

# James Edward Robinson, Jr.

SOLDIER DOSSIER



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*[Signature]*

SUBJECT James E. Robinson, Jr. Toledo, OH 07-10-1919  
FILE # \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 06-02-1939



"Then came the big day when we marched into Germany - right through the Siegfried Line.", ca. 1945. Retrieved from the National Archives' Records of the Office of War Information 1926 - 1951 Collection.



## ABOUT THIS BOOK

The following pages offer a brief biography of First Lieutenant James Edward Robinson, Jr. World War II Veteran and recipient of the Medal of Honor.

The Institute for the Study of War and Democracy has reconstructed his story from his Military Personnel File, papers provided by his daughter Dolores, and various other sources cited in Sources at the end of this book.

In 1973 a fire destroyed millions of military records at the National Archives and Records Administration in Saint Louis, Missouri. Most of those records have been lost forever; however, some of the records have undergone extensive reconstruction. They are not perfect, but they do provide a great amount of information. In the case of James Robinson his file of 240 pages was burned severely in the fire. It has been reconstructed and the file which remains has scorched marks, water stains, and partial pages. It is not perfect and thus telling the story of James Robinson has been difficult at times; however, what we do have of the file is very rewarding and provided valuable information.

At 240 pages the Military Personnel File of Lieutenant Robinson, is a rich file and makes it possible to determine a lot of his activity from the time he joined the Texas National Guard until he was killed in action on April 6, 1945, in Germany. A valuable source pertaining to the events of April 6, 1945 are the two written reports provided by TSgt William Brown and Captain John Fralish recommending James Robinson for the Medal of Honor. Each report corroborates the other and describes in detail the fateful events of April 6, 1945. Both reports can be found in the Appendix of this book.

Dolores, the daughter of James, has contributed significantly to the development of this book. She has provided numerous documents, pictures, military reports and letters. Without her contribution significant gaps would have appeared in the story.

There are a few minor gaps that exist in the record. For example, we don't have a full account of the time James spent at Camp Van Dorn. We are not sure where he attended basic training, and we have no record of his time at Camp Shanks waiting to ship out to Europe. However, these are minor details in portraying the overall story.

We are confident that the following pages provide an accurate and thorough story of Lieutenant James Edward Robinson, Jr. and the years he spent in World War II.

## Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the most prestigious award that can be awarded to a member of the United States military. The award is given to those who have distinguished themselves by acts of heroism in the face of extreme danger. Individuals awarded the Medal of Honor usually have sacrificed their life. Since the medal is awarded posthumously, it is presented to the next of kin. The medal is normally awarded by the President of the United States at a ceremony in Washington D.C. The medal is presented in the name of Congress, so it is occasionally referred to as the "Congressional Medal of Honor."

As of the beginning of 2018 there had been 3522 Medals of Honor awarded to the countries servicemen and women. There were 472 Medals awarded during World War II.

Picture: Medal of Honor. [Between 1941 and 1945] Retrieved from the Library of Congress.



# JAMES EDWARD ROBINSON, JR.

## IN BRIEF

**BORN:** July 10, 1919  
Toledo, Ohio

**PARENTS:** James E. and  
Dolores Robinson

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Waco High School,  
Waco, Texas

**ENLISTED:** June 2, 1939

**MILITARY TRAINING:** Officer Candidate School,  
Field Artillery  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma  
Officers Battery Executive  
Course, Fort Sill, Oklahoma

**UNIT:** 63rd Infantry, 253rd Regiment,  
861st Field Artillery Battalion,  
Battery A

**RANK:** First Lieutenant

**CAMPAIGNS:** Rhineland, Central Europe

**KILLED IN ACTION:** April 6, 1945, near  
the Village of Kressbach,  
Germany

**MARRIED:** Vina Elizabeth Crawson

**CHILDREN:** Dolores Robinson

**BURIED:** National Cemetery at Fort  
Sam Houston, San Antonio,  
Texas



James Edward Robinson, Jr. – Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.

### CITATIONS:

- \*Medal of Honor
- \*Bronze Star with Oak-Leaf Cluster
- \*Purple Heart
- \*Good Conduct Medal
- \*American Defense Service Medal
- \*American Campaign Medal
- \*World War II Victory Medal
- \*French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star
- \*European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

## EARLY LIFE

James Edward Robinson, Jr. was born July 10, 1919, in Toledo, Ohio. His father, James E. Robinson, was born in Somersworth, New Hampshire in 1882, and his mother, Dolores Freckleton was born in Australia in 1889. Dolores migrated to the United States in 1907 and became a citizen in 1909. Dolores and James were married in Lowell, Massachusetts, on November 27, 1909. In addition to James, there were two daughters: Louise born in Massachusetts in 1911, and Irene born in Connecticut in 1912. Sometime after 1912 James and Dolores packed up their belongings and along with their two young daughters moved to Toledo, Ohio. It was there James Jr. was born. The senior Robinson did well for himself. The 1920 census shows he owned his own home and worked in a garage which he owned.

Toledo, Ohio is located in the northwestern part of Ohio and settlement in this area took place after Ohio became a state. With the opening of the Erie Canal in 1845 the town became a growing seaport. Industry and commerce flourished in the area. By 1920 Toledo had a population of 243,000 residents. When the Great Depression swept the country, Toledo was caught up in the loss of industrial productivity and high unemployment. This may have been one of the influences which led the Robinson family to leave Toledo and move to Texas. They initially lived in Mexia, Texas. However, with a population of 3,500, the city had little to offer. In 1927 James packed up his family once more and moved to Waco, Texas.



Lucas County Court House, Toledo, Ohio, ca. 1923. Retrieved from the Library of Congress.



Above: Young James Robinson. Right: Irene, Louise and Jimmy. Below: The Robinson family in the 1920s. Images courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.



Waco is situated alongside the Brazos River, about 100 miles south of Dallas. It was founded in 1849, near a Texas Ranger post. After the Civil War it became instrumental as a place to cross the Brazos River for cattle drives. The railroad came through Waco in 1881 and this helped to stimulate economic growth. When the Robinsons moved to Waco, it was a town with a population of close to 53,000 residents. James was eight at the time. He attended school and worked his first job in Waco.

After attending Waco Elementary and South Jr. High School, James enrolled in Waco High School. Located on Columbus Avenue, the Waco High Tigers had one of the best sports programs in the United States. During his high school years James played football and baseball. On his Personal Placement Questionnaire completed when he joined the Army, James stated he excelled in basketball. In 1937 James graduated from Waco High School.

# MILITARY CAREER

## TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD

James enlisted in the Texas National Guard with the Howitzer Company, 143rd Infantry, on September 9, 1935. We do not know exactly what James did with the 143rd, but National Guard units are called upon to help with disasters. On March 8, 1937, the 143rd was activated to help with a gas explosion at a high school in New London, Texas, which killed 294 students and teachers. James was a member of the 143rd at the time and there is a high probability he was deployed with his National Guard unit to New London. James was discharged from the Texas National Guard on June 1, 1939.

While he was in the Texas National Guard, James lived at home with his parents at 1122 South 15th Street, Waco, Texas. During his time in the National Guard, he maintained employment as a commercial artist and printer, working for Bone-Crow Printing Company, J.M. Woods Company, and W.T. Grant Company. As a commercial artist he was responsible for cutting stencils for silk screen processing used in advertisements. He also created window displays for the companies.



Grant's Waco's New Store.  
Retrieved from The Waco News  
Tribune, April 24, 1923.



Fort Sam Houston, Military Post of San Antonio, Company Barracks and Band Building, 603-610 and 613 Infantry Post Road, San Antonio, Bexar County, TX. Retrieved from the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

## ENLISTMENT IN THE U.S. ARMY

One day after he was discharged from the National Guard, on June 2, 1939 in Dallas, Texas, James enlisted in the Regular Army. He listed his mother, Dolores, as his nearest relative. He was assigned to the 15th Field Artillery and sent to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Located 175 miles from Waco, James was close enough to make the occasional trip back home to visit family and friends.

Fort Sam Houston during World War II was a major military installation and continues to play a major role in the military today. The United States first established a military presence in this area as early as 1845 when the Republic of Texas was transitioning into statehood. Between the two World Wars, Fort Sam Houston underwent a massive expansion campaign, which involved the construction of over five hundred permanent new buildings. One of these buildings was a general hospital which eventually evolved into one of the Army's premier medical centers. At the outbreak of World War II, Fort Sam Houston was the largest military installation in the United States. During the war it served as the headquarters for the Third, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth and Fifteenth Armies. Many of the top commanders of World War II at one time or another passed through Fort Sam Houston.

From June 2, 1939 to March 21, 1942, James remained stationed at Fort Sam Houston, assigned to the 15th Field Artillery Battalion. He was initially slotted as a Cannoneer military occupation specialty (MOS - 811). As a cannoneer he was part of a team responsible for preparing artillery pieces and equipment for movement, combat, and firing. Once the equipment was ready for firing, he was tasked with various jobs associated with the firing of the big guns, such as laying for elevation and deflection, loading the gun, and handling the ammunition.



Young James Robinson in training. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.



James and friends at Fort Sam Houston. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.

It appears Private Robinson held this position with the 15th Field Artillery Battalion until October 1939, when he took on the duties of Clerk with the 15th Army. It is probable Private Robinson was able to type as the position of clerk during World War II was of great importance. And having the ability to type was highly valued. On September 1, 1940 while serving as the Clerk of the 15th Field Artillery, James was promoted to Corporal. In June 1940, he was transferred to Battery F and was promoted to Sergeant on May 12, 1941.

World War II began while James was at Fort Sam Houston. The Germans attacked Poland on September 1, 1939, and Japan advanced through the Pacific virtually unopposed. In October 1940, President Roosevelt signed into law the first peacetime selective service draft in U.S. history, in preparation for war. World events must have been on James' mind as he went through his daily training with the 15th Field Artillery Battalion.

After his promotion to Sergeant on May 12, 1941, James was transferred to the 37th Field Artillery Battalion in September. While James was at Fort Sam Houston, the Japanese attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941. The unprovoked attack resulted in 2,390 deaths. Of these deaths 1,177 were from the battleship USS Arizona. The next day, December 8, 1941 President Roosevelt addressed a joint session of Congress and declared war on Japan "A Day which will live in infamy." Congress overwhelmingly passed a declaration of war against the Japanese Empire, and on December 11 Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. The United States was now in World War II.



Clerks at work at their desks at Fort Benning, Georgia on 12 September 1944. U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph, Gift in Memory of Maurice T. White, from the Collection of The National World War II Museum.





James, Vina and Dolores in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.  
 Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.

## 14TH AIR DEPOT GROUP

While James was at Fort Sam Houston, he maintained a relationship with Vina Elizabeth Crawson of 2119 Alexander Avenue, Waco, Texas. Less than a month after the United States entered the war, on January 4, 1942, in the county of Gonzales, Texas Vina and James were married. Vina was the daughter of John Crawson (1870-1958) and Martha Elizabeth Crawson (1884-1958). At the time of their marriage, Vina was living with her parents. Vina was born in China Springs, Texas, and was the seventh of eight children. Vina and James had a daughter, Dolores, who was born on December 14, 1942. The honeymoon did not last long, James reported back to his unit, and on March 17, 1942, he received orders to report to 14th Air Depot Group with the Air Corps at Duncan Field in San Antonio, Texas. In addition to the transfer orders, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

This was an interesting move in the Army career of SSgt Robinson. Up to this point he had served with the Field Artillery, and there was nothing to suggest a transfer to the Army Air Force would take place.

The Air Force was part of the Army throughout World War II, and became an independent branch of the U.S. military in 1947. Soldiers did transfer from Army to Air Force during the war; however, it did not happen frequently.

When James arrived at Duncan Field and reported to the 14th Air Depot Group, he was assigned to the 14th Repair Squadron. "James E. Robinson, Jr., 6295276, is assigned to 14th Repair Sq., 14th Air Depot Group, Air Corps, and will report to the Commanding Officer thereof for duty."

The Army Air Force realized that in addition to deciding how many and what type of planes were needed to fulfill a mission, they had to work out all the necessary logistics to supply the planes and the men assigned to them in the air and on the ground. Air Depot groups were created to support the various Air Force groups.

The 14th Air Depot Group was activated on January 28, 1942, at Duncan Field, and on March 2, 1943 was combined with Kelly Field. The mission of the 14th Air Depot Group was to provide mechanical support, maintenance for all types of aircraft, and supplies for planes and crews in the air and on the ground. SSgt Robinson was a Shop Superintendent; and at various places in his Military Personnel File the record states he was a plane and engine mechanic. It also states in his Military Personnel File he had experience in both branches of the service (United States Army and Army Air Force). On May 16, 1942 James was promoted to Technical Sergeant.



Joint Base San Antonio - Lackland, Texas - An aerial shot of Kelly Field in 1928 outlines the layout of the airfield. Image retrieved from Jbsa.mil.

The Waco James grew up in was changing as World War II had a significant effect upon the city. With its moderate climate and wide open land Texas, was ideal for year-round military training. By the end of World War II, Texas was home to 175 major military installations. In addition to military installations, there were over 60 prisoner of war camps, more than in any other state. In 1942 Waco Army Airfield opened to support the war effort. The airfield covered 1,162 acres, consisting of two hard surfaced gravel runways laid down in an X pattern. The airfield was used as a training site for pilots and as a storage depot. The population increase illustrates the significant impact the war had on Waco. In 1940 the population was nearly 56,000 by 1950 the population was nearly 85,000.



Mechanics at Duncan Field working on an airplane engine. Retrieved from the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

During his year at Duncan Field James was a Shop Superintendent, a different MOS than his previous assignment. On July 1, 1942, James was promoted to Master Sergeant. James advanced through the ranks from Corporal in September 1940 to MSgt in July, 1942, in less than two years, which was an extraordinary achievement. James was a professional soldier, who entered the Texas National Guard when he was still in high school and moved up the ranks rapidly. His experience was primarily in Field Artillery but he had advanced to working as a Shop Superintendent with the United States Army Air Force. The ability James possessed obviously was recognized by the United States Army.

Once the United States entered the war, there was a shortage of Field Artillery Officers, and the Army saw potential in James to fill this shortage. On August 21, 1942 MSgt James Robinson applied for Officer Candidate School (OCS).

## OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

In the Military Personnel File of Master Sergeant James Edward Robinson we have the application he filed to attend the Army Air Forces Officer Candidate School. He addressed the application to the Commanding Officer of the 14th Repair, 14th Air Depot Group requesting, "that I be granted permission to attend Officer Candidate School, Army Air Forces." James's alternate choice was Officer Candidate School for Field Artillery. He provided the following information at the time on his application:

Age:	23 years, 1 month
Martial Status:	Married
Education:	H.S. Graduate
Service:	3 years, 3 months

After receiving all the appropriate approvals, the request for Officer Candidate School was approved. However, there was one glaring exception: James did not receive his first choice but was sent to Field Artillery Officer Candidate School.



U.S. soldiers at Fort Sill, Oklahoma during WWII. Gift In Memory of David Hagen, from the Collection of The National World War II Museum.

In July 1940 Brigadier General Courtney Hodges, Assistant Commandant of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, presented to Brigadier General Omar Bradley, Commandant of the Infantry School, a plan to train qualified enlisted men to become officers. The program which became known as Officer Candidate School (OCS) became the leading producer of Army officers in World War II. In July 1941 the program began with three different schools: Infantry were trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, Coastal Artillery trained at Fort Monroe, Virginia and Field Artillery was trained at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. By the end of World War II, over 800,000 officers who served in the Army were OCS graduates. The course was very difficult and rigorous, with only two out of three candidates passing the course. Once an enlisted man passed OCS, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. On February 13, 1943 Master Sergeant James Robinson reported to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for Field Artillery, Officer Candidate School.

Home of the U.S. Army's Field Artillery training ground, Fort Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma was first established as a frontier cavalry post. While leading a campaign into Indian Territory, on January 8, 1869, Major General Philip Sheridan established a camp which evolved into a fort which became Fort Sill. Originally the garrison was called "Camp Wichita." The Indians called it "the Soldier House at Medicine Bluffs." Sheridan later named it in honor of his West Point classmate and friend Brigadier General Joshua Sill, who was killed during the Civil War. To this day, since it's founding Fort Sill has continued to play a major role in the Army, and is one of the most important military installations in the United States. In 1913 an Infantry school was established and during World War I more than 50,000 soldiers were trained at Fort Sill. In 1919 the School of Fire became the Field Artillery School. In 1941 the Army opened a Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, and by 1942 Fort Sill was training 500 OCS students per month. It is interesting to note in 1942 Fort Sill retired the last horse-drawn field artillery unit, making field artillery units totally mechanized. This is where James received his OCS training in Field Artillery.



