



# Gerald M. Hassell 61-43

**Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army**

**Service # O1180939**

**161st Field Artillery Battalion  
35th Infantry Division**

**Entered the Service from: Wyoming**

**Died: 18-Sep-1944**

**Buried at: Plot C Row 23 Grave 87**

**Lorraine American Cemetery**

**St. Avold, France**

**Awards: Bronze Star, Purple Heart**



## Medal Presented To Widow of Late Casper Officer



**Brig. Gen. D. O. Elliott, commanding general of the Army Service Forces Training Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., pins the Bronze Star medal on Mrs. Marianne F. Hassell whose husband, Lt. Gerald M. Hassell, F. A., of Casper, was killed in action last September.**

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo., June 28.—One of nine decorations presented by Brig. Gen. D. O. Elliott, commanding general of the Army Service Forces Training Center, at a recent review of ASFTC troops was a bronze Star medal awarded posthumously "by direction of the president" to Lt. Gerald M. Hassell, field artillery, who was killed in action while serving in France with the Third army.

Lieutenant Hassell's home was in Casper, Wyo. A 1940 graduate of the University of Wyoming, he was employed by the Indian Ice company until he entered the army in January, 1941. He was a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Parsons, with whom he resided in Casper.

The Bronze Star medal, presented to his widow, Mrs. Marianne F. Hassell of Boulder, Colo., recently named as a recreation hostess in one of Fort Leonard Wood's service clubs, was awarded "for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States on September 18, 1944. During the course of an attack against enemy forces, the enemy launched a counterattack supported by tanks. Lieutenant Hassell, a forward observer with the First battalion, infantry, made his way forward under heavy fire of all types and adjusted artillery fire upon enemy positions. While so engaged he was killed by direct fire from an enemy tank. His accurate fire direction and disregard for personal safety in the face of enemy fire contributed to the success of the assault and capture of the position."

Lieutenant Hassell was trained in the field artillery at Fort Sill, Okla. and Camp Bowie, Texas. He was assigned to the 936th Field artillery, an element of the 401st group which became a part of the Third army as soon as it arrived in France. The 26-year-old officer had been overseas only one month when he met his death, in action near Nancy, France.

His brother, Rex Hassell, firemar 1/c, is stationed at Salton Sea, Calif