

Bender, Curtis E.

### **S/Sgt. Curtis E. Bender Wins Bronze Star Medal**

WITH THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION IN GERMANY—Staff Sergeant Curtis E. Bender, section leader with the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment of 101st Airborne Division, son of Mrs. Mary Bender, 1523 Linden Street, Bethlehem, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in action near Bastogne, Belgium, last Christmas.

"During the historic battle of the 'Bulge', Bender exposed himself to the fire of the enemy on many occasions to encourage the men of his mortar platoon to carry on the fight in spite of overwhelming odds," the citation said.

Sgt. Bender was inducted in November 1942 and trained at Camp Wheeler, Ga., before reporting to the 101st Airborne at Fort Bragg, N. C., in March 1943. He shipped overseas to England in September 1943.

The sergeant saw action in the airborne invasion of Normandy and Holland; siege of Bastogne, the defensive fighting in Alsace Lorraine, and the final mop-up battles in southern Germany.

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