

Heck, T. G.

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LIEUT. THEODORE G. HECK

Lt. T. G. Heck Wins Another Bravery Medal

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He won the Bronze Star in February when he waved a seven-shot pistol in the noses of ten Krauts in a Frenchman's cellar. Earlier he had received the Silver Star for gallantry in action when he led a rifle company in an attack up the torn, shelled main street of Alsace-Lorraine village of Philipsbourg, carrying as his weapon, Victor McLaughlin style, the business end of a 30-calibre machine gun, and now this same officer won further acclaim when he was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.

points that may get me back to Bethlehem and Lehigh a hell-of-a-lot sooner."

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At present Lt. Heck is assistant athletic officer of the division, in a job that enables him to follow his pre-war athletic inclinations and, at the same time, affords him opportunity to see much of Europe. In addition to having visited almost every large German city, Heck has taken the baseball team to Brussels, attended an athletic school in Paris, and is currently contemplating accompanying a 20-man boxing team to a Riviera tournament.

The versatile lieutenant has also applied for a few months schooling under the Army's "training within civilian agencies" plan and hopes to attend Oxford.

For directing an infantry battalion in the attack from an artillery liaison plane, Lieutenant Theodore G. Heck has become one of the few infantry officers in this war to receive the coveted citation.

The citation, signed by W. T. Sexton, commanding general, Third Infantry Division, reads:

"First Lieutenant Theodore G. Heck, Infantry Headquarters, Third Infantry Division. On February 18, 1945, Lieutenant Heck, then S-1, 3rd Battalion, 275th Infantry Regiment, directed his battalion in the attack of Pfaffen Berg hill, an outpost of the Siegfried Line at Spichern, France, from a cub plane. Communicating with his ground troops by radio and through the artillery liaison officer who was with the attacking echelon, Lt. Heck controlled the movement of the troops, pointing out the objectives to be taken and disclosing the exact location of some hundred German troops. The attack was successful and with surprisingly light casualties solely because Lt. Heck, flying at about 1000 feet and exposed to the small arms fire of the enemy, was able to alter the original plan of attack and point out new objectives to the men on the ground. The battalion held the hill for three days against two severe counter-attacks and then moved forward in a four-day attack that stopped at the dragon's teeth of the Siegfried Line at Saarbrücken."

The young lieutenant (23) is a recent addition to the combat-proven Third Division, having joined them after a second sojourn in the hospital necessitated by old wounds incurred in the attack of Saarbrücken itself shortly after the incident for which he was cited.

Lt. Heck graduated from Fort Benning OCS in June, 1944, and went overseas with the 70th Division early in December of that year. Before entering the service he had been at Lehigh University where he was majoring in English and where he was prominent in football and wrestling circles.

When asked for comment on the newest award, Heck said: "Can't see it, but I will take those five big

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