

Czar, Frank J.
Victor

Sgt. Frank Czar Wins Heroic Action Medals

Bethlehem Man Awarded D. S. C. for Saving Lives of Comrades in Africa

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The kind of heroic action which American soldiers seem to take for granted, or as an every-day part of their duties, has won for Sgt. Frank L. Czar, of Bethlehem, the Distinguished Service Cross and Oak Leaf cluster, both of which have been sent to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Czar, 511 Spring Street.

Sgt. Czar sent the medals on from North Africa, where they were presented to him.

This Bethlehem soldier, who entered the service in 1941, won his honors through two separate actions. In the first he and Second Lt. Charles Dushane and three enlisted men were assigned to silence an old lighthouse from which the enemy was gunning for American troops. The five men survived a hail of bullets, cut

the barbed wire, battered their way into the building and captured an enemy party of 12 men, together with a large supply of munitions, thus preventing the slaughter of hundreds of their comrades.

Sometime later that day the American troops were pulling out of an "unfavorable" position. Things looked bad when Lt. Dushane and Sgt. Czar came upon a partially dismantled enemy anti-tank gun. Part of the breech had been removed, but Dushane put in a shell, closed what was left of the breech and Czar drew a bead on the base of the shell with his sub-machine gun. In this manner the gun was fired and the enemy slowed down to such an extent that the Americans were able to withdraw.

Lt. Dushane lost his life while loading the gun, but Czar survived to tell the tale.

Czar is a graduate of Bethlehem High School and a former employe of the Bethlehem Steel Company. An all-around athlete, he is particularly fond of baseball and in the Spring of 1942 was pitcher for the Ft. Bragg Army nine in a game with the New York Yankees, holding the Yanks to five hits.

He has a brother, Victor, in the Army in the North African sector. Whether the two boys are now somewhere in Sicily instead of Africa is a matter for conjecture.

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