

DeLong, Lester

Paratrooper Gives MAY 3 1945 Life To Save Pals

Sgt. Lester R. DeLong Draws Jap Machine Gun Fire to Allow Buddies to Carry On

WITH THE 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION ON LUZON—(Delayed)—When withering Jap machine gun and rifle fire pinned down his platoon attacking a strong point, Staff Sgt. Lester E. DeLong, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson DeLong, Route 1, Bethlehem, Pa., crawled forward to make himself a human target for the Jap machine gunners so that his buddies, as the fire lifted, could resume the attack.

He died under the withering machine gun fire he had invited to distract the Japs from his buddies, and has been posthumously awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

The incident occurred February 13 during the 11th Airborne infantrymen's attack on Jap fortifications at Fort McKinley, former U. S. Army post.

"The great courage, daring initiative and zealous devotion to duty displayed by Staff Sergeant DeLong," his citation reads, "exemplify the highest traditions of the United States Army."

A few weeks before receiving the War Department telegram telling of Sgt. Lester DeLong's death, the parents received another official message stating that another of their sons, T/Sgt. Howard DeLong, had been wounded for the second time January 31, 1945, somewhere in Belgium. He had previously been wounded in France, July 27, 1944. In the summer of 1943, the two soldiers spent a furlough together while on leave from Camp Mackall, N. C., and Camp McCoy, Wis.

In addition to his parents, Sgt. Lester DeLong is survived by a sister, Arline, a brother, Donald, at

Died A Hero



S/SGT. LESTER DeLONG

home, and T/Sgt. Howard DeLong. He was engaged to Miss Ruth Hartzell, 1450 Cortland Street.

May 3, 1945