

# National Archives & Records Administration

## War Department Files

1LT Arvid D. Gouchberg  
Class 7-42  
ID: 0-454778  
Branch of Service: U.S. Army  
Hometown: Essex County, MA  
Status: KIA 28 Sep 1944



1LT Gouchberg was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions that took place less than a month before he was killed in action. The Bronze Star and Air Medal with two oak-leaf clusters were presented to his widow during a ceremony at Fort Sill August 3, 1945.

### Medals Presented In Ceremony Here

The Bronze Star medal for distinctive heroism in military operations as well as the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters were presented at a Fort Sill ceremony Friday to Mrs. Avis A. Gouchberg, Lawton, as a posthumous award to her husband, 1st Lt. Arvid A. Gouchberg.

Col. Charles W. Gallaher, post commander, made the presentation at the formal retreat parade of Station Complement troops on New Post parade ground Friday afternoon. Lt. Col. John S. Moran served as commander of troops and Capt. Sidney S. Eason was adjutant. The 179th Army Ground Forces band played.

The late field artillery liaison pilot was awarded the Bronze Star medal for distinctive heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy on Sept. 1, 1944 in the vicinity of Bantheville, France, the citation stated-

Lt. Gouchberg was aerial observer for a motorized column of infantry when he observed an enemy tank blocking the road ahead of the column. He immediately sent a message by radio to halt the column and all but the first truck stopped.

"As senior officer in the plane he directed flight over the tank to point out its position. When he observed the first truck had failed to halt, he directed flight very low across the advance of the truck and shouted to stop the truck. To accomplish this it was necessary to fly directly into the field of fire of the enemy tank.

"His warning came in time for the truck, heavily loaded with infantry troops, to be halted and half of the troops dismounted before the enemy tank could get into action.

"Lt. Gouchberg's quick action undoubtedly saved many lives and reflects credit upon himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of our Armed Forces."

The Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, indicating two additional awards of the medal, also was accepted by Mrs. Gouchberg.

It was awarded "for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight during three different periods in 1944, having completed the required number of operations sorties against the enemy.

Mrs. Gouchberg, who resides at 1302 Oak, is an employe of the Fort Sill Post Exchange.

**He served with the 50th Field Artillery Battalion, 5th Infantry Division, XX Corps, 3rd Army, as an air observer. He and 2Lt Mark Gaddie (FA OCS Class 61-43) were both killed on 28 Sep 1944, when their plane crashed on takeoff.**

**Extract from the Combat History of the 50th Field Artillery Battalion:**

**28 Sep 44, South of Lorry-Mardigny, Mosell, Lorraine, France. This morning we learned at approximately 0630 hours our Cub 37K crashed while taking off. Lieutenant Gouchberg, the pilot, was killed outright. Lieutenant Gaddie, the observer, was injured critically and died shortly afterward in the hospital. This news was quite a blow to everyone. We all liked both of the fellows very much. Gouch had just received his promotion to first lieutenant at the same time as Major Rennord got his. They were an excellent observer team. Major Strunk, the Division Artillery air officer believes the crash was due to engine failure caused by carburetor icing.**

***Buried in Pride of Lynn Cemetery, Lynn, Massachusetts***