Soldiers in winter wool overcoats stand around a 75 mm pack Howitzer on wheels during training in a wooded area. "Feb. 1944, Our Howitzer." Fort Sill, Oklahoma. February 1944. Gift of Hiram Vance Boone from the Collection of The National World War II Museum.

During his OCS and field artillery training James underwent a very intense program. The topics and subjects covered included: Fire Direction, Firing Battery, Observed Fire, Unobserved Fire, Material, Motors, Methods of Instruction and Training, Artillery Tactics, Reconnaissance and Signal Communication. On May 13, 1943, James Edward Robinson, Jr. "completed satisfactory the O.C.S. Class No. 64 Field Artillery School." On the day he graduated James received an order from Alan B. Abt, 1st Lt., F.A. Assistant Secretary of the Commandant which stated "The Secretary of War has directed me to inform you the President has appointed and commissioned you a temporary Second Lieutenant, Army of the United States." In less than three years, James had advanced from a Corporal to a Second Lieutenant. Even during a time of war this rapid advancement was very remarkable.



Soldiers with surveying equipment during training in Oklahoma in February 1944. Gift of Hiram Vance Boone from the Collection of The National World War II Museum.

On the day James received his commission, he also received orders to report to active duty at Fort Sill for Field Artillery Replacement Center training. Field Artillery played a crucial role in the strategy of the United States Army during the war and Fort Sill was where the soldiers who wore the insignia of the Field Artillery received their training.



Officer candidates on a road march with full packs in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Retrieved from the Library of Congress.



Graduating Class Officer Candidate School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma 1943. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.

## 861ST FILED ARTILLERY BATTALION

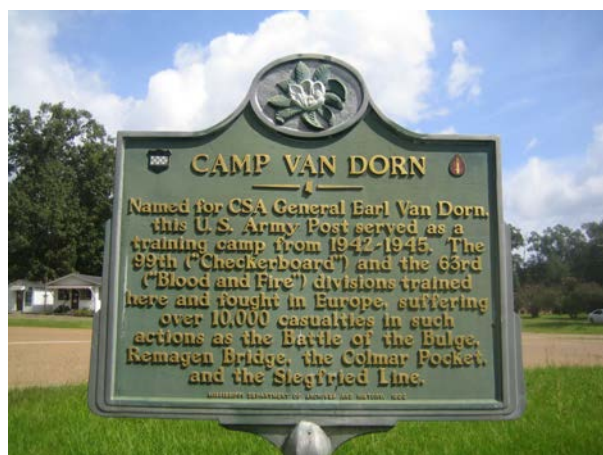
After the invasion of North Africa, Operation TORCH, on November 8, 1942 the Army realized it was necessary to quickly replace casualties lost in the field during battle. Replacement training centers were established throughout the United States. These centers trained men to be sent to the battlefield where they were held in replacement depots behind enemy lines. The GIs called these depots, “repple-depples” and as a unit needed replacements they were pulled from the depots and assigned to a unit. As the war dragged on, there were units which no longer consisted of the original members. According to Historian John McManus, “only 34 percent of the infantrymen in line companies came overseas with their units.” Fort Sill was slotted as a Field Artillery Replacement Center, and James was one of the junior officers training the replacements.

It appears that, somewhere around July of 1943, James was assigned to the 861st Field Artillery Battalion as an operations and training staff officer. During the summer, the unit moved to Centerville, Mississippi, the home of Camp Van Dorn. The camp was located in Amite and Wilkinson Counties, Mississippi, and was an Army training camp from 1942-1945. The 99th Infantry Division and the 63rd Infantry Division trained there before being sent to Europe. The population of the camp was around 40,000 personnel at the height of its existence. The 861st Field Artillery Battalion was attached to the 63rd Infantry Division, James served as an Artillery Officer with the 63rd Infantry Division, 861 Field Artillery Battalion.

James’s stay at Camp Van Dorn must have been a pleasant time in his life. At some point, while he was at Camp Van Dorn, Vina and Dolores moved to Baton Rouge and lived at 2240 Calumet Street. Baton Rouge is 48 miles from Centerville, Mississippi. This would have made it possible for occasional visits. James was an officer, and it is not inconceivable he was allowed to leave the Camp on weekends or holidays. He was authorized leave for 14 days beginning on October 8, 1944, and we know Vina and Dolores visited him at Camp Van Dorn during the Christmas holidays. Like the rest of the United States Baton Rouge and the state of Louisiana, became a beehive of activity during the war. Harding Field in Baton Rouge was a training base for pilots, and Vina had a military pass to use the facilities on the base (commissary and post exchange). Camps Beauregard, Livingston, and Claiborne in Rapides Parish, and Camp Polk in Vernon Parish, were all established to meet the war time need for training military personnel. The Andrew Higgins Company in New Orleans produced the flat bottomed LCVP, which were instrumental in landing troops on the beaches of Europe and in the Pacific. With Vina and Dolores living in thriving wartime Baton Rouge and James having the ability to leave the camp occasionally the newly married couple must have had a fun and exciting time.



Above: Vina Robinson’s Military Pass. Right: James with Blood and Fire Patch on Right Sleeve, Insignia of the 63rd Infantry Division. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.



Camp Van Dorn Historical Marker. Image courtesy of William “Brother” Rogers.

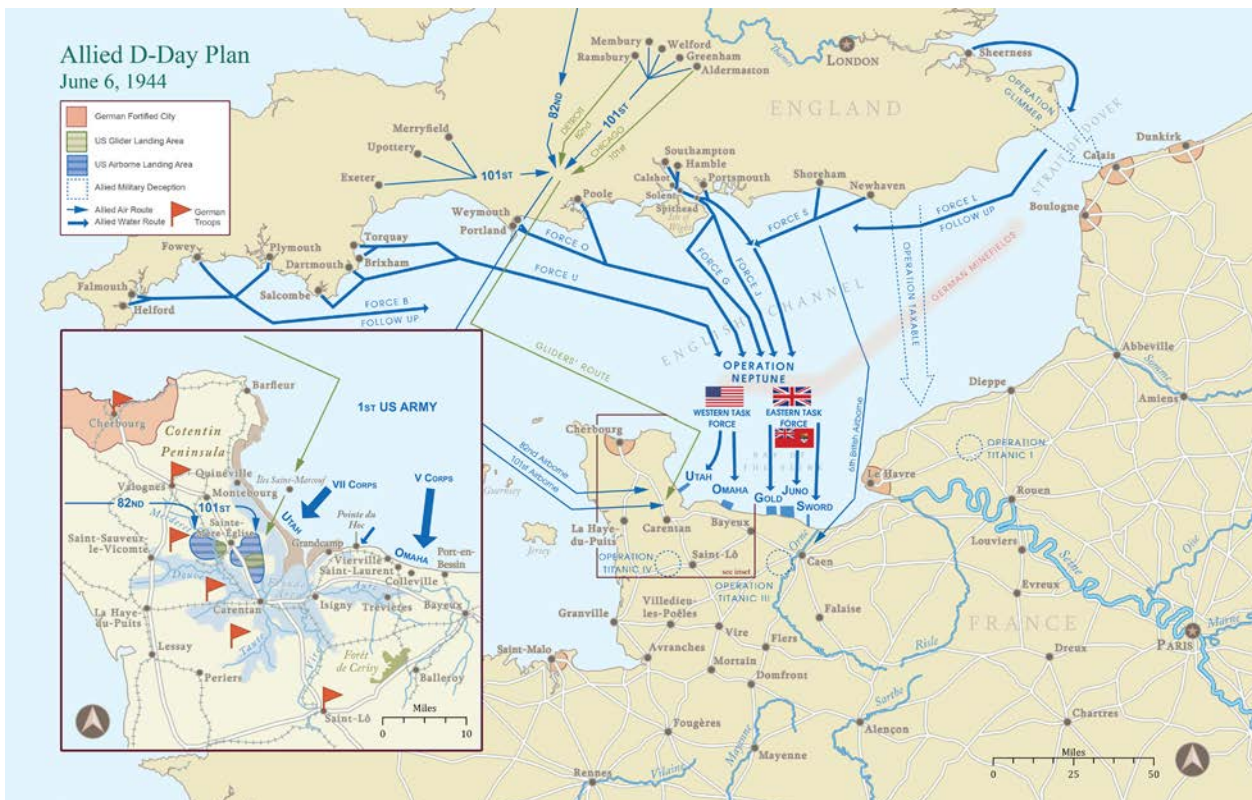
Evidently James was not satisfied with being an Artillery Officer. In his Military Personnel File we have an "Application for Air Crew Training in Officer Grade" which he submitted on February 24, 1944 from Camp Van Dorn. The application went through the Commanding General of the 63rd Infantry Division and James specifically requested to be allowed to attend pilot training. There is no documentation showing his request was rejected. However, the Army had other plans for James.

Five months after James was rejected for Air Crew Training as a pilot, he was recommended for promotion to First Lieutenant, Field Artillery. The recommendation was filed on July 31, 1944 by Lieutenant Colonel D.C. Beere, Commanding Officer of the 861st Field Artillery at Camp Van Dorn. In addition to the recommendation for promotion, there was also a recommendation to be appointed the Executive Officer for Battery A with the 861st Field Artillery Unit. The promotion and position transfer were both approved. On September 9, 1944, James reported back to Fort Sill, where he enrolled in the Officers

Battery Executive Course, Class No. 47 for Field Artillery School. He wrote to Vina on September 11 asking her "When are you coming up here? If we find a place to stay you can go home and get Dolores and come back up here." On October 8, 1944, he graduated from the course.

While James was at Camp Van Dorn the United States and her Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy. During the early morning hours on June 6, 1944, Operation OVERLORD began the invasion of Normandy, France. By dawn thousands of paratroopers and glider troops were on the ground behind enemy lines, securing bridges and exit roads. The amphibious invasion began at 6:30 a.m. The British and Canadians captured beaches codenamed Gold, Juno, and Sword. The Americans captured Utah Beach and Omaha Beach, where the fighting was extremely heavy. The U.S. Army suffered over 4,700 casualties. By the end of the day over 150,000 Allied troops successfully were ashore at Normandy. Less than a week later, by June 11, the beaches were fully secured and over 325,000 troops, more than 50,000 vehicles, and some 100,000 tons of equipment were in Normandy.

Map of The Allied D-Day Plan. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum.



## DEPLOYMENT TO EUROPE

“Blood and Fire” was the slogan of the 63rd Infantry Division, which was activated at Camp Blanding, Florida, on June 15, 1943. After some initial training the unit relocated to Camp Van Dorn. With the arrival of the 861st Field Artillery Battalion and other support units, the division reached full strength by the summer of 1944. In addition to the 861st Field Artillery Battalion, there was also the 718th, 862nd and 863rd Field Artillery Battalions, which supported the 253rd, 254th and 255th Infantry Regiments. The commanding officer was Major General Louis Hibbs. By November 1944, advanced units of the division were transferring to Camp Shanks for deployment to Europe. Once in Europe the 63rd Infantry Division, would log 119 days of combat in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. They would take over 21,000 German prisoners and suffer over 4,500 casualties while earning seven Presidential Unit Citations and two members of the 63rd Infantry Division received the Medal of Honor.

After completing his Executive Course and returning to Camp Van Dorn, First Lieutenant James Robinson, by the fall of 1944 must have realized his fate rested with the 861st Field Artillery Battalion. During the holiday season James received a visit from his wife and daughter. Obviously this was a wonderful moment for the newly married couple, little did they know it would be the last time they would see each other.

On December 31, Captain James Young, Jr. filed an “Efficiency Report” on James Robinson. The report stated James was his Executive Officer with Battery A, and received superior grades in all categories. Captain Young wrote the following in describing James’s character. “A dynamic, alert, forceful yet somewhat talkative and temperamental officer whose personal magnetism and ability to think rapidly and clearly under stress qualify him as a personal leader to an outstanding degree. Is inclined to slow up on what he considers routine work, out rises to challenge with superlative results. Lacks educational background.”

In January 1945, James shipped out to Camp Shanks, New Jersey, for deployment to Europe.



Camp Shanks. View from water tower B looking North View Orangeburg Road where road bends, 1943. US Army Photograph, courtesy of Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives.

Beginning in 1943 until the end of World War II, Camp Shanks was the largest Army port of embarkation in the United States. Camp Shanks, fondly referred to as “Last Stop, USA” by the soldiers who passed through it, saw over 1.25 million troops sail from its docks to Europe and Africa. Consisting of over 2,000 acres in Orangetown, New York, the site was perfect for a large embarkation port. There were two railroads located on the Hudson River which ran through Orangetown. At the height of its existence, the base had a population of over 50,000 serviced by Quonset hut barracks, a laundry, a bakery, a hospital, chapels, stores and a theater. GIs spent an average of eight to twelve days at the camp before boarding ships to North Africa or Europe. Camp Shanks processed around 40,000 soldiers each month. This was where James Robinson and the 861st Field Artillery Battalion were processed for their deployment to Europe.



Troops disembark at Piermont Pier from the Brig. Gen. D.E. Horton, 1945. US Army Photograph, courtesy of Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives.

They arrived at Marseille, France in the middle of January 1945.

On December 16, 1944, the Germans launched a major counter-offensive, through the densely-forested Ardennes region which became known as the Battle of the Bulge. They initially achieved total surprise but U.S. forces regrouped and by January 25, 1945, they had pushed the Germans back. It was very costly. The U.S. Army sustained over 89,000 casualties, of which 19,000 were killed in action.

The use of artillery during World War II was unprecedented. Germans interviewed after the war commented on the fear generated by American artillery barrages that rained down on them. The gun used by the 861st was the 105 mm howitzer. A battalion had three batteries, and each battery had 4 guns. When at full strength the battalion was manned by close to 500 men. Each battery had about 100 men, 95 enlisted men and five officers, and each of the artillery battalions were assigned to an infantry regiment to provide combat support. During the war there were 238 field artillery battalions operating in Europe, 36 of which were armed with the 105mm howitzer. James was one of the five officers assigned to Battery A of the 861st Field Artillery.



View from a ship of the harbor of Marseilles, France. Gift of Vincent Yannetti, from the collection of The National World War II Museum.

When James and the 861st Field Artillery came ashore at Marseille, France, they were attached to the 253rd Infantry Regiment. Almost immediately, they were thrust into heavy fighting. The Germans on December 31, 1944 launched Operation NORDWIND with the purpose of destroying the U.S. 7th Army. James and the 861st along with the 253rd were attached to the 7th Army to help stop



US artillery troops bombarding enemy positions in Italy on 1 September 1944 U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph, Gift of Regan Forrester, from the Collection of The National World War II Museum.



the German offensive. They halted the German offensive on January 25, 1945. This was the last major offensive Germany launched. Once they stopped the German attack, they moved into Auersmacher where they fought the Germans there from February 17 – 19. After entering Auersmacher, the next day on February 20, James was made the forward observer for Company A, First Battalion, 253rd Regiment. On March 15, 1945 as the division moved north east into Germany, they took the cities of Fechingen, Eschringen, and Ensheim. James had been in Europe for two months and was already a seasoned combat veteran.



US Seventh Army vehicles crossing the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge near Worms, Germany, circa 26 March 1945. U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph.



American 105mm Howitzer shelling German forces near Carentan, France, 11 July 1944. Retrieved from the National Archives.

After a much needed rest, on March 28, the 63rd Division crossed the Rhine River at Neuschloss. We are not sure if the 861st Field artillery was with the Division at the time they crossed the Rhine: However, if they did not cross the first day then they followed soon after. The crossing of the Rhine put the Division deep in German territory and facing the most severe German resistance. By April 1945, Germany was all but defeated. It was understood the

war would be ending soon. However, the Germans kept fighting. It appeared they were going to fight until the very end. The Germans facing the 63rd Infantry Division and the 861st Field Artillery were the fanatical 17th SS Panzer Division, seasoned combat veterans who would not consider surrendering. On April 4, the 253rd Regiment crossed the Jagst River in the Griesheim-Herbolzheim region.



Servicemen with a 105mm Howitzer M3. Location unknown. ca 1944 Europe. Gift in Memory of Rayford Edwin Alexander, from the Collection of The National World War II Museum.

