

Bender, Warren J.

Losses In Air By Bomb Blast Local G-1 Escapes Injury

JAN 13 1945

"A bomb blew him sky-high, but he landed without a scratch," was Warren A. Bender's description of what happened to his son, Master Sergeant Warren J. Bender, now serving with the 15th Army of Occupation in Germany, and recently honored with the award of the Bronze Star for "meritorious service in the capacity of Battalion Sergeant Major" in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany.

Serving for more than four years with the 103rd Combat Engineers of the famous Keystone State 28th Infantry Division of the Army, the young sergeant's experiences included a 40-mile march over muddy country pitted with mines, studded with pillboxes and rich in war material abandoned by the fleeing Germans.

Sgt. Bender's narrow escape occurred after the Battle of the Belgium Bulge when the building outside Wiltz, in which engineers and infantry of the 28th were quartered, was bombed from a Nazi plane.

"We were like rats caught in a trap," the Sergeant wrote in describing the bombing which practically wiped out the 28th. He was among the few to escape uninjured.

Award of the Bronze Star was made in recognition of the Sergeant's brilliant performance for the period from July 27 to date, when during the frequent, prolonged absences of the Battalion Adjutant, Sgt. Bender was in complete charge of the administrative work in Battalion headquarters.

The citation reads in part: "All work under Sergeant Bender was done smoothly, efficiently and with-



CPL. WARREN BENDER

out delay. This was particularly true during the enemy counteroffensive in December and January when the Adjutant was primarily occupied with other duties."

"Sergeant Bender has always maintained a high standard of soldierly qualities, displayed a superior amount of initiative and served as an example to all men in his company. He was also of great service in reorganizing the personnel section after many of the men were lost to enemy action or became casualties."

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