [unclear], "B" Company

S/Sgt George R. Murphy, "B" Company

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# AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY

(Cont'd from page one, Col. 2)

Sgt. Earl J. Saxton, "A" Company  
 Sgt. Archie C. Lightfoot, "C" Company  
 Tec 4 Antone F. Rego, "B" Company  
 Tec 5 Calvin E. Swift, "C" Company  
 Cpl Oscar L. Jenson, "B" Company  
 Pfc Ralph O. Hawkes, "A" Company

## REGIMENTAL AWARDS

Since this regiment landed in France, in August 6, 1944, the following officers and enlisted men have received awards as listed below:

### SOLDIERS' MEDAL

Capt. Nathan Bickford, Co. "F"  
 Tec 5 Joseph Demers, Co. "F"  
 Tec 5 Alfred Ness, H&S Co.  
 Pfc Robert J. Caputo, Med. Det.  
 Cpl Frank M. Suchanek, Co. "C"  
 Tec 4 John Rrolleri, Co. "D"

### CROIX DE GUERRE

S/Sgt Kyle Robinson, Co. "F"  
 Tec 4 Joseph Orbellio, H&S Co.  
 Tec 4 William R. Black, H&S Co.

### BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Col. Francis K. Purcell, Jr. Hq.  
 Lt. Col. Sidney Pollock, Hq.  
 Lt. Col. Roger L. Harriman, 1st Bn Hq.  
 Maj. Willard B. Wells, 2nd Bn Hq.  
 Maj. Tom W. Day, Hq.  
 Capt. Lyman L. Wilson, Hq.  
 Capt. Thomas J. Hendrix, Hq.  
 Capt. Roger Peabody, Co. "A"  
 Capt. Anthony F. Ranallo, Co. "E"  
 1st Lt. Gordon L. Johnson, Co. "D"  
 1st Lt. Michael C. Starke, Jr., Co. "E"  
 M/Sgt Thomas Pobuck, H&S Co.  
 M/Sgt Jack Freeman, H&S Co.  
 1st/Sgt Manuel Green, Co. "E"  
 S/Sgt George W. Herr, Co. "A"  
 S/Sgt Harry J. Rosick, Co. "C"  
 M/Sgt Ned H. Austin, Co. "D"  
 S/Sgt Robert L. McDaniels, Co. "D"  
 M/Sgt Ray S. Fink, Co. "E"  
 Sgt. Frank D. Baker, Co. "F"  
 Tec 4 Leon T. Blood, H&S Co.  
 Tec 5 Thomas B. Kilmer, Co. "A"  
 Tec 5 Joseph Fambello, Co. "B"  
 Tec 5 James R. Johnson, Co. "D"  
 Tec 5 Charles O. Willoughby, Co. "E"  
 Pfc Charles Hagen, Co. "A"  
 Pfc James M. Frye, Co. "A"

\*awarded posthumously

### PURPLE HEART

Chaplain (Capt) Clifford Winefordner, Jr.  
 1st Lt. Michael C. Starke, Jr., Co. "E"  
 1st Lt. Hugh Boyce, Co. "C"  
 2nd Lt. Valentine Murphy, Co. "F"  
 1st Sgt Joe MacDonald, H&S Co.  
 1st/Sgt Frank A. Kennedy, Co. "E"  
 Tec 5 Lyle B. Thornton, H&S Co.

Cpl Thomas Novac, H&S Co.  
 Tec 5 Thomas C. Ellis, Co. "C"  
 Tec 5 Frederick Zigler, Co. "C"  
 Tec 5 Joseph Demers, Co. "F"  
 Pfc Joseph Markiewicz, Med. Det.  
 Pfc Robert D. Harrigan, Med. Det.  
 Pfc William J. McFee, Med. Det.  
 Pfc Louis Q. Cuddohy, Co. "B"  
 Pfc Forest Fisher, Co. "B"  
 Pfc Theodore F. Alden, Co. "C"  
 Pfc Joseph Horton, Co. "C"  
 Pfc Ray B. Manor, Co. "D"  
 Pfc Charles Sholz, Co. "B"  
 Pfc Jack Piazza, Co. "E"  
 Pfc Harold Scholtz, Co. "F"

### IN MEMORIAM

By Chaplain Winefordner

The memory of our friends who paid the supreme sacrifice for their God and Country shall always be dear to us. Each one of them was faithful to his duties to the end, even though it meant his life. They died that others might live. They died that we might enjoy peace and freedom, and the joy of returning home. We owe them much. We must not forget them nor the price they paid. We must continue to fight to rid the world of wars and evil. We must see the selfishness and greed are replaced with brotherhood and justice. We must pledge to them our lives in service as they gave their lives to us in death.

### OUR HONORED DEAD

William Karr  
 William Noa  
 Spencer Covington  
 Thomas Hendrix  
 Theodore Dersha  
 Herbert Dowden  
 Walter Magee  
 Francis Kenney  
 James Frye  
 Thomas Kilmer  
 Austin Gross  
 Farrel Miller  
 William Green  
 Lawrence Legare

We meet today to honor those who served their country best, From battlefield and fireside, And now, in quiet rest.

Safe home at last, our soldiers dead Have found unending peace, And we, the living, dare not rest 'Till wars forever cease.