## APRIL 6, 1945

A forward observer with a field artillery unit was one of the most dangerous positions in World War II. Artillery, like the 105mm howitzers used by 861st, was seldom within the sight of the battle. The forward observer serves as the eyes of the big guns, radioing back to the artillery battery the location of the target. On most occasions the shots are not on target, so the observer sends back corrections to zero in on the target. The forward observer and his team of two enlisted men traveled with the infantry. Casualties were high among the forward observer teams. By the end of the war they were lucky if they lasted two weeks without being hit. Forward observers had to be very versatile and have the ability to think quickly, even at times taking command of an infantry unit.

The contrast in battle is best illustrated in a letter James wrote to Vina dated April 3, 1945. "Well Darling I am still alive and kicking, I am well and in excellent health and hate the Jerry's more every day. Well we have been moving fast and I have been through the Siegfried Line and have crossed the Rhine River. Darling I am not in any danger, don't worry about me just plan on having a good time when I get home." He was very proud of his two year old daughter, Dolores, showing her picture to the guys in his unit. "She is the pin up girl of A Co. 253rd Inf." This is the last letter James wrote.

On April 5 the 1st Battalion of the 253rd crossed the Jagst River at Untergriesheim, Germany. The crossing was challenged by enemy artillery from the vicinity of Kressbach. It was a clear day and visibility was excellent. The 17th SS Panzer Division, 1800 strong, were dug in on the high ground between Untergriesheim to the west and Kressbach and Stein to the east. At 1645 that afternoon "A" Company led the attack on a hill directly east of Untergriesheim, sustaining several casualties. Among the casualties were both of the enlisted men assigned to 1st Lieutenant James Robinson. Orders were given to withdraw to Untergriesheim to reorganize and prepare for a dawn attack. Knowing the attack would begin in the morning before the sun rose one can imagine there was little sleep.



US forward observers watch troop movements from atop a hut in Lanuvio, Italy on 31 May 1944. U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph, Gift of Regan Forrester, from the Collection of The National World War II Museum.

At 0400 on April 6, "A" Company led the attack with a platoon of tanks. They had moved only a few hundred yards when the Germans brought down a heavy concentration of mortar fire on "A" Company resulting in eleven casualties. Lieutenant Robinson and his replacements called in artillery fire, which destroyed the German mortar positions. "A" Company renewed the attack at about 0520 suffering four more casualties. By this time the sun had risen and visibility had become clearer allowing the enemy's fire to become more accurate. At around 0620, James called in an artillery attack on a machine gun nest, which was reported as being 100% accurate. During this round of fighting "A" Company suffered seven more casualties. By 1130 the Company was about 1000 meters south east of Herbolzheim, German snipers, machine guns, and mortar fire had been deadly, with the company losing more than half of their men. The Company Commander, Lieutenant Magin, was killed by a sniper which left Lieutenant Adams as the only infantry officer.

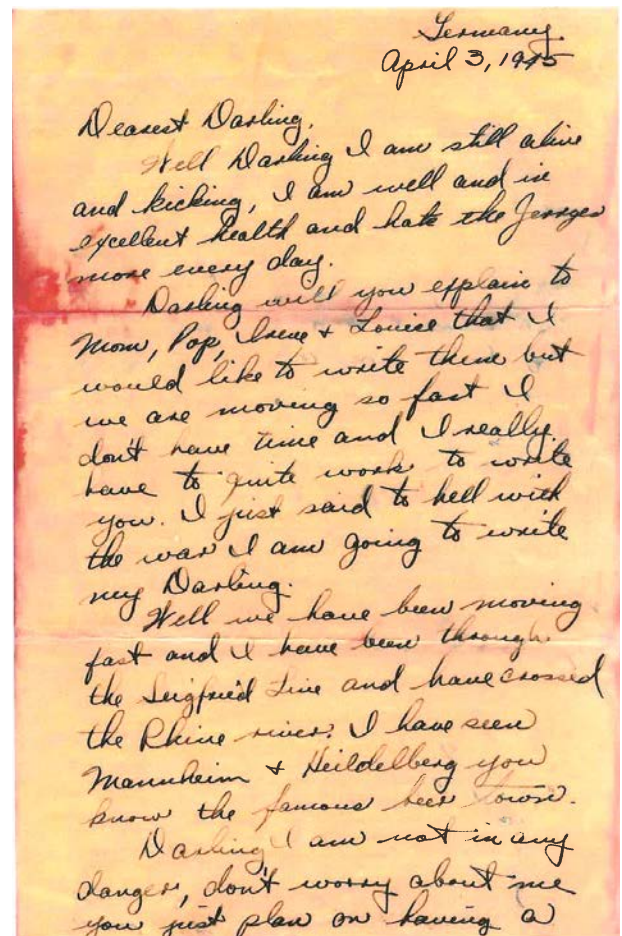
Lieutenant Robinson's replacements did not make it past the morning. Robinson's new reconnaissance man TSgt Moody, was killed by a sniper, and radio operator Private Tackett was seriously wounded and evacuated to a field hospital. When his radio operator went down, James took the 78 pound SCR 610, radio knowing he would have to call in artillery support. At this point there were about 25 men under the command of Lieutenant Adams, who at about 1200 hours was wounded and had to be evacuated. The morale of the men was very low, many of them panic stricken. James was the only remaining officer, and the situation was desperate. With no other options available, James took command of the small group.

With "absolute disregard for his personal safety, completely ignoring the terrific hail of enemy fire, he coolly walked among the men and told them what he intended to do." He told each man personally that his objective was to take the base of the hill from the Germans. Inspired by the "personal magnetism" of Lieutenant Robinson, the men rose to their feet along with several walking wounded and yelled "Let's go." The men followed James to the base of the hill, and witnessed him personally empty his M-1 rifle and pistol, killing ten of the enemy on the spot. By 1400 the objective had been captured and the enemy killed or fled. There were 19 men left in "A" Company, and they dug into the positions for which they had fought so hard.

At 1600 the small group, now numbering nineteen, received orders to take the village of Kressbach. This seemed almost suicidal. The men were exhausted, weary, and reluctant to move anywhere, let alone stage another attack on a strongly occupied German position. "Again it was Lieutenant Robinson who inspired them to Herculean feats." Men followed, for the second time in the afternoon, James against a fanatical enemy with superior numbers. As James led the advance a shell fragment hit him in the neck, sending him to the ground. He was bleeding profusely but, he refused medical aid and refused to go to the rear, instead calling in an artillery strike on the town. He could barely talk, but he encouraged the men to keep moving.

Sometime after James was mortally wounded, he made the following radio transmission: "Evans, I want you to gather up all of my belongings and send them home to my wife. Also, send up a new Forward Observer Section. I have been hit, and I don't think I will make it." Even after sending this transmission; James continued to call in artillery fire until he could no longer talk. By 1700 Kressbach had been captured.

Lieutenant Robinson, who could no longer speak, turned his radio over to the infantry, and walked back to Herbolzheim to the aid station. He received first aid and was sent to another field hospital for surgery. At 1900 he died.



The first page of James E. Robinson's last letter to his beloved wife Vina, written April 3rd, 1945. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.

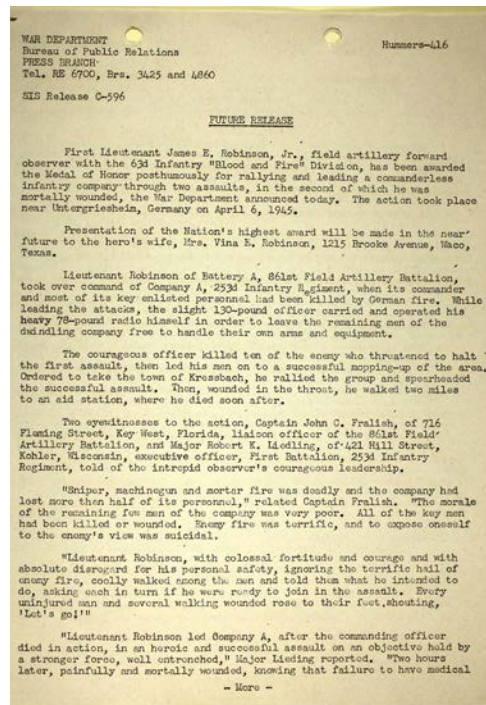
# MEDAL OF HONOR

The events which followed are all testimony to the bravery, personal charisma, fortitude and strength of Lieutenant James Edward Robinson, Jr. Several men, enlisted and officers, witnessed the activity of James on that fateful day, April 6, 1945.

Brigadier General E.J. McGaw from the Headquarters of the 63rd Infantry Division wrote a letter dated April 11 to Mrs. Robinson informing her of the death of James. "It is with a feeling of deep regret that I write you relative to the recent death of your husband." General McGaw went on to write "Robbie was one of my best officers." Captain Charles Young, Commanding Officer 861st Field Artillery Battalion, wrote to Mrs. Robinson on April 15: "Jim's ever present cheerfulness and magnificent courage were an inspiration to all." Funeral services were held for James on April 7 and he was buried in a United States Cemetery in Southern Germany.

On May 18, 1945, Vina received a letter informing her "At the request of the President, I write to inform you that the Purple Heart has been awarded posthumously to your husband." On July 7, 1945 for previous action James was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal with one Oak-Leaf Cluster.

"For heroic achievement in action on 27 February 1945 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*. During a savage enemy counter-attack spearheaded by self-propelled guns, machine guns, mortars and riflemen, Lieutenant Robinson, through his skillful manipulation and direction of artillery fire in darkness and fog, materially aided the infantry in repelling the enemy. Numerous enemy were captured and an undetermined number killed in this action; and for heroic achievement in action on 3 March 1945, in the vicinity of \*\*\*, \*\*\*. Lieutenant Robinson was forward observer with Company "A", \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, which was under murderous enemy mortar and artillery fire. Although exposing himself to the same fire coupled with machine gun and small arms fire, he changed his position tone which enabled him to observe and silence by artillery fire two enemy artillery batteries and numerous mortar positions."



First page from the War Department's official statement recognizing that James Robinson was to receive the Medal of Honor. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.

There are numerous documents in the Military Personnel File of Lieutenant Robinson informing Vina her late husband had received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. What followed next was the highest honor awarded to a soldier.

The first document recommending him for the Medal of Honor which appears in the Military Personnel File of Lieutenant James Robinson is dated May 28, 1945. The document is from Company "A", First Battalion, 253rd Infantry Regiment, and is signed by numerous officers and enlisted men who witnessed the heroic action of James on that fateful day. Many of the men who signed the document were alive because of James's action. The document is two pages and describes the events which took place on April 6. "After the Company Commander was killed, and we all wanted to quit, Lieutenant Robinson, demonstrating again his magnificent leadership and courage and with his characteristic gallantry rallied us

around him and led us through a hail of enemy bullets, personally killing several enemy in his path and taking our objective and driving the enemy from his positions and inflicting upon him extremely heavy casualties.”

There exist numerous testimonies to the bravery and courage of James Robinson. The two most compelling documents are from TSgt William Brown and Captain John Fralish. These two reports corroborate each other and testified in detail to the events which took place on April 6, 1945. The recommendation by TSgt Brown consists of ten pages, and the one by Captain Fralish is six pages. Each of these reports explains in detail the events beginning with the attack on the evening of April 5. Both reports can be found in the appendix of this book.

The first document recognizing First Lieutenant Robinson as a recipient of the Medal of Honor is dated October 30, 1945. The letter is addressed to the Commanding General, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, “The Commanding General, Army Services Forces, directs the Medal of Honor awarded First Lieutenant James B. Robinson be forwarded to this office, Decorations and Awards Branch, 2026 Munitions Building, Washington 25, D.C.” The letter went on to instruct the Medal should be engraved as follows:

The Congress To  
1st Lt James E. Robinson  
F.A. U.S. Army  
Untergriesheim, Germany  
6 April 1945



Vina and Dolores. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.



James Robinsons wife, Vina receiving his Medal of Honor. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.

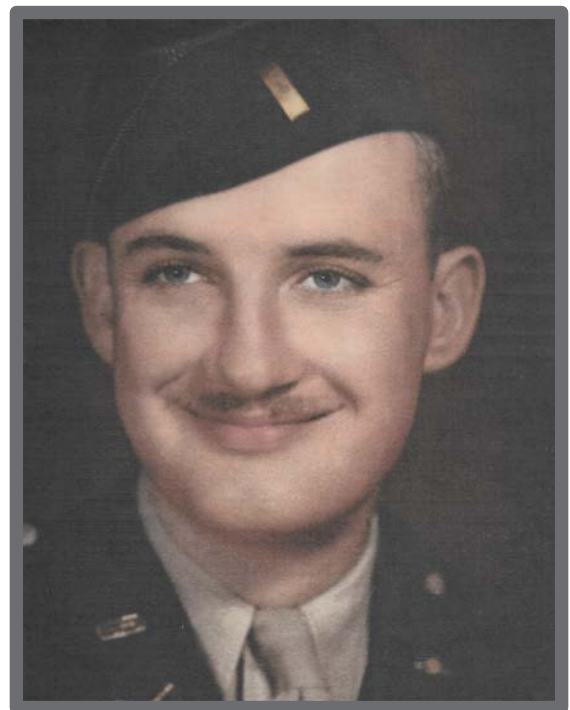
The date of the award was October 2, 1945, almost six months from the day James gave his life for his country.

All documentation officially announcing James as a Medal of Honor recipient is dated December 6, 1945. Mrs. Vina Robinson received this letter dated December 6, 1945: “I have the honor to inform you that by direction of the President a Medal of Honor has been posthumously awarded by the War Department, in the name of Congress, to your husband, First Lieutenant James E. Robinson for conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty.” The Medal of Honor was presented to his widow, Vina and their daughter Dolores on December 11, 1945. The citation was published in the War Department General Orders and can be found in the appendix of this book.

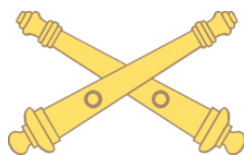
In the years to come, the honors continued to mount for James Robinson, Jr. An officer's candidate barracks at Fort Sill and a barracks in Stuttgart, Germany are both named in his honor. In 1948 the French Government posthumously presented James with the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star. On September 9, 1948 Vina received the following letter from the Department of the Army: "I am pleased to inform you that the Army-owned cargo vessel "Lt. James E. Robinson" has been named in honor of your husband, the late Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr." James was brought home and buried at the National Cemetery at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

First Lieutenant James Edward Robinson, Jr. was a professional soldier. He lied about his age to join the Texas National Guard when he was a teenager. After serving in the National Guard for four years, he developed a desire to join the Army. He resigned from the National Guard and the next day June 3, 1939 he enlisted in the U.S. Army two years before the United States entered World War II. He rose rapidly through the ranks advancing to Master Sergeant before applying for Officer Candidate School. After completing OCS, he received his commission and was assigned to the 861st Field Artillery Battalion and within months was promoted to First Lieutenant. In January 1945 his unit shipped out to France and was immediately thrust into combat. By February 20, 1945 he was made a forward observer, one of the most dangerous positions in the war, with the 253rd Regiment Battery A. On April 6, 1945 he took command of Infantry Company A, now only 19 strong and led them in the attack against the German village of Kressbach. Wounded and barely able to speak, James rallied his troops and by all accounts his leadership and courage were the reason they successfully achieved their objective. Only after Kressbach had been taken did he seek medical help, walking two miles to the nearest aid station. His wounds proved to be mortal, at 1900 hours he died.

When his country needed him, First Lieutenant James Robinson, Jr. answered the call. For his World War II service, he was recognized for serving in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with one Oak-Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, and the European -African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars. For his bravery and leadership, which cost him his life he was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest honor the U.S. Military can bestow on a soldier.



First Lieutenant James E. Robinson. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.



Images on opposite page courtesy of Wikimedia Commons, military.com and The National WWII Museum.

