

Unit History of 319th Infantry Regiment.

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

2d Lt Clyde L. Wilfong, OI 325 613, Co G, 319th Inf has been recommended for the Bronze Star for heroic action while leading a patrol in the vicinity of St Gemmes, France, on 16 August 1944.

S/Sgt James E. Dees, 20 402 719, Co G, 319th Inf has been recommended for the Silver Star for heroic action while leading a patrol in the vicinity of St Gemmes, France, on 16 August 1944.

11. Important Events:

On August 17, 1944, the American Flag was presented to Mayor Victor Bernier of Angers, France, by Colonel O. L. Davidson. The speech presented to the Mayor was as follows: "Mr Mayor. As the representative of the President and people of the United States and in commemoration of the liberation of your beautiful city by the American Army, I present you with this flag of our Country, the emblem of freedom. I trust that you and the City of Angers will cherish this flag as we do and accept it as a symbol of the friendly relations which have existed between our two countries for hundreds of years".

On August 29, before a Battalion formation, Col Davidson presented 2d Lt Charles A. Book, OI 325 469, Company H, the Purple Heart Award for wounds received by enemy action on August 17, 1944.

SECTION X - Present and present members who distinguished themselves in action.

a. Atton, France, on 27 September 1944.

b. JESSE R. WEST, 33 213 204, Private First Class.

c. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the defense of a bridgehead, a 1½ ton truck, loaded with ammunition and gasoline, was set afire by shell bursts of enemy artillery. Pfc West, accompanied by two other enlisted men, with total disregard for his own personal safety, aided in extinguishing the flames. The bravery and devotion to duty displayed by Pfc West exemplify the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Virginia.

d. The Bronze Star.

a. Atton, France, on 27 September 1944.

b. ALVIN W. HUNTER, 34 128 876, Private First Class.

c. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the defense of a bridgehead, a 1½ ton truck, loaded with ammunition and gasoline, was set afire by shell bursts of enemy artillery. Pfc Hunter, accompanied by two other enlisted men, with total disregard for his own personal safety, aided in extinguishing the flames. The bravery and devotion to duty displayed by Pfc Hunter exemplify the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from South Carolina.

d. The Bronze Star.

a. Atton, France, on 27 September 1944.

b. FRANK J. ROLLICK, 33 273 131, Private.

c. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the defense of a bridgehead, a 1½ ton truck, loaded with ammunition and gasoline, was set afire by shell bursts of enemy artillery. Pvt Rollick, accompanied by two other enlisted men, with total disregard for his own personal safety, aided in extinguishing the flames. The bravery and devotion to duty displayed by Pvt Rollick exemplify the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

d. The Bronze Star.

a. Bois du Haut des Trappes, France, on 10 October 1944.

b. FRANK J. HAYES, 01 285 586, First Lieutenant.

c. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Lt Hayes, while commanding a platoon, had his position attacked by enemy tanks and infantry. Standing steadfast and encouraging his men, he held his position with the enemy tanks within 100 yards and was successful in repulsing the attack. Lt Hayes' display of excellent leadership and courage exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Illinois.

d. The Bronze Star.

SECTION X - former and present members who distinguished themselves in action.

- a. Renaissance Farm, Benicourt, France, on 2 October 1944.
  - b. ROBERT J. CONFER, 36 613 631, Private First Class.
  - c. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During an attack by his company, Pfc Confer displaying cool courage and with total disregard for his own safety, in the face of enemy mortar and machine gun fire established and maintained wire communications with the front line platoons. His personal courage and devotion to duty are commensurate with the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Ohio.
  - d. The Bronze Star.
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- a. Liverdun, France, on 8 September 1944.
  - b. CASPER D. GREENWOOD, JR., 33 240 896, Private First Class.
  - c. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Observing an enemy patrol which had penetrated to within fifty (50) yards of his platoon's position, Pfc Greenwood opened fire on it with his Browning Automatic Rifle. In the ensuing fire fight Pfc Greenwood was mortally wounded but continued to deliver fire on the patrol until it was forced to withdraw. The outstanding bravery, determination, and zealous devotion to duty displayed by Pfc Greenwood reflect creditably upon himself and upon the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.
  - d. The Bronze Star, Posthumously.
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- a. Lixierres, France, on 8 October 1944.
  - b. EMIL L. NIKODYM, 35 350 367, Technician Fifth Grade.
  - c. For gallantry in action in connection with military operations. After having been seriously wounded, Tec 5 Nikodym, disregarding his wound, continued to administer to his wounded comrades until he himself succumbed from pain and shock. His outstanding courage and sincere devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Ohio.
  - d. The Silver Star.
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- a. Bois du la Fourasse, France, on 14 October 1944.
  - b. ALBERT N. BREEDING, 16 039 424, Private First Class.
  - c. For heroic service in connection with military operations. While the unit to which he was attached was under intense enemy artillery fire, the unit communications were severed. Realizing the vital necessity of immediate restoration of communications, Pfc Breeding, although not a communications man, voluntarily, and with utter disregard of his personal safety, proceeded to lay a new wire line from his unit. At all times he was under a heavy barrage of enemy artillery shells and though wounded during the operation, he continued with his efforts until communications were restored. His personal bravery, resourcefulness, and devotion to duty served as a lasting inspiration to all who witnessed his acts. Entered military service from Missouri.
  - d. The Bronze Star.

