

Herstine, John W.

Gets High Honor



CAPT. JOHN W. HERSTINE

Merit Legion Awarded Dead Hero

The Legion of Merit has been awarded posthumously to Captain John W. Herstine, infantryman, who was killed in action in China September 17, 1944. It was accepted by his wife, Mrs. Sara B. Herstine, during ceremonies in Wilmington, Del., last evening.

Captain John W. Herstine was the son of A. Wilson Herstine, 444 Pawnee Street, and the husband of the former Sara Buchanan, who resided at 2707 North Broom Street, Wilmington, Del. He entered the service three years ago and had been overseas over a year before his death. He graduated from Bethlehem High School in 1933 and from Lehigh University in 1937.

The award, one of seven posthumous decorations given in ceremony to the next of kin, was made for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in combat from May 12, 1944, when he crossed the Salween River with his regiment until September 12, 1944, when he gave his life."

The citation read: "Capt. Herstine not only performed all of his regular duties in a superior manner under hardships of campaign in monsoons over extremely rough territory, but went beyond the call of duty in gathering information for his group and in his efforts to render assistance to the Chinese.

"He accompanied his regiment across the mountains in an area where not even a trail existed. The regimental commander states that Capt. Herstine rendered invaluable assistance to his unit, and by his uncomplaining acceptance of danger and hardship, inspired and won the respect of Chinese officers and soldiers alike. In the withdrawal Capt. Herstine and his radio operator stayed, in an effort to get through requests for air support."

September 12, 1945