

KOREAN WAR PROJECT REMEMBRANCE



CPT REX CONRAD GUNNELL
Class 106-44

Silver Star

61st Field Artillery Battalion (105MM)

1st Cavalry Division

Hostile, Died of Wounds (DOW)

Date Of Loss: November 26, 1950

CPT - O3

Service Number: O-0039434

Vassar, Michigan

Born: October 1, 1921

Burial: Riverside Cemetery - Vassar Michigan

Captain Gunnell was a member of the 61st Field Artillery Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. He was seriously wounded while fighting the enemy in North Korea on November 26, 1950 and died of those wounds later that day.

CPT REX CONRAD GUNNELL



(UNCONFIRMED - Citation Needed): Rex C. Gunnell, United States Army, is reported to have been awarded the Silver Star under the below-listed General Orders for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea.

General Orders: Headquarters, 1st Cavalry Division, General Orders No. 178 (1950) & 8 (1951) & 9 (1951)

1st FIELD ARTILLERY HISTORY: On 25 November 1950, morale was again high with General MacArthur stating that troops would be home for Christmas. On the same day, the 61st Field Artillery Battalion moved to a new position on the bank of the Chong-chon River next to a mountain called Chinamans Hatin support of the 2nd Infantry Division. At 2300 hours, the entire Battalion was attacked with A Battery being overrun in the first wave of bugle blowing, screaming Chinese Infantrymen. The outposts were overrun in the first wave and A Battery's guns fell one by one. With A Battery's commander Captain Rex C. Gunnell killed, the remaining personnel withdrew to new positions. The Battalion was ordered to withdraw and moved south to Jujang-dong. At daylight, Lieutenant John P. Kean led volunteers back to the A Battery position and despite heavy enemy machine gun and rifle fire succeeded in removing all guns and vehicles that were not destroyed. The remainder of the winter would be spent in general withdrawal back to South Korea.

From the Lawton Constitution, 17 March 1960, Page 5: For War Heroes Two Fort Sill buildings have been named in memory of two former (Artillery) Center officers killed in combat. Building 635, located on Thompson Road, has been named Gunnell Hall in honor of the late Capt. Rex C. Gunnell, and Bldg. 1313, Upton Road, also a BOQ, has been named Dressier Hall in honor of the late Maj. William E. Dressler. Capt. Gunnell attended the Infantry School in (?) and the Artillery and Missile School from (?) to 1949. He served as a platoon leader with Cannon Company of the 4th Infantry Division in Europe in 1942 and 1943. From September 19? to November 1950 he commanded Battery A to the 61st Field Artillery Battalion in Korea. He was awarded, the Silver Star with first and second and Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Bronze Star Medal. Capt. Gunnell was killed in action in Korea on Nov. 26. 19-50.

Maj. Dressler was graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1938 and attended the Field Artillery School from 1940 to 1942. During 1941 he was an instructor with the Department of Animal Transport with the Field Artillery School here. Maj. Dressier served as executive officer of the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion in Japan and Korea. From August 1949 to July 1950. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal with first Oak Leaf Cluster. Maj. Dressler was killed 14 July 1950.