SECTION X - former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action.

- a. Bois du Haut des Trappes, France, on 10 October 1944.
- b. CARMINE G. LIOTTI, 32 897 148, Corporal.

c. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States. Due to an enemy counterattack the casualty evacuation system of Cpl Liotti's Battalion was disrupted. In the absence of officer supervision, Cpl Liotti displayed excellent leadership, cool courage, and disregard for his own personal safety, in reestablishing the evacuation system under continual harassment of enemy artillery and mortar fire. This action contributed largely to the success of the operation and to the saving of the lives of many comrades. The leadership, personal courage, and devotion to duty displayed by Cpl Liotti was commensurate with the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from New York.

- d. The Bronze Star Medal.

- a. Serrieres, France, on 8 October 1944.
- b. WILLIS H. KNIGHT, 20 402 349, Technical Sergeant.

c. For gallantry in action in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States. When the company to which T Sgt Knight was attached was given the mission of attacking a strongly fortified enemy held town, his platoon leader was wounded and the advance temporarily stopped by the intense enemy fire. T Sgt Knight assumed command of the platoon, secured a Browning Automatic Rifle from a fallen comrade and in company with one other man rushed headlong into the enemy machine gun nest, killing or wounding the enemy machine gun crew and even though mortally wounded, continued on into the enemy positions, firing as he ran onward. His action so inspired his platoon that they immediately followed him into the position and destroyed it. T Sgt Knight died while being moved to the rear for medical treatment. His outstanding leadership, valiant courage, and unselfish devotion to duty are commensurate with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Georgia.

- d. The Silver Star, Posthumously.

- a. Bois du Haut des Trappes, France, on 9 October 1944.
- b. WAYNE E. SAMPSON, 35 312 817, Private.

c. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States. Displaying cool courage and disregard for his own personal safety, Pvt Sampson moved out across an open field in the face of heavy enemy machine gun and artillery fire and, along and unaided, dragged two wounded comrades to safety. His heroic action contributed largely to the saving of their lives. The bravery and courage displayed by Pvt Sampson is commensurate with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Ohio.

- d. The Bronze Star.

SECTION X - Former and present members who distinguished themselves in action.

- A. Orleans, France, on 26 August 1944.
- b. FREDERICK S. KREMER, O25 831, First Lieutenant.

c. For heroic service in connection with military operations. In performing a valuable mission the the delivery of terms of surrender to a German garrison commander. His resourcefulness under extremely hazardous conditions, personal bravery, and zealous devotion to duty exemplified the finest ideals of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Tennessee.

- d. The Bronze Star.

- a. Loisy, France, on 17, 18, and 19 September 1944.
- b. HIRAM D. IVES, O 263 687, Lieutenant Colonel.

c. For gallantry in action under intense enemy artillery barrage while the enemy counterattacked with tanks and infantry, Lt Col Ives, displaying valiant leadership, personally led his troops to the successful breaking up of the hostile attacking force, and saved the Division bridgehead. The superb courage and resourcefulness displayed by Lt Col Ives are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Maryland.

- d. The Silver Star.

- a. Sivry, France, on 8 October 1944.
- b. MARION W. MERRITT, O 535 961, Second Lieutenant.

c. For gallantry in action while in command of an anti-tank company, Lt Merritt made his way forward to an enemy held house, and displaying cool courage and utter disregard for his personal safety, killed one enemy sniper and captured seven enemy riflemen. His action provided for the uninterrupted advanced of the attacking company and saved the lives of many men. His personal bravery, resourcefulness, and devotion to duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from South Carolina.

- d. Silver Star.

- a. Foret de Levant Garde, near Pompey, France, on 14 September 1944.
- b. GARLAND D. GODBY, O1 285 576, Captain,

c. For heroic achievement during the attack by successfully leading his company in overrunning and destroying the enemy position. His personal bravery and resourcefulness are commensurate with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Kentucky.

- d. The Bronze Star.

- a. Liverdun, France, on 8 September 1944.
- b. RAYMOND L. HORACE, 20 618 203, Technician Fifth Grade.

c. For heroic service although subjected to enemy machine gun fire, successfully evacuated four seriously wounded comrades from the field of battle. His personal bravery, resourcefulness, and coolness under fire, exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Illinois.

- d. The Bronze Star.