

Bognar, Geza E.

Hurt at Bastogne, Local Soldier Now At English Base

FEB 14 1945
THE 154TH GENERAL HOSPITAL, England—Following rescue from Bastogne, which the Germans had cut off during their recent counter-offensive, Staff Sergeant Geza E. Bognar, 28, a tank commander, of 1401 Fifth Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was wounded in the push northeast of Bastogne and now is recovering at this United States Army general hospital in England.

"Sgt. Bognar is making satisfactory progress and soon will return to duty," said his ward officer, First Lieutenant Hildreth B. Elwell, Jr., of Wildham, Ohio.

Sgt. Bognar saw his first fighting near Thionville, France, and when the Germans drove into Belgium, his unit was in Bastogne surrounded by Jerries.

"Just after Christmas the Sixth Armored division contacted us, and we felt good when they moved in," said Sgt. Bognar. "We pushed forward and our objective was to clear a patch of woods northeast of Bastogne. While moving toward our objective our Infantry troops were ahead, and I thought there were no Germans between us. Visibility was poor so I had the tank stop. While looking out of the turret a grenade struck the top of the tank, and I received a small piece of shrapnel in the side of my head. I ducked down, and told the driver to back out of there, which he did, and while the tank was in motion a second grenade hit the hatch. Shrapnel came into the tank, injuring the gunner and sending another piece of the grenade into my left thigh.

His mother, Mrs. Mary Bognar, lives at the 5th street address; a brother, Corporal William Bognar, 27, is serving with a Quartermaster truck battalion in Burma.

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