# RANKS, DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS WORN BY JAMES E. ROBINSON, JR.



First Lieutenant



Second Lieutenant



Corporal



Sergeant



Staff Sergeant



Technical Sergeant



Master Sergeant



Field Artillery Insignia



**63RD. DIV.**  
Insignia of the 63rd Infantry Division



American Defense Medal



Good Conduct Medal



Purple Heart



American Campaign Medal



WWII Victory Medal



Bronze Star



European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal



The Medal of Honor



French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star

# MOVEMENT OF JAMES E. ROBINSON DURING WORLD WAR II



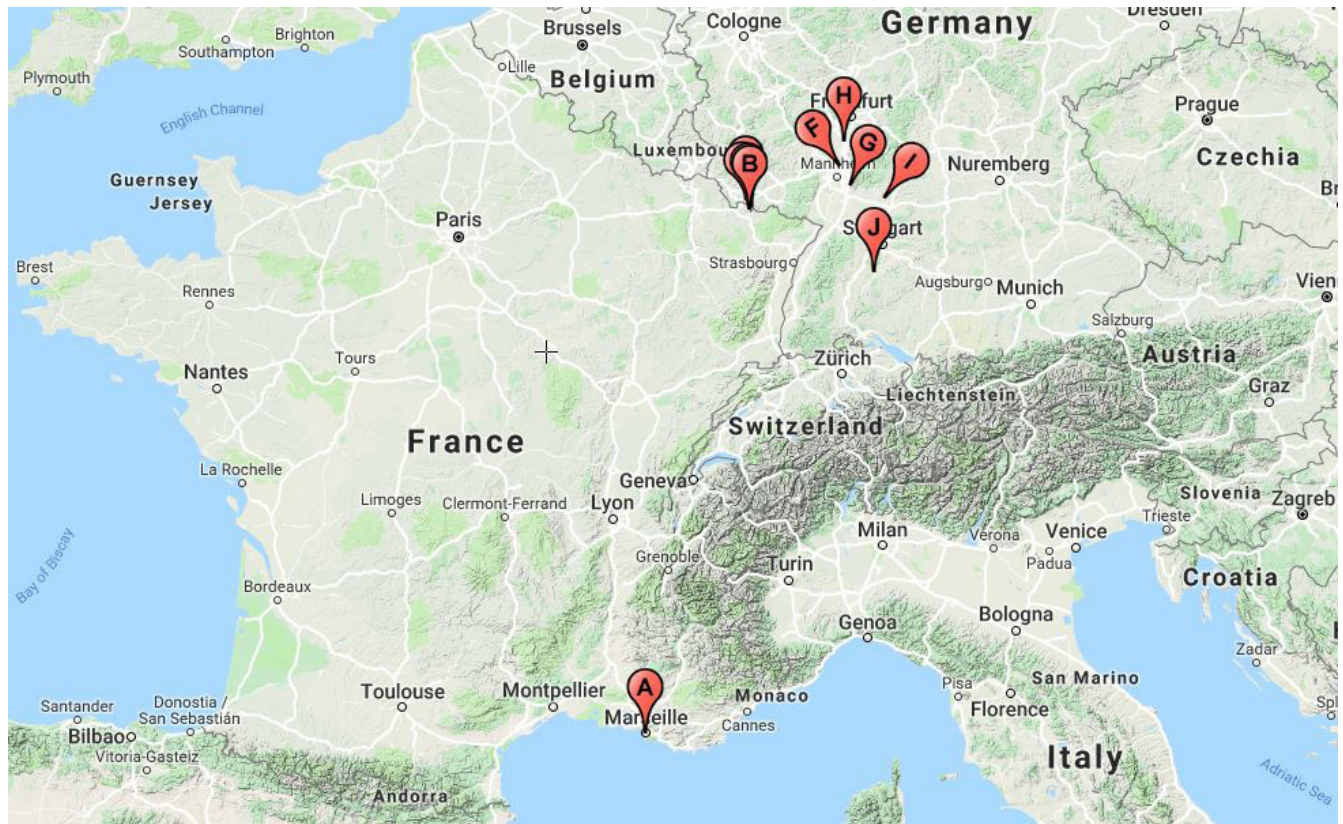
United States:

- A - Toledo, Ohio
- B - Mexia, Texas
- C - Waco, Texas
- D - San Antonio Texas
- E - Fort Sill, Oklahoma

- F - Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi
- G - Orangetown, New York

A soldier sits on a box to record the group's actions for the day during training in Oklahoma in February 1944. Gift of Hiram Vance Boone, from the Collection of The National World War II Museum.





Europe:

A - Marseille, France

B - Auersmacher, France

C - Bübingen, Germany

D - Bliesransbach, Germany

E - Saarbrücken, Germany

F - Neuschloss, Germany

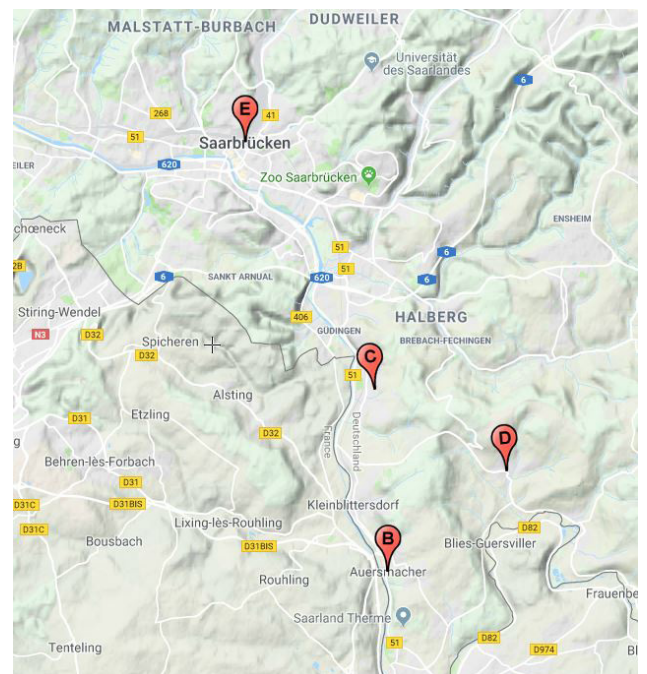
G - Heidelberg, Germany

H - Griesheim, Germany

I - Untergriesheim, Germany

J - Kressbach, Germany

Close up of the area around Saarbrücken:



Infantrymen advancing through Zweibrücken, Germany, 1945. Gift in Memory of G.T. Hennings, from the Collection of The National World War II Museum.

# APPENDIX

The following pages contain files pertaining to James E. Robinson. The documents are drawn largely from his Military Personnel File, and the collection of papers of James Robinson's daughter, Dolores Milhous.

STATE Ohio COUNTY Franklin TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Franklin NAME OF INSTITUTION Franklin

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
**FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1920-POPULATION**  
 ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 14th DAY OF December, 1920.

9-107 01-4293 SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT No. 6 SHEET No. 7  
 WARD OF CITY 14 ENUMERATION DISTRICT No. 1571  
 NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Franklin, Ohio DAY OF INCORPORATION 1850 Franklin Franklin 501

FLIST OF ABOVE	NAME	RELATION	SEX	RACE	CITIZENSHIP	EDUCATION	NATIVITY AND BIRTH PLACE			OCCUPATION
							Foreign born	Foreign born	Foreign born	
1451	Johnston, Albert C.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1452	Johnston, Robert	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1453	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1454	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1455	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1456	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1457	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1458	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1459	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1460	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1461	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1462	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1463	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1464	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1465	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1466	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1467	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1468	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1469	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1470	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1471	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1472	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1473	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1474	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1475	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1476	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1477	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1478	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1479	Robinson, James E.	Wife	M	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher
1480	Robinson, Dolores	Wife	F	W	U.S. born	High school	U.S. born	U.S. born	U.S. born	Teacher



VERIFY PRESENCE OF ODH WATERMARK

HOLD TO LIGHT TO VIEW



# STATE OF OHIO OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

## CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH

STATE FILE NUMBER	1919057327	DATE RECORD FILED	07/16/1919
NAME	JAMES EDWARD ROBINSON		
DATE OF BIRTH	07/10/1919	SEX	MALE
BIRTHPLACE	OHIO		
MOTHER'S NAME	DOLORES ROBINSON	FATHER'S NAME	JAMES E ROBINSON
LAST NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE	FRECKLETON		
MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE	NEW HAMPSHIRE	FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE	NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Note:**

This is a true certification of the name and birth facts as recorded in the Office of Vital Statistics, Columbus, Ohio. Witness my signature and seal of the Department of Health this 11 day of January, 2019

State Registrar of Vital Statistics

H7335535



SUMMIT COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

REV. 7/2015

**VOID WITHOUT WATERMARK OR IF ALTERED OR ERASED**

VERIFY PRESENCE OF ODH WATERMARK

HOLD TO LIGHT TO VIEW

# Waco High School



Waco, Texas

*This Certifies That*

**James Edward Robinson, Jr.**

*has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study prescribed by the Board of Education  
for the High School Department and is therefore entitled to this*

**DIPLOMA**

*Given under our hands at Waco, Texas this 27 day of May 1937*

*Wm. Riches*  
PRESIDENT  
*Mrs. J. W. Millis*  
SECRETARY

*R. H. Brute*  
SUPERINTENDENT  
*E. Kenheimer*  
PRINCIPAL

ENLISTMENT RECORD

Of

Robinson, James E Private VI  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Army Serial No.) (Grade)

Enlisted September 9, 1935, at Waco, Texas

\*In the service of the United States, under call of the President, from to

Serving in First enlistment period at date of discharge.

Prior service: None

Noncommissioned officer: Never

Qualification in arms: 1st class Gunner, 37MM 3" T.M. per par 2, RO 49 dtd 11-25-36

Horsemanship: Not mounted

Attendance at: None (Name of noncommissioned officers' or special service school)

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: None

Decorations, service medals, citations: None

Knowledge of any vocation: None

Wounds received in service: None

Date and result of smallpox vaccination: 3-21-38 Successful

Date of completion of all typhoid-paratyphoid vaccinations: 3-14-38

Date and result of diphtheria immunity test (Schick): Not completed

Date of other vaccinations (specify vaccine used): None

Physical condition when discharged: Good Married or single: Single

Character: Excellent

Remarks: Service honest and faithful, No AWOL under A.W.-107

Signature of soldier: James E. Robinson

W. K. Smith  
Captain 143rd Infantry  
Commanding Howitzer Company

\* Strike out line if the soldier was not in the Federal service during this enlistment.  
† Give company and regiment or corps or department, with inclusive dates of service in each enlistment.  
‡ Give date of qualification or rating and number, date, and source of order announcing same. U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

# National Guard of the United States



AND OF THE STATE OF Texas

To all whom it may concern:

This is to Certify, That James Edward Robinson  
\* Private, Howitzer Company 143rd Infantry  
† National Guard as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL  
SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the NATIONAL GUARD of the  
UNITED STATES and of the State of Texas by reason of  
‡ Expiration term of service

Said James Edward Robinson was born  
in Toledo, in the State of Ohio

(When enlisted he was 18<sup>2</sup>/<sub>12</sub> years of age and by occupation a Student  
He had Blue eyes, Sandy Red hair, fair complexion, and  
was 5 feet 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches in height.

Given under my hand at Waco, Texas this  
8<sup>th</sup> day of September, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight

A. C. Jorance

Colonel, 143rd Infantry  
Commanding

# ENLISTMENT RECORD REGULAR ARMY

**Robinson, James Edward, Jr.** #6,295,276 White  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name) (Army serial No.)\* (Race; see Instruction 4)  
 Home address 1123 So 15th St. Waco, McLennan, Texas  
(See Instr. 3) (No. and street or rural route; if none, so state) (City, town, or post office) (County) (State)  
 \*Enlisted at DALLAS, TEXAS on the 2nd day of June, 1939, For  
 \*by Telephor G. Gottschalk, C. for Field Artillery (unassigned) to serve three (3)  
(Company, regiment, and arm or service) (Word and number)  
 \*for service in Ft. Sam Houston, Texas  
(If enlisted for service outside the United States, or in any particular service within his arm or service)

Last enlisted service in the Army (see Instruction 5):  
None Date of discharge \_\_\_\_\_  
(Company, regiment, and arm or service) (In the Army)  
 \* To be filled out at place of enlistment. Care will be taken to make place and date of enlistment, name of enlisting officer, and period of enlistment.

## DECLARATION OF APPLICANT (See Instruction 7)

1. Where were you born? Toledo, Ohio  
(City, town, or county) (State)
2. What is your race? (See Instr. 6) White What is your regular trade or occupation? None  
(City, town, or county) (Occupation)
3. Are you a citizen of the United States? Yes If not, have you made legal declaration of intention of becoming a declarant for citizenship: a. On what date and in what court did you make the declaration? XX  
b. Did you declare your intention of becoming a citizen of the United States in accordance with the immigration laws and without any misrepresentation of fact on your part?
4. Are you single, married, widower, or divorced? Single How many children have you? None  
dependent on you for support? No If so, give names: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you ever been convicted (a) of a felony? No (b) of any offense? No Have you ever been imprisoned in a reformatory, jail, or penitentiary? No If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you ever been discharged from the service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard of the United States, or any other service, on account of disability or through sentence of either a civil or military court? \_\_\_\_\_  
ever been discharged from any service, except with good character, and for the reasons given by you to the recruiting officer?
6. Have you ever served as an enlisted man in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard? Yes  
If so, state last service and date of discharge How. Co. 143 INF 6/1/39 Have you ever served as a commissioned officer in any of these services? No If so, state last service, and date and nature of separation therefrom \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are you now a member of the National Guard of any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia? No  
State and show what action has been taken to secure discharge \_\_\_\_\_  
a member of the Officers' Reserve Corps? No Enlisted Reserve Corps? No National Guard Reserve? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Have you ever previously applied for enlistment and been rejected? No If so, give date, place, and reason for rejection: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Have you ever used cocaine, heroin, morphine, marihuana, or any habit-forming drug or narcotic? No
10. Have you ever since childhood wet the bed while asleep? No
11. Do you consider that you are now sound and well? Yes If not, give details \_\_\_\_\_
12. What illnesses, diseases, or accidents have you had since childhood? None
13. Have you ever had any of the following? If so, give dates: Spells of unconsciousness, convulsions, or fits No  
Gonorrhea No Sore on penis No
14. Have you ever raised or spat up blood? No If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_
15. When were you last treated by a physician, and for what ailment? Never
16. Have you ever been under treatment at a hospital or asylum? No If so, when, and for what ailment? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Do you know that if you secure your enlistment by means of any false statement, willful misrepresentation, or concealment of your qualifications for enlistment you are liable to trial by court-martial for fraudulent enlistment? Yes
18. Do you know that if you are rejected by reason of any disqualifications known to you and concealed from the recruiting officer you will not be furnished with return transportation to the place of acceptance? Yes
19. Do you agree to enlist in the Army, unless found to be disqualified, if you are furnished transportation? Yes
20. Canvasser Elton B. Brooks Sergeant P. E. M. I. (Recruiting Service)  
(Name) (Grade)

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that the foregoing questions and my answers thereto have been read to me and that my answers are true in all respects.  
 Given at Waco, Texas, the place of acceptance, this 1st day of June, 1939.  
 Witness: Elton B. Brooks Sgt DEML RS Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of witness by recruiting officer) (Grade and organization) (First name) (Middle initial)  
 Verified at DALLAS, TEXAS by Col., F.S. (See Instruction 7)

**OATH AND CERTIFICATE OF ENLISTMENT  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

STATE OF Texas  
CITY, TOWN, OR MILITARY POST Dallas

I, \* James Edward Robinson, Jr.  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)  
born July 10th, 1919, and now aged 19 years  
(Month) (Day) (Year)  
do hereby acknowledge to have voluntarily enlisted this 2nd day of June, 1939

Regular Army of the United States of America for the period of (word and figure) three (3) years  
(Entered and initialed by soldier)  
prescribed by law, unless sooner discharged by proper authority; and do also agree to accept from the United States  
rations, and clothing as are or may be established by law. And I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will bear  
fidelity to the United States of America; that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies  
that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me  
Rules and Articles of War.

Signature: James E. Robinson  
(First name) (Middle name)

I certify that the above oath was subscribed and duly sworn to before me this 2nd day of June  
I further certify that this soldier was minutely inspected by me previous to his subscription to the oath; that I  
sober and in full possession of all his mental faculties; that to the best of my judgment and belief he fulfills all  
and that in enlisting him into the service of the United States I have strictly observed the regulations which govern  
service. I further certify that the above oath, as filled in, was read to the applicant before his subscription thereto.

Telesphor G. Gottschalk, Col., F.A.  
(Signature) (Name typed) (Grade and organization)

\* Carefully compare with name at top of page 1. † The signature must be identical with that subscribed to the oath.  
† The dates in the oath and certificate must be the same.

