

Meyers, John J.

Nazi Officers 'Lady Killers' Opines Sgt. Meyers At Cherbourg

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Local Soldier, Member of Signal Team, Gets Bronze Star and Purple Heart

HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS - Staff Sergeant John J. Meyers, 23, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, wounded in France after seven weeks of action, has been awarded the Bronze Star in addition to the Purple Heart at a U. S. Army general hospital in England.

Meyers, whose right leg was fractured by shell fragments during the American thrust southwestward from St. Lo, was chief of a wire-laying signal team attached to an infantry division. Every member of the team also has been awarded the Bronze Star.

While assault troops were piling out of invasion barges with assorted weapons, Meyers and his men were carrying telephones and wire. They were already busy laying wire and establishing communications before the engineers had completed beachhead demolitions.

Throughout the drive westward from the beachhead and up the Cherbourg peninsula, Meyers and his team laid wire, on several occasions moving forward before the infantry teams were underway so that communications could be assured after objectives were accomplished. Shellfire was the main danger, but Meyers and his men often had to continue with assignments so as not to upset time-tables.

The squad was given a well-earned rest after the capture of Cherbourg and assigned to an apartment overlooking the harbor. The apartment had formerly been occupied by two German army and two German naval officers and was the "last word" in comfort. They never went hungry for all their French neighbors were anxious to provide them with food.

"Those officers certainly were lady-killers if the pictures we found in that flat were any indication," Meyers said.

Assigned to take part in the phase of American operations which has resulted in complete sealing off of the peninsula, Meyers and his team again swung into action with their telephones and wire. They were busy laying field wire west of St. Lo when a shell struck the roadway, injuring him.

Meyers formerly was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company at Bethlehem as an electrician's helper. His mother, Mrs. Anna Meyers, lives at 556 Vineyard Street, Bethlehem. His wife, Dorothy, lives at Wilda, South Carolina.

Heroic Under Fire



S-SGT. JOHN J. MEYERS

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