

Earns Bronze Star

Knowles, James W.



T/4 JAMES W. KNOWLES

JAN 18 1946

James Knowles Given Bronze Star Award

In connection with his heroic action on the battlefields of Germany last winter, T/4 James W. Knowles, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Knowles, 409 Center St., has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

A medic with the 517th Parachute Infantry, he took part in the Italian and Southern France campaigns, and in the Battle of the Bulge.

The citation accompanying the award read: "During an assault on a tactically important hill near Bergstein, Germany, T/4 Knowles, medical aid man, braved hazardous mine-strewn terrain and direct enemy fire to administer urgent aid to a seriously wounded comrade. Later, when the hill was captured, a heavy enemy counter-barrage caused heavy casualties. Despite this intense mortar barrage, T/4 Knowles moved among the wounded, applied first aid, and evacuated them to safety. Refusing to leave the area until the last casualty was removed, he helped until they were evacuated. The intrepid behavior of Pfc. Knowles is in keeping with the best traditions of military service."

News stories telling of Knowles' remarkable work with the Paratroopers were sent out from the Western Front last Spring. One of the stories told how he amputated the leg of a litter bearer who tripped

on a mine, with "all the skill of an expert surgeon", wrapped the stump to ward off infection, and carried him from the field on a stretcher.

A graduate of Bethlehem Catholic High School, Knowles was a student at Lehigh University at the time of his induction July 7, 1943. After completing his basic training at Camp McClellan, Ala., he took

the ASTP at the City College of New York and when this disbanded, took paratroop training at Camp Blanding, Ga. He was assigned to the 517th after his arrival overseas in October, 1944.

The ex-paratrooper was discharged November 4, 1945, and is a pre-medical student at Lehigh University.

Jan. 18, 1946