**NEAREST RELATIVE AND PERSON TO BE NOTIFIED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

Nearest relative Dolores Robinson  
(Other than wife or minor child) (Name in full)  
Relationship mother Address 1122 S. 15th St., Waco,  
(Number and street or rural route; if none, so state) (City, town, or post office)  
Person to be notified in case of emergency Mother as above  
(Name in full)  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(If friend, so state) (Number and street or rural route; if none, so state) (City, town, or post office) (State)

**DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY**

(See Instructions 10-13, and Question 4, Declaration of Applicant; each and every line to be accomplished)

Under the provisions of the act of Congress approved December 17, 1919, the persons eligible to be my beneficiary  
below:

None  
(Full name of wife; if no wife, or if she is deceased or divorced, so state) (Wife's full address)

\* None

\* None

In the event of my leaving no widow or child, or their decease before payment is made, I then designate as my  
the said act the relative named below, who is my dependent:

† Dolores Robinson (mother) 1122 S. 15th St., Waco, Texas  
(Name of dependent; if none, so state) (Relationship) (Full address)

In the event of the death or disqualification of the last-named dependent relative before payment is made,  
my beneficiary under the said act the relative named below, who is my dependent:

† J. E. Robinson (father) 1122 S. 15th St., Waco, Texas  
(Name of dependent; if none, so state) (Relationship) (Full address)

Signature of soldier: † James E. Robinson  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Witnessed at Dallas, Texas on June 2, 1939

Telesphor G. Gottschalk, Col., F.A.  
(Signature of witness attesting) (Name of witness typed) (Grade and organization)

\* Give full name and address of each child; if there be no children, or if address is the same as that of wife, so state. Do not repeat address.  
† The beneficiary must be a relative of the soldier and dependent upon him for support. No other person is eligible under the law. (See Instr.)  
‡ The recruiting officer will see that signature is identical with that subscribed to the oath of enlistment.



STATE OF



TEXAS

Certificate of  
Marriage

By Virtue of a License issued on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of  
January A. D. 1942 by the Clerk of the  
County Court of Gonzales County, Texas  
I, L. H. Dubase Justice of the Peace in and  
for Precinct No. one of Gonzales County, Texas  
Do Hereby Certify that I have this day celebrated the

Rites of Matrimony

Between Mr. J. E. Robinson Jr  
and Mrs. Lina Elizabeth Lerman

In Witness Whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and  
affix my seal as ex-officio Notary Public at my  
office in Gonzales this the 4<sup>th</sup>  
day of January A. D. 1942  
L. H. Dubase

Justice of the Peace Precinct No. One Gonzales County, Texas

MARRIAGE RECORD

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Comanche. } No. 19434

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS—GREETING:  
KNOW Ye, That any person legally authorized to celebrate the Rites of Matrimony is hereby licensed to join in Marriage, as Husband and Wife, James Harrison and Alvin Parberry and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, James C. Barnett Clerk of the County Court of Comanche County, hereunto subscribe my name and after the seal of said Court, this 22 day of June, 1941.

(L.S.)  
THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Comanche }  
This Certifies that I joined in Marriage as Husband and Wife, James Harrison and Alvin Parberry on the 5 day of January, A. D. 1942 at Paris, La. by J. W. Taylor & M. G. Williams officiators

Recorded 22 day of June 1942  
By James C. Barnett Clerk  
Deputy

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Comanche. } No. 19435

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS—GREETING:  
KNOW Ye, That any person legally authorized to celebrate the Rites of Matrimony is hereby licensed to join in Marriage, as Husband and Wife, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk of the County Court of Comanche County, hereunto subscribe my name and after the seal of said Court, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ }  
This Certifies that I joined in Marriage as Husband and Wife \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A. D. 19\_\_\_\_.

Recorded \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk  
Deputy

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Comanche. } No. 19436

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS—GREETING:  
KNOW Ye, That any person legally authorized to celebrate the Rites of Matrimony is hereby licensed to join in Marriage, as Husband and Wife, Franklin Brown and Agnes Brown and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, James C. Barnett Clerk of the County Court of Comanche County, hereunto subscribe my name and after the seal of said Court, this 29 day of December, 1941.

(L.S.)  
THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Comanche }  
This Certifies that I joined in Marriage as Husband and Wife, Franklin Brown and Agnes Brown on the 29 day of December, A. D. 1941 at Paris, La. by J. W. Taylor & M. G. Williams officiators

Recorded 2 day of January 1942  
By James C. Barnett Clerk  
Deputy

MARRIAGE RECORD

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Comanche. } No. 19437

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS—GREETING:  
KNOW Ye, That any person legally authorized to celebrate the Rites of Matrimony is hereby licensed to join in Marriage, as Husband and Wife, Walter Mackey and Miss Josephine Smith and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, James C. Barnett Clerk of the County Court of Comanche County, hereunto subscribe my name and after the seal of said Court, this 32 day of December, 1941.

(L.S.)  
THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Wichita }  
This Certifies that I joined in Marriage as Husband and Wife, Walter Mackey and Miss Josephine Smith on the 31 day of December, A. D. 1941 at Paris, La. by J. W. Taylor & M. G. Williams officiators

Recorded 22 day of January 1942  
By James C. Barnett Clerk  
Deputy

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Comanche. } No. 19438

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS—GREETING:  
KNOW Ye, That any person legally authorized to celebrate the Rites of Matrimony is hereby licensed to join in Marriage, as Husband and Wife, Walter Mackey and Miss Josephine Smith and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, James C. Barnett Clerk of the County Court of Comanche County, hereunto subscribe my name and after the seal of said Court, this 31 day of December, 1941.

(L.S.)  
THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ }  
This Certifies that I joined in Marriage as Husband and Wife Walter Mackey and Miss Josephine Smith on the 31 day of December, A. D. 1941 at Paris, La. by J. W. Taylor & M. G. Williams officiators

Recorded 22 day of January 1942  
By James C. Barnett Clerk  
Deputy

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Comanche. } No. 19439

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS—GREETING:  
KNOW Ye, That any person legally authorized to celebrate the Rites of Matrimony is hereby licensed to join in Marriage, as Husband and Wife, Walter Mackey and Miss Josephine Smith and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, James C. Barnett Clerk of the County Court of Comanche County, hereunto subscribe my name and after the seal of said Court, this 31 day of January, 1942.

(L.S.)  
THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Comanche }  
This Certifies that I joined in Marriage as Husband and Wife, Walter Mackey and Miss Josephine Smith on the 31 day of January, A. D. 1942 at Paris, La. by J. W. Taylor & M. G. Williams officiators

Recorded 22 day of January 1942  
By James C. Barnett Clerk  
Deputy



DUNHAM  
 FIELD -  
 -  
 SAN  
 ANTONIO

NO DATE  
 BUT WAS  
MASTER SERGEANT

SUBJECTS COMPLETED	Hrs.	Grade
Internal Combustion		
Engine Principles	42	96
Engine Repair Principles	77	96
Principles of Engine		
Construction	56	100
Trouble Shooting	105	100
Accessories--A.C. Engines	21	100
Carburetor, Operation and		
Inspection	84	100
Total of Hours & Average Grade	385	98

The completion of 1000 hours in a specific Aircraft Trade warrants a diploma.

NOTE: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FILL OUT THIS CARD WITHOUT RECEIVING ANIMAL WAR WITH AP 305-90

(18) MARITAL STATUS (A) DEPENDENTS: SINGLE MARRIED DIVORCED  
 (19) HOME RESIDENCE: NO. 3 STREET 1122 So. 15th CITY WACO STATE TEXAS ZIP 76788  
 (20) NAME: MRS. VINA E. ROBINSON RELATIONSHIP WIFE  
 STREET ADDRESS: 1215 BROOME AVE. CITY: WACO STATE: TEXAS ZIP: 76788

(21) EDUCATION: SUBJECT MAJORED IN Academic  
 NAME OF INSTITUTION: Waco, Texas  
 NO OF YEARS: 4  
 GRADUATE: YES NO X DEGREE: B.S. YEAR LEFT SCHOOL: 1936

(23) TESTS

DATE	SCORE	TEST	DATE	SCORE	TEST	DATE	SCORE
		(24) - (C) PARTICIPATING SPORTS			(25) - (C) ACTIVE HOBBIES		
		3 BASE BALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XL			1 RIFLE OR PISTOL SHOOTING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 AVIATION <input type="checkbox"/> 5 OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>		
		4 BASKET BALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XL			(26) - (C) MAIN CIVILIAN OCCUPATION		
		5 SKIING <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> XL			COMMERCIAL ARTIST		
		6 SNOWSHOEING <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> XL			PREW ADVERTISEMENTS AND CUT STENCIL		
		7 CLIMBING <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> XL			FAR SILK SCREEN PROCESSING ON AD		
		8 OTHER Football, Hunting			VERTISING ARTICLES		
		9 SCHOOL OR TEACHING <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> XL			FROM 1936 TO 1938 MONTHLY SALARY \$ 87.00		
		10 WORKING <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> XL			FROM 1938 TO 1942 OCCUPATIONAL DICTIONARY CODE TM12-405		
		11 LEAVING <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> XL			FROM 1942 TO 1943 OCCUPATIONAL DICTIONARY CODE TM12-405		
		12 BALL <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> XL			FROM 1943 TO 1943 MONTHLY SALARY \$ 50.00		

(27) - (C) SECONDARY CIVILIAN OCCUPATION: WINDOW TRIMMER  
 (28) - (C) QUALIFICATION IN MILITARY SPECIALTIES: OPERATOR TRAINING STAFF, 20/20/43  
 (29) - (C) SECONDARY: COMPLETE INT. Int. Du. Cur.

(30) INITIAL INTERVIEW BY: LOGAN PRATT, LTJAGD  
 DATE: FEB 17 43  
 (31) REMARKS (reference item No. 15) 3 1/2 yrs F.O. 2 yrs AG AIRPLANE MECHANIC, M/SET  
 (32) F.O. and Int. (Int. Du. Cur.) 1 1/2 yrs F.O. Auto Patrol 2 1/2 yrs F.O. Gas Chamber 5 MAY 44  
 (33) COMBAT COURSE: 13 days 94% CALORINE GAS CHAMBER 5 MAY 44  
 (34) MILITARY GENERAL TRAINING COMPLETED 21 JANUARY 1943  
 (35) ORIENTATION FILMS: TANKMAN, MARSHAL, FAMILIARIZATION

(36) SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWING OFFICER: LOGAN PRATT  
 (37) SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWEE: [Signature]  
 (38) NAME GRADE AND ARM STRIKE OFFICE OF INTERVIEWING OFFICER: [Signature]  
 (39) NAME GRADE AND ARM STRIKE OFFICE OF INTERVIEWEE: [Signature]  
 (40) MONTHLY SALARY OR INCOME: \$ 50.00  
 (41) OCCUPATIONAL DICTIONARY CODE: TM12-405  
 (42) DATE: FEB 17 43  
 (43) QUALIFICATIONS IN ARMS: [Signature]  
 (44) COURSE: [Signature]  
 (45) YES: [Signature]  
 (46) NO: [Signature]

## REPORT OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

(See AR 40-100 and 40-105)

*Instructions*—Unless otherwise prescribed, this form will be used for all physical examinations of officers, nurses, or warrant officers applicants for appointment as such in the Regular Army, National Guard, or Officers Reserve Corps, and enrollment in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Use typewriter if practicable. Attach plain additional sheets if required.

1	ROBINSON	JAMES	E. JR.	62952
	(Last name)	(First name)	(Middle initial)	(Serial number)
2	M/SGT.	14TH ADG. DUNCAN FIELD	Age 23	Years of service 4 YEARS
	(Grade)	(Organization)	(Nearest birthday)	(Whole number only)
3	Nature of examination <sup>1</sup> OFFICERS' CANDIDATE SCHOOL Component of Army <sup>2</sup> ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES			
4	Typhoid vaccination No series completed 2		Last series SEPT. 1941	19
5	Date of last smallpox vaccination SEPT. 1941		Type of reaction IMMUNE	
6	Other vaccination or immunity tests TETANUS TOXOID, YELLOW FEVER VACCINE 1941			
7	Medical history <sup>3</sup> USUAL CHILDHOOD DISEASES 1927, TONSILLECTOMY AND ADENOIDECTOMY DENIES ANY OTHER MEDICAL HISTORY			
8	Eyes NORMAL			
	Distant vision Right 20/ 20	correctible to 20/	--	by <sup>4</sup> --
	(Snellen type) Left 20/ 20	correctible to 20/	--	by <sup>4</sup> --
	Near vision Right J# 1	correctible to J#	--	by <sup>4</sup> --
	(Jaeger type) Left J# 1	correctible to J#	--	by <sup>4</sup> --
	Refraction <sup>5</sup> (under cycloplegic) Right		Left	
	Color perception (red and green) <sup>6</sup> NORMAL TO PSEUDO ISOCROMATIC PLATES			
9	Ears NORMAL			
	Hearing (low conversational voice) Right 20. /20	Left 20. /20	Audiometer (percent loss) Right -- Left --	
10	Nose and throat NOSE NORMAL: TONSILLAR TAGS, BILATERAL. NS ND			
11	Teeth <sup>7</sup> Right (Examinee's)		Left	
	X 7 6 5 4 3 2 1		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 X	
	X 6 15 M 13 12 11 10 9		9 10 11 12 13 14 15 1X	
	Remarks, including other defects NONE			
	Prosthetic dental appliances	NONE	Classification IV	
12	Posture	FAIR	Figure MEDIUM	Frame HEAVY
		(Exc. Pent good fair bad)	(Slender medium stocky obese)	(Light medium heavy)
13	Temperature 98.6	Height 69 1/2 inches	Weight 164 pounds	Chest Rest 35 inches, inspiration 37 inches, expiration 34 inches
14	Cardiovascular system Heart NORMAL			
	Blood pressure S 124	D 78	Pulse Rate—Sitting 84	Immediately after exercise 116
	Two minutes after exercise 88		Character FULL AND REGULAR	
	Arteries SOFT AND COMPRESSIBLE		Varicose veins NONE	
15	Respiratory system NORMAL			
16	X-ray of chest <sup>8</sup> NEGATIVE 9/14/42			
17	Skin and lymphatics NORMAL			
18	Bones, joints, and muscles NORMAL			
	Abdominal viscera NORMAL		Endocrine system NORMAL	
19	Hernia NONE		Feet PES PLANUS 1ST DEJ. NS ND	
20	Hemorrhoids NONE			

<sup>1</sup> Appointment promotion (strenuous annual active duty special)  
<sup>2</sup> Regular Army National Guard Officers Reserve Corps Reserve Officers Training Corps  
<sup>3</sup> If annual physical examination record only for past year  
<sup>4</sup> If annual physical examination record only distant and near vision and state whether defect is properly corrected  
<sup>5</sup> When indicated  
<sup>6</sup> Not required for an usual physical examination  
<sup>7</sup> If rejected for appointment in Regular Army because of malocclusion send plaster models to the Surgeon General  
<sup>8</sup> Required for candidates for commission

WD, A G O FORM NO 63  
11, 1941, 1959

# PERSONNEL PLACEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Detailed answers should be made as the action taken by the War Department will depend upon the completeness of the information furnished. Where more space is needed, attach additional sheets.

If practicable, attach a recent photograph showing on back thereof date it was made. (Print or type answers to questions) Boxes in broken lines for use of War Department only.

RATING
--------

May 13, 1943  
(Date of application)

- 1 Name Robinson James Edward Jr.  
(Last) (First) (Middle)
- Army serial No (if any) 0-1181988
- Mailing address 1122 S 15th Street, Waco, Texas  
(Number) (Street) (City) (State)
- Legal or voting residence Texas McLennon  
(State) (County)
- Person to be notified in case of emergency  
Name Mrs. Vina E. Robinson Relationship wife  
Address 1122 So 15th Street, Waco, Texas
- 2 (a) Birth July 10, 1919 Toledo, Ohio  
(Date) (Place State or name of country at time of birth)
- (b) Age last birthday 23
- 3 (a) Parental nativity Country of mother's birth Australia  
Country of father's birth United States
- (b) If married, country of wife's birth United States
- 4 State whether or not you are a citizen of the United States and whether by birth or naturalization (If the latter, append evidence of naturalization or if evidence not available, state on what date and in what court naturalized) by birth
- 5 Marital status (indicate by "X") Single \_\_\_\_\_ Married X Separated \_\_\_\_\_  
Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Dependents (number completely dependent on you other than wife) 1
- 7 Race White X Negro \_\_\_\_\_ Indian \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 In what fields and in what capacity do you consider that you could be of special service to the Government? (List in order of ability)

FIELD	REASONS
Officer Field Artillery	Because of military
Officer Army Air Corps	experience in both
	branches of service

9 (a) Chronological statement of service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, including service as a cadet at U S Military or Naval Academy, National Naval Volunteers, National Guard in Federal service, as a Reserve officer on active duty, or at military training camps, or as a contract surgeon serving full time, or as a student in the C M T C or R O T C, Basic Course, Advanced Course, and Advanced Course camp, giving inclusive dates for each day, month, and year, if practicable, from your personal records. Do not write to War Department for exact data.

