

# Local G-I Amputates Pal's Leg Under Fire

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## Pfc. James W. Knowles Performs Major Operation With Meager Tools

WITH THE 517TH PARACHUTE COMBAT TEAM ON THE WESTERN FRONT—When the war is over, stories of the men who carry no weapons will be numerous and interesting. The men are the medics. They carry no weapons; only tools of healing and help for the wounded are in their first aid kits.

Here is one of the stories. It is the story of Private First Class James W. Knowles, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Knowles of 409 Center Street, Bethlehem, Pa.



PFC. JAMES W. KNOWLES  
... medic hero under fire

Pfc. Knowles came overseas in October, 1944, and joined the 517th Parachute Combat Team at Sospel, France. Since joining the outfit he has administered aid, and given words of encouragement to the men of his company who have been wounded in Belgium and Germany. It was in Germany that he did remarkable work.

His company was in a minefield and the men could hardly move because of the thickly strewn mines. Artillery, mortar and machine gun fire were adding to the turmoil—still the litter bearers and medics were carrying on. There were men to be helped and moved out of the area. On one of the trips back to the minefield a litter bearer stepped on a mine. Pfc. Knowles ran over to him. The boy's leg was mangled and torn.

Pfc. Knowles saw that the leg had to come off if the boy were to live.

Under adverse conditions he quieted the wounded man, gave him morphine to ease the pain, and with all the skill of an expert surgeon, amputated the leg. He stopped the bleeding and wrapped the stump to ward off infection. The boy was placed on a stretcher and carried from the field. Pfc. Knowles then continued with his duties.

Before he was inducted into the army he was attending Lehigh University, studying medicine. Pfc. Knowles attended Bethlehem Catholic High School where he played basketball. He was on the Lehigh frosh grid team. His father is manager of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company in this city and president of the Chamber of Commerce.