

Hombis, John

Decorated for Gallantry in Action JAN 26 1944



PVT. JOHN HOMBIS



STAFF SGT. JOSEPH KALAS



STAFF SGT. ROLAND GANGWER

Parents of 3 Local Servicemen to Receive Sons' Medals, Citations

Medals and citations for gallantry in action against the enemy in the African and European theatres of war will be presented to the parents of three Bethlehem soldiers by the U. S. War Department, one post-humously, the other two in absentia, it was announced yesterday by Major J. R. DelBuono, president of the Allentown Aviation Cadet Examining Board, who is expected to make the presentations.

A posthumous award of the Silver Star for exceptional gallantry in action by Private John Hombis will be presented to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Homis, 2 East Fourth Street, who only recently learned of their son's death in Africa.

The citation for the deceased infantryman relates how in August, 1943, during the battle for Sicily, Private Hombis braved intense enemy machinegun fire to rescue a wounded comrade, who he carried to safety on his back after giving first aid under fire.

Hombis then started back to get another comrade, also seriously injured. By that time, however, the enemy fire had become so intense that he was ordered to remain behind cover. The circumstances under which Hombis met his own death some time later are not known.

The Air Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster will be awarded to Mrs. Helen Kalos, 923 Spring Street for her son, Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Kalos, 23, of the Army Air Forces, who was reported missing in action over continental Europe on Sept. 23, 1943.

A ball turret gunner on a Flying Fortress, Sergeant Kalos entered the service on Sept. 5, 1942, and after intensive training in America went overseas to England in May 1943. During the summer

he was reported wounded in action, for which he received the Purple Heart. He is a graduate of Bethlehem High School, 1938.

The Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters will be presented to Marshall R. Gangwer, 51 East Union Street, for his son, Staff Sergeant Roland D. Gangwer, who was reported missing in action last October 10, and who January 3, 1944, was reported a prisoner of the Nazi Government.

For his distinguished service as a gunner, which included knocking down two enemy planes, he had already been awarded the Air Medal and two clusters. He entered the service in June, 1942, received his basic training at Keesler Field and was graduated from Gunnery school at Las Vegas, Nev.

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