DATES		Highest grade	Organization (include arm or service)	Duty	Full name and grade of immediate commanding officer
From--	To--				
6/39	10/39	Pvt	Btry C, 15th FA	Cannoneer	W R Thomas, 1st Lt.
10/39	7/40	Pvtlc	Btry I 15th FA	Clerk	S. L. Barbour, 2nd
6/40	9/41	Sgt	Btry F, 15th FA	Clerk	W R Gesicke, 1st Lt.
9/41	5/42	Sgt	Btry C 37th FA	Instrument Sgt	J A Batjer, Capt
3/42	2/43	M/Sgt	14th Recon Sq	Shop superintendent	William E Pars bur
2/43		M/Sgt	17th AD <sup>C</sup> , AAC		Capt
			OCS FA	Student	Paul J. Shelhase 1st Lt.

W D, A G O Form No 0850  
April 22, 1942

10-20211-3

(b) Were you ever rejected for any branch of the military service No or for the ROTC No or C M T C No? If so, state when and where rejected and cause

(c) Service, showing dates of service and highest grade held, in Officers' Reserve Corps (inactive), National Guard of the United States, Enlisted Reserve Corps (inactive), Naval or Marine Corps Reserve Forces (inactive), National Guard or Naval Militia not in Federal service, or in military or naval forces of foreign countries (State name of foreign country and when service was performed)  
Sept 1935 to June 1939 Texas National Guard Corporal

(d) Prior service in Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or Coast and Geodetic Survey Give dates and nature of service  
None

(e) Were all discharges granted under honorable conditions? X Yes        No  
(f) Have you already established military preference with the Civil Service Commission?  
       Yes X No

If so, check kind of preference below  
       Veteran        Disabled veteran

10	Are you now a member of—	SOLDIER, AUS	Yes	No
(a)	National Guard	_____	_____	_____
(b)	Officers' Reserve Corps	_____	_____	_____
(c)	United States Naval Reserve	_____	_____	_____
(d)	Marine Corps Reserve	_____	_____	_____
(e)	Coast Guard Reserve	_____	_____	_____

11 Have you registered under the Selective Service Act?        Yes X No If so, give address of local board \_\_\_\_\_  
If classified, give your classification \_\_\_\_\_ Your order number \_\_\_\_\_

12 Are you now receiving pay as a retired officer? (Enlisted man)?        Yes X No

13 Are you now drawing compensation or other benefits from the Veterans Administration?        Yes X No If so, state amount \_\_\_\_\_

14 Physical condition is Excellent X very good \_\_\_\_\_ fair \_\_\_\_\_ poor \_\_\_\_\_  
Height without shoes 5 feet 10 inches Weight 167 pounds

15 (a) Have you any physical defect or disability whatsoever?        Yes X No

(b) Have you ever had a nervous breakdown?        Yes X No  
If your answer to either (a) or (b) above is yes, give full particulars

16 Have you ever been turned down for life insurance?        Yes X No

17 Do you hold any elective or appointive office, Federal, State, or municipal?        Yes X No If so, give details \_\_\_\_\_

18 Are you now employed by the Federal Government? X Yes        No

(a) If so U S. Army (Department or agency) \_\_\_\_\_ (Bureau)

(b) If you now are or have ever been so employed, give dates  
From June 1939 to Present  
(Month) (Year) (Month) (Year)

16-26211-5

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
**STATEMENT OF SERVICE**  
 NAME (Last, First, Middle) **ROBINSON, JAMES EDWARD JR.** SERVICE NUMBER **101 181 988** and GRADE **76** and YOUR AREA **Telegram Jul 10/63**

NATURE OF ACTION (Show component for each entrance into service and type of each separation.)	EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTIVE SERVICE *		(This space for additional information as appropriate such as for separation grade ranking place of action etc.)
		FROM C	TO D	
ENL NG (TEX)	Sep 9, 1935			Corporal with How Co 143d Inf
HON DISCH	Jun 1, 1939	(No Active Federal Service)		At Dallas, Texas
ENL RA	Jun 2, 1939			Btry C, I&F, 15th FA
T	Jun 3, 1939			Ft Sam Houston, Tex
PROM	Nov 10, 1939			Private Specialist
PROM	Dec 9, 1939			Private Specialist
PROM	Jan 4, 1940			Private First Class
DISRATED	Jun 1, 1940			Private Specialist
PROM	Aug 7, 1940			Private First Cl Specialist 4th C
PROM	Sep 1, 1940			Corporal
T	Oct 1, 1940			Btry C, 37th FA Ft Sam Houston
PROM	May 12, 1941			Sergeant
T	Mar 17, 1942			14th Air Depot Sq, Duncan
PROM	Mar 17, 1942			Staff Sergeant
PROM	May 16, 1942			Technical Sergea
PROM	Jul 1, 1942			Master Sergeant
T	Feb 10, 1943			Field Artillery Ft Sill, Okla
HON DISCH	May 12, 1943	Jun 2, 1939	May 12, 1943	To accept a commiss
*COMMISSION	May 13, 1943			Second Lieutenant
AUS	May 23, 1943			FARTC, Ft Sill, Okla
T	Jul 20, 1943			Hq, Btry C and A

\*Asterisks after dates in columns C and D denote ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING ONLY

TIME LOST (Inclusive dates)					
FROM	TO	FROM	TO	FROM	TO

ADUTRA-Active Duty for Training  
 AD-Active Duty  
 APPT-Appoint (e) (ment)  
 AUS-Army of the U S  
 BCD-Bed Control Discharge  
 C-Continuance of (ov't)  
 DD-Discharge  
 DISCH-Discharge  
 E-Expiration of enlistment

ENL-Enlist(ed) (ment)  
 I(O-S)-Expiration of Obligated Service  
 IRL-Inducted Reserve Corps  
 I(S)-Expiration Term of Service  
 CD-General Discharge  
 HOF-Honorable  
 IND-Induct(ed) (ion)  
 NAS-Naval Air Station

NI--National Guard  
 NRS--Naval Recruiting Station  
 NTC--Naval Training Center  
 NTS--Naval Training Station  
 ORC-Officer Reserve Corps  
 OTH--Other Than Honorable  
 PROM-Promot(ed) (ion)  
 R--Received  
 RAD--Released fr Active Duty  
 RECSTA Receiving Station

RII-Reported  
 RIAD-Reported  
 T--Transfer (re)  
 TRM--Terminad  
 UA--Unauthorized  
 UD--Undesirable  
 UH--Under Honor  
 UOHC--Under Other  
 USNR--U S Naval

TO  
 Commanding General  
 VIII U S Army Corps  
 Austin, Texas

*John W. Cross*  
 JOHN W. CROSS  
 CHIEF REFERENCE SERVICE BRANCH  
 Military Personnel Records Center  
 General Services Administration  
 St Louis 32, Missouri  
 6NMPRA-2C/GS

(This form not valid without official seal)  
 (See instructions to DD Form 13)  
 (Replaces AFM 10-10 Jul 62 R6-1071, Jan 62, R6-1082, Jun 62 which are obsolete)

R6-1038  
 January 1963



# Army of the United States



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities

of Pvt 1st Sp 4cl JAMES E. ROBINSON, 6295276, Battery "F", 15th F.A., I do hereby appoint him  
\* Corporal, Battery "F", Fifteenth Field Artillery, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,

to rank as such from the first day of September

one thousand nine hundred and forty. He is therefore carefully and diligently  
to discharge the duty of † Corporal by doing and performing all manner of

things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all Noncommissioned Officers  
and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as Corporal

And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive  
from his Superior Officers and Noncommissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and  
discipline of War.

Given under my hand at Headquarters Fifteenth Field Artillery, Fort Sam Houston, Texas  
this first day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand nine  
hundred and forty

*Ralph W. Penner*

Colonel, 15th F.A., Commanding

W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 58  
March 25, 1924

\* Insert grade, company, and regiment or branch; e. g., "Corporal, Company A, 1st Infantry," "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps."  
† Insert grade.

OFFICIAL PRINTING OFFICE  
3-8758

# Army of the United States



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of Corporal JAMES S. ROBINSON, Jr., 6295276, Battery "C", 37th Field Artillery Bn I do hereby appoint him <sup>\*</sup>Sergeant, Battery "C", 37th Field Artillery Battalion, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, to rank as such from the twelfth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty-one. He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of <sup>†</sup>Sergeant by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as Sergeant. And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive from his Superior Officers and Noncommissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and discipline of War.

Given under my hand at Headquarters, 37th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, Texas this twelfth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-one.

*Richard M. Hightman*  
Lieutenant Colonel, 37th Field Artillery Battalion, Commanding.

W. D., A. C. O. Form No. 58  
March 25, 1924

\* Insert grade, company, and regiment or branch; e. g., "Corporal, Company A, 1st Infantry." "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps."  
† Insert grade.

REGIMENTAL PRINTING OFFICE  
3-5708

# Army of the United States



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of JAMES E. ROBINSON, Jr., 6295276, I do hereby appoint him STAFF SERGEANT (TEMPORARY) 14th Rep Sq., 14th A.D.G. AC, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, to rank as such from the Seventeenth day of March one thousand nine hundred and Forty Two. He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of STAFF SERGEANT by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as STAFF SERGEANT. And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive from his Superior Officers and Noncommissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and discipline of War.

Given under my hand at Duncan Field, Texas this Seventeenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Forty Two.

*William F. Geeslin*

WILLIAM F. GEESLIN,  
Major, Air Corps,

W. D., A. C. O. Form No. 53  
March 25, 1924

\* Insert grade, company, and regiment or arm or service; e. g., "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps."  
† Insert grade.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
16-20076

# Army of the United States



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities

of STAFF SERGEANT JAMES E. ROBINSON, JR., 6295276, Repair Sq., 14th ADGp., I do hereby appoint him  
\* TECHNICAL SERGEANT (TEMPORARY), ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,

to rank as such from the Sixteenth day of May  
one thousand nine hundred and Forty-two

He is therefore carefully and diligently  
to discharge the duty of † TECHNICAL SERGEANT by doing and performing all manner of  
things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all Noncommissioned Officers  
and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as TECHNICAL SERGEANT

And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive  
from his Superior Officers and Noncommissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and  
discipline of War.

Given under my hand at Duncan Field, Texas  
this 16th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine  
hundred and Forty-two

*William F. Geeslin*

WILLIAM F. GEESLIN,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Commanding

W. D., A. C. O. Form No. 58  
March 25, 1924

\* Insert grade, company, and regiment or arm or service; e. g., "Corporal, Company A, 1st Infantry," "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps."

† Insert grade.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
16-22676

# Army of the United States



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of Technical Sergeant JAMES E. ROBINSON, JR., 6295276, I do hereby appoint him MASTER SERGEANT (TEMPORARY) 14th Dep Rep Sq, 14th Air Dep Bn, AAF, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, to rank as such from the First day of July one thousand nine hundred and Forty Two. He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of † Master Sergeant by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as Master Sergeant. And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive from his Superior Officers and Noncommissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and discipline of War.

Given under my hand at Duncan Field, Texas this First day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Forty Two

*William F. Geeslin*

WILLIAM F. GEESLIN,  
Major, Army Air Forces,

Commanding

W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 58  
March 25, 1924

\* Insert grade, company, and regiment or arm or service; e. g., "Corporal, Company A, 1st Infantry." "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps."  
† Insert grade.

16-22870

Duncan Field, Texas  
August 21st 1942.

SUBJECT: Application for Officer Candidate School, Army Air Forces

To: Commanding Officer, 14th Repair, 14th Air Depot Group,

1. Under provisions of WD Circular 126, dated April 28th 1942 request that I be granted permission to attend Officer Candidate School, Army Air Forces.

2. Applicants alternate choice Officer Candidate School, Field Artillery

3. In connection with the above request, the following information is submitted:

- a. Age: 23 years 1 month,
- b. Marital Status: Married,
- c. Education: H.S. Graduate,
- d. Service: 3 yrs 3 months

L. Incl,  
Incl - WD AGO Form 170 (Im trip).

201 - ROBINSON, James Edward Jr. (Enl) 1st Ind.

James Edward Robinson Jr.  
M/Sgt 14th Repair,  
Duncan Field Texas.

Headquarters, 14th Repair, 14th Air Depot Group, Duncan Field Texas,  
Aug 21 1942. To: Commanding Officer, 14th Air Depot Group, AAF, Duncan  
Field Texas.

1. Approved.
2. Applicant has demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership.
3. Character of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I have carefully considered the technical requirements of a Second Lieutenant of the arm of Service for which application is being made and I believe applicant possesses qualifications which will enable him to complete satisfactorily the course of instructions at the Officer Candidate School.
5. Army General Classification Test Score, 127.
6. Statement of Service Verified. ✓

1 Incl - No change.

CLARENCE H. WESTOVER,  
Captain A.C.  
COMMANDING.

201 - ROBINSON, James Edward Jr. (Enl) 2nd Ind. -jm  
(8-21-42)

Headquarters, 14th Air Depot Group, Army Air Forces, Duncan Field Texas,  
August 21st 1942. TO: Commanding Officer, San Antonio Air Depot, Duncan  
Field, Texas, (THRU: Training and Liaison Officer, Duncan Field Texas.)

Approved.

For the Group Commander:

441

1 Incl - n/c

LOUIS SOBEL,  
2nd Lt., A.C.  
Adjutant.

201-ROBINSON, James Edward, Jr. (Enl) 3rd Ind. AD/od

HEADQUARTERS, TRAINING AND LIAISON OFFICE, Duncan Field, San Antonio, Texas,  
August 25, 1942 To: Commanding Officer, San Antonio Air Depot, Duncan  
Field, San Antonio, Texas.

Approved.

For the Training and Liaison Officer:

1 Incl.  
No change.

ARTHUR J. DALE, (A)  
W. O. (JG). A U.S.  
Asst. to Training & Liaison Officer.

4th Ind.

JB/ma

Headquarters, San Antonio Air Depot, San Antonio, Texas, August 25, 1942.  
To: President, Board of Officers for Officer Candidate Schools, Duncan  
Field, Texas.

Approved.

By order of Colonel WILKINS:

1 Incl. n/c

P. L. POUNTREE, JR.,  
2nd Lieut., A C,  
Assistant Adjutant.

-2-

AG 352 Appl. for O. C. S. (A-1) 5th Ind.  
X 201 Robinson, James Edward Jr. (Enl)

Hq., II ASAC, T. & P. Building, Fort Worth, Texas, October 17, 1942. TO:  
Commanding General, Field Services, Air Service Command, Patterson Field,  
Fairfield, Ohio.

Approved.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Arnold A. Altman*

ARNOLD A. ALTMAN,  
Major, A. G. D.,  
Adjutant General.

3 Incls.  
Incl 1 - Form 170 (trip)  
Incl 2 - Form 63 (trip)  
Incl 3 - Form OC-8 Summary & Disposition Sheet

6th Ind.

MA/mr

*James E. Robinson*  
Headquarters, San Antonio Air Depot, San Antonio, Texas, December 3, 1942.  
To Commanding General, 2ACAC, Texas & Pacific Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Transmitted herewith application for Officer Candidate School of  
M/Sgt James E. ROBINSON, JR., 6295276.

For the Commanding Officer:

*P. L. Rountree, Jr.*  
P. L. ROUNTREE, JR.,  
1st Lieut., A. C.,  
Assistant Adjutant

Incls No Change



AG 201 Robinson, James E , Jr. (Enl) (A-1) 7th Ind.

Hq., II ASAC, T. & P Building, Fort Worth, Texas, December 7, 1942. To  
Commanding Officer, San Antonio Air Depot, Duncan Field, San Antonio,  
Texas.

