

John J. Appel

Awarded Medal



T/5 John J. Appel, 27, son of Rev. and Mrs. A. R. Appel, 1622 Chelsea Avenue was awarded the Bronze Star Medal by direction of the President "for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy near Kakazu, Okinawa Shima, Nansei Shito, April 19, 1945."

The young infantryman has been stationed overseas for the past two years. He entered the service in March three years ago, while an employee of the Bethlehem Steel Company and since going overseas, he had been stationed in the Pacific area.

The citation accompanying the award read, "While T/5 Appel's tank was attacking enemy installations well ahead of our infantry lines, it was hit by anti-tank fire and set afire. After extinguishing the fire, he dismounted to better locate enemy targets. As he was preparing to resume the attack from his disabled tank, it again sustained a hit injuring several members of the crew and putting the gun out of action. Appel took the wounded to a nearby culvert and then noticing a wounded tank commander trapped in a disabled tank some two hundred away, he crawled through heavy enemy fire to free the wounded man and carry him back to the culvert. Later in the day, T/5 Appel and another man evacuated one of the wounded men to friendly lines, and while attempting to return to help evacuate the other, he himself was wounded."

9/8/46