

Hafner, Claude J.

Gets DSC



LIEUT. CL. J. HAFNER
JUL 5 1945

Local Army Officer Wins High Honor

WITH U. S. SUPPLY FORCES IN GERMANY. — For extraordinary heroism while a member of 70th Infantry Division, Lieutenant Claude J. Hafner, son of Mrs. Rose A. Hafner, 623 Eighth Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa., has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The presentation was made in Germany by Major General Arthur R. Wilson of Oroville, California, commanding general of the Continental Advance Section.

The citation for the award reads: "On the night of 6 February 1945, Lieutenant Hafner's company was pinned down by intense machine-gun, rifle and grenade fire during an attack near Oetingen, France. Armed with a rocket launcher, Lieutenant Hafner fearlessly led two men against the enemy positions and forced the surrender of three Germans in the nearest emplacements. He then moved a squad forward and cleared two connecting dugouts, taking six more prisoners. At daylight, he again distinguished himself by leading four men against by-passed positions, killing one defender, bayonetting another and capturing seven prisoners. Lieutenant Hafner's heroic leadership and his inspiring, courageous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military service."

While attending Lehigh University, Class of '45, Lt. Hafner was called into the military service two years ago. He has served overseas seven months in France and Germany, earning two battle campaign stars. He is at present with the 1966th Labor Supervision Company, Conad, the base section which has supplied the American Seventh and French First Armies since the invasion of southern France last August.

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