Returned for accomplishment and forwarding of

- a. New W D., A.G.O., Form 63
- b. Score Sheet for Officer Candidates
- c. Officer Candidate School Board Report

By command of Brigadier General MOLLISON

*1/1/43*  
H. H. KIMMADE,  
1st Lt., A. C.,  
Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

3 Incls. n/c

3th Ind.

*MA/dh*

*3/1/43*  
Headquarters, San Antonio Air Depot, San Antonio, Texas, December 10, 1942.  
TO: President, Officers Candidate Board, for Officers Candidate School,  
Duncan Field, Texas.

For compliance with preceding indorsement.

By order of Colonel WILKINS:

P. L. ROUNTREE, JR.,  
1st Lt., A. C.,  
Assistant Adjutant.

*1/1/43*  
3 Incls: No change.

*66526*

-4-

*537*

AG 201 Robinson, James E., Jr. (Enl) 9th Ind.

RJC/pca

HEADQUARTERS, OFFICERS CANDIDATE BOARD, For Officers Candidate School, Duncan Field, Texas, December 14, 1942. TO- Commanding Officer, 14th Air Depot Group, AAF, Duncan Field, Texas.

Attention invited to 7th Indorsement.

For the President of the Board

*Richard J. Curtis*  
RICHARD J. CURTIS,  
2nd Lt, Air Corps,  
Recorder.

10th Ind.

*VA/dh*

Headquarters, San Antonio Air Depot, San Antonio, Texas, January 6, 1943.  
TO Commanding General, Patterson Field, Fairfield, Ohio.

Attached papers are in accordance with requirements on date *it* appeared before Board of Officers.

For the Commanding Officer

*P. I. LOUI FELL, JR.*  
1st Lt., A. C.,  
1st Adjutant. *66-26*

# Field Artillery School

Fort Sill, Oklahoma



Officers' Candidate School

## Certificate of Proficiency

This certifies that

James Edward Robinson, Jr.

on May 13, 1943, completed satisfactorily the O. C. S. Class No. 64,  
Field Artillery School, in the following subjects:

Fire Direction  
Firing Battery  
Observed Fire  
Unobserved Fire

Materiel  
Motors  
Methods of Instruction  
and Training

Artillery Tactics  
Reconnaissance  
Signal Communication

COLONEL, FIELD ARTILLERY,  
ASSISTANT COMMANDANT

BRIGADIER GENERAL, U. S. A.,  
COMMANDANT

Recorded as graduated:

MAJOR, FIELD ARTILLERY,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

LT. COLONEL, FIELD ARTILLERY,  
COMMANDING OFFICER, STUDENT REGIMENT.

FAS, Fort Sill, Okla., (4-12-43-1200)-27042

11g

FIELD ARTILLERY SCHOOL  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT

FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

In reply  
refer to 201 Robinson, James Edward, Jr.

May 13, 1943

Subject: Temporary Appointment.

To: 2d Lt. James Edward Robinson, Jr.  
Army of the United States.

A O-1181988

1. The Secretary of War has directed me to inform you the President has appointed and commissioned you a temporary Second Lieutenant, Army of the United States, effective this date, in the grade shown in the address above. Your serial number is shown after A above.

2. This commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being, and for the duration of the present emergency and six months thereafter unless sooner terminated.

3. There is inclosed herewith a form for oath of office which you are requested to execute and return. The execution and return of the required oath of office constitutes an acceptance of your appointment. No other evidence of acceptance is required. This letter should be retained by you as evidence of your appointment.

By order of the Commandant:



ALAN B. ABT,  
1st Lt., F.A.,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Inclosure:

Form for oath of office.

Accepted May 13, 1943

APPLICATION FOR AIR CREW TRAINING IN OFFICER GRADE  
(All officers including Warrant Officers & Flight Officers)

(Check One) Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi  
(Place)

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL  Pilot  
Army Air Forces  Bombardier 24 February 1944  
Washington, D.C.  Navigator (Date)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Other - - - - Specify)

(THRU) Commanding General, 63rd Infantry Division  
(Appropriate Military Superior)

1. Request is hereby made that I be considered for Air Crew Training, as indicated above, in officer grade with the Army Air Forces. This application is submitted with a view to pursuing the standard course of instruction prescribed by the War Department.
2. Personal statement on the reverse side of this sheet has been executed.
3. My present mail and telegraph address is Btry A, 861st FA Bn, APO 410,  
Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi
4. Physical examination for flying was (not) accomplished \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)  
\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

*James E. Robinson Jr.*  
Signature of applicant  
JAMES E. ROBINSON, JR.,  
2nd Lt, FA

NOTE: Application is to be submitted in duplicate

(This space for recommendation of appropriate military superior)

1. Applicant ( is ) (is not) recommended for Air Crew Training.
2. Reasons: (If applicant is not recommended)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

(Application to be forwarded to Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Aviation Cadet  
Branch, Washington, D. C. )

W-5252, AF Rev. 9/13/43

(OVER)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

JAMES EDWARD ROBINSON, JR., 2nd Lt., FA, 01181988  
Type or Print Full Name, Rank, Branch and Serial Number

1. I am a citizen of the (United States, ~~Commonwealth of the Philippines~~) and have  
(Delete one not applicable)  
been a citizen thereof for not less than ten years immediately preceding the date of this  
application.

2. My component is (~~Regular Army~~) (~~Reserve~~) (~~National Guard~~) (A.U.S.).  
(Delete components not applicable)

3. I am a member of the .....White.....race.

4. I was born at Toledo, Ohio.....on the.....10th.....day of  
.....July.....19.19.....

5. I am in good health. am.....Five.....feet.....10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>..... inches in height,  
and weigh.....158..... pounds.

6. My military training and services has been as follows. From 9 Sep 1935 to....  
1 June 1939 Howitzer Company, 143rd Infantry (Cpl) From 2 June 1939 to 21 Mar 42  
15th Field Artillery (Sgt) From 22 Mar 1942 to 12 Feb 1943 14th Repair Squadron,  
14th Air Depot Group (Mr Sgt) From 13 Feb 43 to 13 May 43 FA OCS Ft Sill, Okla.  
From 14 May 43 to Present 2nd Lt FA 861st FA Battalion.....

7. Flying Experience:

a. Have you ever completed a course of instruction in a Service flying school  
leading to an aeronautical rating? .....No.....  
yes no type

b. Have you ever been eliminated from a Service flying school.....No..  
yes no

If yes, specify name of school, location and type of training.....

If yes, check reason for elimination: flying deficiency.....

academic deficiency.....moral reasons.....unknown.....

other (specify).....

*James E. Robinson*  
(Signature)  
JAMES E. ROBINSON, JR.,  
2ndLt, FA

HEADQUARTERS, 861ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
Camp Van Down, Mississippi

31 July 1944

210-2

SUBJECT: Promotion of Officer.

TO : Commanding General, Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas  
(Through Channels)

1. Under the provisions of AR 605-12, 3 February 1944, the following named officer is recommended for promotion to the grade indicated.

a. Robinson, James E. Jr. 2nd Lt 01 181 988 FA AUS  
(Name) (Grade) (ASN) (Arm or Serv) (Comp)

Date of last promotion 13 May 1943  
(Date of WD order announcing promotion)

Grade to which promotion is recommended First Lieutenant, FA

b. A position vacancy exists as defined in paragraph 4 a and b, AR 605-12, and no officer of the appropriate grade and arm or service is available under the jurisdiction of this headquarters for assignment to the position vacancy.

c. T/O position now occupied is Battery Executive Officer, Btry A, 861st F. A. Bn.

T/O grade for position occupied is First Lieutenant, FA

T/O position vacancy to be filled is Battery Executive Officer Btry A, 861st F. A. Bn.

T/O grade for position to be filled is First Lieutenant, FA

2. Officer has served in present grade for 14 months. During this period he has clearly demonstrated his fitness for the responsibilities and duties of the position and grade for which recommended. He has clearly demonstrated his qualification for higher grade for a period of at least three (3) months by actual occupation of a position and performance of duties appropriate to the grade and corresponding to the duties of the position he is to occupy. Record of service during present grade is as follows:

Inclusive Dates	RECORD OF SERVICE		Unit	Manner of Performance
	Position Held	T/O Grade		
13 May 43 to 19 Jul 43	Student FAORP	2nd Lt	FARTC, Ft Sill	Very satisfactory
20 Jul 43 to 13 Dec 43	Operations & Tng Staff Officer - 9	None (Atchd unasgd)	861st FA Bn	Excellent
14 Dec 43 to 31 Jan 44	Ron O	1st Lt	Btry C 861st FA Bn	Excellent
1 Feb 44 to date	Btry Exec O	1st Lt	Btry A 861st FA Bn	Excellent

This is a copy of the original record of service of the officer. The original record of service is in the file of the officer.

3. Favorable action on this recommendation and on those previously submitted upon which final action has not been taken will not exceed the number of officers in grade and branch currently authorized by table of organization.

*D. C. Beere*  
D. C. BEERE,  
Lt. Col., F. A.,  
Commanding.

210.2

1st Ind

EM/ms

HQ: 63RD DIVISION ARTILLERY, Camp Van Dorn, Miss. 31 July 1944.

TO: Commanding General, 63rd Infantry Division, Camp Van Dorn, Miss.

1. Approved
2. A vacancy in grade and arm or service exists in the command and will exist after the promotion of all other officers previously recommended on whose recommendations final action has not been taken.
3. Favorable action on this recommendation and on those previously submitted upon which final action has not been taken will not exceed the number of officers in grade and branch currently authorized by table of organization.

*E. J. McGAW*  
E. J. MCGAW,  
Brig. Gen., USA,  
Commanding.

210.2 - GNMIF-10

2d Ind.

OFF/ela

HQ: 63D INFANTRY DIVISION, Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, 1 August 1944.

TO: Commanding General, XXI Corps, Camp Polk, Louisiana.

1. Approved.
2. A vacancy in grade and arm or service exists in the command and will exist after the promotion of all other officers previously recommended on whose recommendations final action has not been taken.
3. Favorable action on this recommendation and on those previously submitted upon which final action has not been taken will not exceed the number of officers in grade and branch currently authorized by table of organization.

*Louis E. Hibbs*  
LOUIS E. HIBBS,  
Major General, U. S. Army,  
Commanding.



210.2 GNMKG-Robinson, James E, Jr. (Off) 3rd Ind.

/fws.

HQ XXI CORPS, APO 101, Camp Polk, La, 4 Aug 1944.

TO CG, Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

1. Approved

2. A vacancy in grade and arm or service exists in the command and will exist after the promotion of all other officers previously recommended on whose recommendations final action has not been taken.

For the Commanding General



FIELD ARTILLERY SCHOOL  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

13 October 1944

(Date)

SPECIAL SCHOOL REPORT  
(As required by par 3d (1), AR 600-185)  
Student Officer at Army Service School

TO The Adjutant General, War Department,  
Washington, D C

Robinson, James E. Jr. (Name of student) (O-1181988) (Serial No) 1st Lt (Rank) 861st FA Bn. AUS (Org)

- 1 FIELD ARTILLERY SCHOOL, Fort Sill, Oklahoma
- 2 Course pursued Officers' Battery Executive Course, Class No. 47
- 3 Officer attended school during period 9 September 1944 to 8 October 1944
- 4 Graduate ~~None~~
- 5 Reason for unfavorable entry under 4 above None made.
- 6 Academic rating Excellent
- 7 No ~~XXX~~ efficiency report for this period will be rendered

For the Commandant

63RD DIVISION ARTILLERY  
CAMP VAN DORN, MISSISSIPPI  
1 DECEMBER

FIRST LIEUTENANT JAMES L. ROBINSON, JR., ASN 01181988  
HEADQUARTERS, 861ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION.

For superior conduct of Night Exercises, Close Combat Course,  
Infiltration Course, all around excellence as Forward Observer and  
Battery Officer, and for the credit reflected upon himself and his  
organization alike at Fort Sill by his excellent demonstration of  
a film strip on "Direct Laying".

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

*Joel M. Lesueur*  
JOEL M. LESUEUR,  
Major, F.A.,  
Adjutant.

E. J. McGAW,  
Brig. Gen., USA

# EFFICIENCY REPORT

PREPARE THIS REPORT WITH PAINSTAKING ACCURACY. ITS VALUE LIES IN THE DEGREE OF OBJECTIVITY, IMPARTIALITY, AND SOUND CONSIDERED JUDGMENT DISPLAYED BY THE RATING OFFICER. READ INSTRUCTIONS. SEE AR 600-105

**A. PLACE OF ORIGIN OF REPORT**

THEATER OR COMMAND AGF	ORGANIZATION AND UNIT 861st FA Bn, 63d Infantry Division	DATE OF REPORT 31 Dec 44
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**B. OFFICER-REPORTED UPON**

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL ROBINSON, JAMES E., JR.	SERIAL NUMBER 01181988	GRADE 1st Lt	ARM OR SERVICE FA	COM. COMPONENT AUS
DATE OF BIRTH 10 Jul 19	SERVICE Limited <input type="checkbox"/> General <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		OFFICIAL STATUS OF OFFICER WITH RESPECT TO YOU Exec Off of my Battery	
PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT FROM 1 Jul 44		TO 31 Dec 44		

**C. STATIONS AT WHICH OFFICER SERVED AND DUTY ASSIGNMENTS**

STATIONS	DUTY ASSIGNMENTS	DAYS	PLACE X IN BOX OR BOXES TO CLASSIFY DUTY					
			STAFF		COMMAND		TRAINING	ADMIN & EXEC
			COMBAT	NOT COMBAT	COMBAT	NOT COMBAT		
1. Camp Van Dorn Base	Btry Exec. O	138		X				
2. Ft. Sill, Okla	Student B L C WAs	20						
3. Leave	Leave	14						

**D. WRITE A BRIEF GENERAL ESTIMATE OF THIS OFFICER. REFER TO POINTS OF WEAKNESS AS WELL AS STRENGTH. UNFAVORABLE ENTRIES OF OPINION IN THIS ESTIMATE NEED NOT BE REFERRED TO THE OFFICER BEING RATED.**

A dynamic, alert, forceful yet somewhat talkative and temperamental officer whose personal magnetism and ability to think rapidly and clearly under stress qualify him as a personal leader to an outstanding degree. Is inclined to slow up on what he considers routine work, but rises to a challenge with superlative results. Good educational background.

**E. ALL ENTRIES ARE FORMULATED ON THE FOLLOWING**

BASED ON	INDICATE YOUR ATTITUDE WOULD YOU	G. WHAT DEGREE OF SUCCESS HAS HE ATTAINED UNDER THE FOLLOWING? PLACE AN X IN THE APPROPRIATE SPACE TO DENOTE RATING. ENTER THE PROPER NUMERICAL VALUE IN THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN UNDER TOTAL VALUE. NO VALUE SHOULD BE ENTERED FOR A RATING OF UNKNOWN. SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE SIDE.									
INTIMATE DAILY CONTACT	PARTICULARLY DESIRE HIM?	RAT VAL	Unsat.	Sat.	V	S	EXC.	SUP	Lin known	TOTAL VALUE	
REGULAR OBSERVATION OF HIS WORK	BE PLEASED TO HAVE HIM?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	-Total	+Total	
INDEPENDENT OBSERVATION OF HIS WORK	BE SATISFIED TO HAVE HIM?	1 Physical Activity and Endurance						X			7
ACADEMIC RECORDS	PREFER NOT TO HAVE HIM?	2 Stability Under Pressure					X				6
OFFICIAL REPORTS	DEFINITELY NOT WANT HIM?	3 Attention to Duty				X					5
		4 Cooperation					X				6
		5 Initiative						X			7
		6 Intelligence				X					5
		7 Force						X			7
		8 Judgment and Common Sense						X			6
		9 Leadership						X			7
		10 Ability to Obtain Results						X			7

H. Since this report is being prepared, has there been any change in the officer's status? (e.g., promotion, discharge, etc.) Favorably Yes or No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES Unfavorably Yes or No <input type="checkbox"/> NO	I. During the period covered by this report was the subject of any disciplinary measure that should be included on his record? If so, enclose separate statement of nature and attendant circumstances. Yes or No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	J. In case unfavorable entries have been made other than in D and/or F were the deficiencies brought to the officer's attention while under your command and prior to preparation of this report? Yes or No <input type="checkbox"/>	Totals - +63 K. Net Value <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 63
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**L. OUTSTANDING SPECIALTIES OF VALUE IN MILITARY SERVICE. MAKE NO ENTRIES EXCEPT WHERE STATEMENT IS BASED ON PERSONAL OBSERVATION OR OFFICIAL REPORTS. SHOW PILOT AND/OR OBSERVER RATINGS OF AIR CORPS OFFICERS.**

**M. Enter numerical rating using the following basis. Numerical rating equals the net value (K) divided by total number of entries for which a numerical rating was given.**

Numerical Rating $\frac{63}{10} = 6.3$	Adjectival Rating Superior
---	-------------------------------

**O. CERTIFY THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF ALL ENTRIES MADE HEREON ARE TRUE AND IMPARTIAL AND ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AR 600-105.**

REPORTING OFFICER: *Charles M. Young Jr.* TYPE NAME GRADE AND ORGANIZATION: CHARLES M. YOUNG JR., Capt, FA, Btry A 861st FA Bn

COMMANDING WHAT? \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Medal of Honor, Posthumously

TO The Adjutant General,  
Washington, 25, D. C.

