

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION



THE WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL



Paul E. Gourdon, Jr. 56-43

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

Service # O1179080

793rd Field Artillery Battalion

Entered the Service from: Virginia

Died: 11-Jul-1944

Buried at: Plot H Row 11 Grave 24

Normandy American Cemetery

Colleville-sur-Mer, France

Awards: Silver Star, Purple Heart

Silver Star



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Paul E. Gourdon, Jr. (ASN: 0-1179080), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving as an Air Observer from the 793d Field Artillery Battalion, in action against the enemy in Normandy, France, on 11 July 1944. First Lieutenant Gourdon was unable to observe the location of an enemy battery due poor visibility, and flew dangerously close to the enemy lines in order to accomplish his mission. His plane was hit by an 88-mm. shell, which destroyed the plane and killed him. The last sending received from First Lieutenant Gourdon was "Range correct. Fire for effect." First Lieutenant Gourdon's aggressiveness and determination to silence the enemy batter reflect great credit upon himself and the Military Service.

General Orders: Headquarters, XIX Corps, General Orders No. 38 (1944)

Receives Citation Posthumously



LT. PAUL E. GOURDON, JR.

Mrs. Mary Hunter Edmunds Gourdon of this city, has recently received a letter from Adjutant General Ulio, stating that she will be the recipient of the Silver Star, posthumously awarded her husband, Lieut. Paul E. Gourdon, Jr., who was killed on July 11 when the Nazis shot down his plane while he was on a reconnaissance mission.

The letter, in part, read as follows:

"I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President, the Silver Star has been posthumously awarded to your husband, First Lieutenant Paul E. Gourdon, Jr., Field Artillery." The citation reads as follows:

"For gallantry in action against the enemy in x x x. On 11 July, 1944, First Lieutenant Air Observer, being unable to observe the location of an enemy battery due to poor visibility, flew dangerously close to the enemy lines in order to accomplish his mission. First Lieutenant Gourdon's plane was hit by an 88 mm. shell, which destroyed the plane and killed First Lieutenant Gourdon. The last sending received from First Lieutenant Gourdon was 'Range Correct. Fire for effect.' First Lieutenant Gourdon's aggressiveness and determination to silence the enemy battery reflect great credit upon himself and the Military Service."

The decoration will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Third Service Command, Baltimore and an officer will make the presentation to Mrs. Gourdon, the letter stated.

Lt. Gourdon was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Gourdon of Jackson Heights, N. Y., and was a graduate of Washington and Lee University. He passed the Virginia Bar Examination the summer of 1942 and entered the Army shortly thereafter. He was graduated from field artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Okla. in March of 1943.

Mrs. Gourdon has also received the Purple Heart, posthumously awarded her husband.

Lt. Gourdon lost a brother in the fall of Bataan in 1942 and besides his parents in New York, he is survived by his wife and small daughter who reside at 156 Gray Street.