

S/SGT RICHARD A. THOMAS

422nd Regiment/H
106th Infantry Division

S/SGT RICHARD A. THOMAS FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Richard A. Thomas, 930 Bay St. San Francisco, Calif., is among the charmed circle of living American infantrymen to wear the Distinguished Service Cross for valor above and beyond the call of duty. We do not have a copy of the citation accompanying this award, so we bring you the story as told by 2d Lt. Lewis R. Walker, as an excerpt from the full story of Co H. 422d Inf, which will appear in the June 1948 issue of the CUB. It is nightfall, on 19 Dec. '44. Remnants of the 422d are gathered in a 1,000 yard oval, defending on all sides against the steel ring thrown around the regiment after the Schonberg attack. Continuing, in the words of Lt. Walker:

Complete darkness fell. My sergeants came to the log shelter which served as CP for Company H. It was here that I learned of the heroism of S/Sgt Richard A. Thomas, company motor sergeant.

Walker goes on to tell of four separate acts of valor performed by Thomas. Details are lacking from this narrative, but those who served in the Ardennes can visualize what each of the following direct dose-packed sentences means.

He had led a patrol through enemy territory, and brought back a trailer and truck of food to the encircled regiment. He saved the remnants of the 81st Engineer Company at Auw. He scouted out cross-country routes to St. Vith, through enemy terrain. He attempted to recapture an American officer-prisoner from a strong force of Germans. For those and later deeds, attested to by eye-witness affidavits, he has been awarded the DSC.

For participation in these, actions, Silver Star Medals were awarded to T/5 Ernest C. Gerry, Co F, of Lovell Maine; Sgt Herman W. Pace, Co H, 58 Jefferson St., Schuyler, W. Va.; Cpl Clyde McDaniel, Co H, of North Carolina; Sgt Roy J. Jensen, Co H, 300 S. Sprague St., Ellensburg, Wisc.; and Cpl Lawrence J. Doerr, Iox 308, Oreville, Wash. If I can learn the full name and ASN of Pfc Potter of H Co., he too will be a Silver Star wearer.

"Later that night I saw a first hand example of Sgt Thomas's leadership. While in the log shelter, we heard an enemy sound truck open up from a hill across the valley. It demanded our surrender, played popular American songs, and told us how nice it would be to be playing baseball in a prison camp." Thomas left the log shelter, rounded up a few volunteers, took out a patrol, and one of his men erased the sound truck with a well thrown grenade.

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