THROUGH: Command Channels.

1. Under the provisions of paragraph 3, AR 600-45, it is recommended that James B. Robinson, Jr., O-1 181 968, Field Artillery Battery "A", 861st Field Artillery Battalion, be awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, in action involving actual conflict.

2. (a) Exact status at the time of rendition of service: Field Artillery Forward Observer attached to Company "A", 253d Infantry Regiment in combat.

(b) Grade and assignment: 1st Lieutenant, Field Artillery Battery "A", 861st Field Artillery Battalion.

(c) Officer died of wounds 6 April 1945.

(d) List of previous awards:

1. Bronze Star Medal, General Orders 61, Headquarters 63d Infantry Division, 28 March, 1945.

2. First Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal, General Orders 86, Headquarters 63d Infantry Division, 8 April, (Posthumously).

(e) A similar recommendation has not been previously submitted.

(f) Initiating officer has personal knowledge of the service rendered.

3. (a) On the evening of 6 April 1945, "A" Company, 253d Infantry, reinforced by one platoon of M-4 tanks under the command

of Lt. ~~Anthony J. Daskavich~~ from the 753d Tank Battalion, was in an assembly area in Untergriesheim, Germany, near the command post of the 1st Battalion (1). At 2100 the Company received an order to attack and seize the highground directly north of Kressbach (13). This commanding ground was a key terrain feature, and was all important to the successful completion of the Regimental mission. The fanatical 17th Panzer Division, numbering 1800 men, were well entrenched all along the ridge from (19) to (13), on the hills at (20), (21), (22), (23), and in the woods at (24), (25), (26). The course of "A" Company's action carried them along the North slope of the ridge from (19) to (13), where they encountered fierce and fanatical resistance from riflemen, machine guns, mortar artillery, and self propelled guns all the way to their objective.

Starting at 0400, 6 April, 1945, the company moved to a position in the woods at (2). Here Lt. Magin, Company Commander, gave his last-minute instructions for the attack. At 0430 the company deployed and moved east along the edge of the woods and across the open ground in the vicinity of (3). The company was deployed as follows: The 2nd and 3rd platoons with the machine guns attached were leading, 2nd platoon on the right. The five M-4 tanks were following in echelon with one tank on the road along the 75 grid, the others to its left (north) between the road and the woods to the north (27). A half-squad from the 1st platoon was protecting each tank as they moved eastward. The 4th platoon, composed of 60 men and company headquarters personnel, brought up the rear.

The first casualties sustained in the action occurred here

-2-

\* These numbers refer to the corresponding numbers on the accompanying overlay.

SP 20 45

The noise of the enemy mortar fire from (28), (29), and (30). Eleven men were killed or wounded by this mortar fire, and we evacuated. Lt Robinson quickly and accurately adjusted our artillery on these mortars, silencing them, and the company again moved forward at 0520.

The company encountered sporadic resistance from snipers and riflemen, but by 0600 had reached (4), where the leading scout was wounded by a heavy machine gun firing from (31). His machine gun after wounding the scout, fired at the leading elements of the 2nd platoon which was on our right (south) flank, maintaining physical contact with elements of the 2nd Battalion at (5). The 2nd platoon sustained three casualties as a result of this machine gun fire. Lt Robinson, from an observation post at (6), adjusted our artillery on the machine gun, killing all three of its crew.

The company moved forward again at 0645. Visibility was improving, and from this point on "A" Company was under observation by the enemy, and received continuous sniper fire from the flanks from the front (north, south, and east). At 0905, the company was hit by an increased volume of small arm fire at (7). The fire came from the road and cut between (7) and (8). One heavy machine gun opened up on the company from (32) and another from (33). At this point the company lost most of its key non-commissioned officers.

The 2nd platoon lost S/sgt John Russo, platoon sergeant, S/sgt Theodore Herberth, platoon guide, all of its squad leaders, one assistant squad leader. The 1st platoon lost Sgt Carcolis, a squad leader, and other non-commissioned officers and men. In all, the company lost about 20 men at this point.

CONSIDERED BY THE DECORATIONS BOARD

Lt Robinson adjusted the machine gun at (32), which was causing most of the casualties, and destroyed the crew of five, one of whom was an Unterofficer. The other machine gun ceased firing and withdrew.

The company again moved forward, and at 1130 had reached a point at (9). The sniper fire had become deadly, and several casualties were placed under the bridge at this point for protection and first aid. The company had intended reorganization in the draw at this point, but this was impossible because of the hail of enemy fire. At 1145, Lt. Magin was shot through the head by a sniper at (9). He died immediately. At 1150, Pfc Charles D. Woody and Pvt Cackett, reconnaissance sergeant and radio operator for Lt Robinson, were hit simultaneously by snipers at (10). Woody died on the spot, and Cackett, who had a wound to the penis and testicles, was evacuated. Lt Adams, platoon leader of the 2nd platoon, sustained a very painful wound in his leg and could scarcely walk. He was evacuated a short time later (exact time unknown).

At 1230, there were 23 uninjured riflemen and a few walking wounded who were still able to fight.

The morale of the men was very low at this point. All of the key enlisted men of the rifle platoons were casualties. The enemy kept up a withering hail of machine gun, rifle, and mortar fire and some artillery. Every man in the company believed himself doomed unless the company withdrew.

Such was the state of demoralization when Lt Robinson took command of the company. Fully aware of the hopelessness of the situation, knowing that if the company remained in that position they would be annihilated in a very short time, he would have been



justified in [redacted] Lt Robinson heroically elected to continue on the company's mission.

With complete disregard for his personal safety, amid the deadly hail of enemy bullets and shells, he gallantly and courageously rose to his feet and coolly walked about among the men, shouting encouragement and giving orders to them. He ordered the tanks to establish a base of fire on the objective from the vicinity of (35). His magnificent example gave the men new hope and energy and in response to his gallant leadership they pressed regardless of the enemy fire and joined him in the assault on the objective. The assault started at 1310.

As they rushed the enemy stronghold, amid the hail of machine gun, rifle, and mortar fire, ten enemy riflemen fired at them at point blank range from four interconnecting fox holes at (12) causing two casualties and threatening to repulse our assault. Lt. Robinson personally assaulted the enemy in their foxholes, emptying his M-1 rifle and his pistol at the enemy and killing all ten of them. Without pausing, he continued to lead the assault until the last enemy had been killed or driven from the objective, at 1400.

Lt. Robinson, immediately upon taking the objective, reorganized the remaining nineteen men, dug in on the hill, and sent out one patrol of two men and another of three. One automatic rifle was taken with each patrol. The three-man patrol came upon a group of 21 enemy attempting to withdraw at (15), and killed all of them on the spot. While the men were digging in, Lt. Robinson adjusted artillery on the town of Kressbach (36) and on the woods at (25), keeping the enemy fire at a minimum, discouraging and preventing any counter-attack.

By this time Lt. Robinson, Executive Officer, had managed to slip through the sniper fire and join the men on the objective. He sent three tanks back to Untergriesheim to get machine gun and tank ammunition. At 1500, orders were received to seize Kressbach (36). Lt. Robinson and Lt. Tierney made plans and issued orders for the attack. The tanks returned at 1600 with the ammunition. The men were again very reluctant to be in an assault with such reduced strength, and again it was Lt. Robinson who rallied the company. He went to each man and personally asked him to join in the attack on the town. The men could not refuse to respond to Lt. Robinson's leadership, and the company moved to the attack of Kressbach.

During the progress of the attack, at 1615, Lt. Robinson was on the right (west) flank of the company at (16). Here he was hit in the larynx by a fragment from a mortar shell. Enemy machine gun mortar, and artillery fire had become very heavy. Most of the fire came from the direction of the woods at (25) and (26). Lt. Robinson, although painfully and seriously wounded, refused medical aid, and insisted on being allowed to continue. For the second time within four hours, Lt. Robinson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, with conspicuous gallantry and courage, set a magnificent example for the men around him, in inspiring them to accomplish superhuman feats. While suffering intense pain and bleeding profusely and while scarcely able to speak, he continued to personally carry and operate his heavy radio in order to stop the murderous enemy. Pausing only to give instruction to the artillery liaison officer and radio operator to send all his personal effects home to his wife,

he adjusted our artillery on the enemy positions at (25) and (26) and (37). He succeeded in stopping most of the enemy machine gun and mortar fire, and by 1700 the capture of Kressbach was complete. Only then did Lt. Robinson, finding that he could no longer speak, decide to return for medical attention. He walked back to the forward aid station at Herbolzheim, 3000 meters away. (See route followed on overlay). Here he was given first aid and sent to the rear for further treatment. He died at 1900 on the operating table.

b. (1) Character of terrain. Most of the action took place on open terrain. From the time when Lt. Robinson adjusted on the machine gun at (31), the enemy could be seen clearly on the ridge to their east, in the woods south of Kressbach, and on several hills to the south. The terrain was very favorable to the enemy's defense in that they were well organized on the commanding ground, and there are no good routes of approach into their positions. The only solution was a frontal assault across open terrain. Hostile observation was much better than ours. There was no point which Lt. Robinson could use as a concealed observation post.

Enemy fire was the heaviest ever encountered by this unit. Seventy-one casualties were sustained by the company during that day's action. At the completion of the action, the company had 10 riflemen left, 9 men in 2nd platoon, 2 men in 1st platoon transferred to 2nd leaving none in 1st, and 9 men in 3rd platoon.

(2) The attack started before daylight, but the enemy were alert and their mortars caused some casualties. At 0830 visibility was fair, although somewhat overcast, and by 1000 the sun was out. The action lasted until about 1700 hours.

(3) The enemy was in superior numbers all along the ridge (see overlay) and had positions in Kressbach and Stein, and in the woods between. They were reinforced with anti-tank and self propelled guns and supported by a considerable number of artillery and mortars, both medium and light.

(4) Morale of our forces was excellent during the initial action but was very low at the time when Lt. Robinson took command at the beginning of the attack on Kressbach. That of the enemy is believed to have been very good at the beginning of the action. Later the enemy's morale was an unknown quantity.

(5) Casualties were extremely high on both sides. "A" Company lost 71 men and officers. (The company was not at full strength at the beginning of the action.)

(6) Lt. Robinson's action was directly responsible for the successful accomplishment of the company's mission, which was the first step toward a breakthrough of the enemy's defensive position, and contributed immeasurably to the success of the regiment in almost complete annihilation of the 17 SS Panzer Div.

4. a. James E. Robinson, Jr., O-1 181 988, Field Artillery, Battery "A", 861st Field Artillery Battalion, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 6 April, 1945 in the vicinity of Unterriesheim, Germany.

b. Lt. Robinson was forward observer with a badly shot up Infantry Company which had already lost most of its non-commissioned officers, and key men, and all officers, in an attack on a hill which was fiercely defended by a superior force of fanatical SS troops, well entrenched, and supported by self-propelled guns, mortars, and

While moving toward the objective, the company was suddenly pinned down in a draw by a hail of mortar, machine gun, and sniper fire, and all Infantry officers with the company in addition to many non-commissioned officers and riflemen, became casualties. All members of Lt Robinson's forward observer party, except himself, were also killed or wounded. The company had twenty-three badly demoralized riflemen left and the enemy fire threatened to annihilate those. Lt. Robinson realizing the hopelessness of remaining long in that position, took command, and with complete disregard for his personal safety, displaying conspicuous leadership and courage, ignoring the deadly hail of enemy fire, rose to his feet and coolly walked around among the men issuing orders and encouraging them through his gallant words and actions. Taking new hope and accuracy from his magnificent example, the remaining twenty-three riflemen arose and joined Lt. Robinson in the assault. While making the strongly entrenched enemy on the hill, the little group were met by ten enemy riflemen who fired at them at point-blank range from their four inter-connecting foxholes. Lt. Robinson personally assaulted these foxholes, killing all ten of the Germans with his rifle and his pistol. He then continued at the head of the company until the objective was taken and the enemy were driven from their positions with extremely heavy casualties.

Two hours later, in an attack on a fortified town, Lt Robinson was hit in the larynx by a fragment from a mortar shell. Realizing that without the artillery support which he alone could give them, the infantry would be unable to take the town, he refused medical aid, and with complete disregard for his personal safety, while suffering intense pain and bleeding profusely, unable to talk, Lt. Robinson continued to personally carry and oper

his heavy radio, adjusting the fire on enemy positions and keeping them pinned down until his company's mission had been accomplished. He then walked 3000 meters to the aid station and was evacuated to the rear, where he died on the operation table.

Twice within a period of four hours, Lt. Robinson's heroic and valiant action, his conspicuous gallantry and courage, and his magnificent example so inspired the men around him that it was impossible for the company to fail in its mission. The success of the company's action set the stage for the initial breakthrough of the enemy's defensive positions, and led to ultimate annihilation of an enemy <sup>SS</sup> panzer division. The cool fearlessness, exceptional courage, and outstanding leadership displayed by Lt. Robinson reflect great credit on himself and the military service, and are worthy of the highest recognition and praise.

Entered military service from Waco, Texas.

Nearest relative: Mrs. Vina E. Robinson (if )

Street Address: 1215 Brooke Avenue, Waco, Texas.

*William S. Brown* 0-2010

WILLIAM S. BROWN (then T/Sgt)  
and Lt., Infantry  
Initiating Officer.

HEADQUARTERS 861ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 410, % Postmaster, New York, New York.

31 May 1945

C E R T I F I C A T E

At 1500, 5 April 1945 the foot elements of the 1st Battalion, 253rd Infantry, had finished crossing the Jagst River at Untergriesheim, Germany, under shelling by enemy artillery from the vicinity of Kressbach, in preparation for an attack on the ridge between Untergriesheim and Kressbach. This high ground, and the adjacent towns to the south and east, were held by the fanatical 17th SS Panzer Division, numbering 1800 men, and their positions were extremely well dug in and fortified. The Battalion Commander, Battalion S-3, and the Artillery Liaison Officer (undersigned) made a reconnaissance at 1600, the Battalion Commander issued an attack order. In execution of this order, "A" Company started an attack on the hill directly east of Untergriesheim at 1645. The weather was clear, and the visibility was excellent. The enemy were dug in in superior numbers on all the high ground between Untergriesheim on the west and Kressbach and Stein on the east, and had all of the dominant observation. For these reasons, and because there was no concealed route of approach into the enemy position, our action was unsuccessful. "A" Company sustained several casualties, including both of the enlisted men with 1ST LT. JAMES E. ROBINSON, JR., Artillery forward observer with the Company, and withdrew to Untergriesheim to reorganize and to prepare for a dawn attack.

At 0400, 6 April, "A" Company reinforced by a platoon of tanks, moved out of Untergriesheim, and at a point in the war  
CONSIDERED BY THE DECORATION

-1-

*Incl #20*

east of the town, deployed to begin the attack. They had moved only a few hundred yards when the enemy very much on the alert, hearing our tanks moving forward, brought down a murderous concentration of mortar fire on the troops, causing eleven casualties. This occurred between 0430 and 0500. Lieutenant Robinson, whose enlisted personnel had been replaced, immediately brought down upon the enemy mortar positions a series of prearranged concentrations, apparently destroying these installations or causing the enemy to withdraw, since these mortars were not heard from again.

"A" Company moved forward at about 0520, under constant fire from snipers and light machine guns. At 0620, Lieutenant Robinson reported by radio that the company was under heavy machine gun fire and that the scout had been hit, and he quickly knocked out this enemy position, reporting 100% casualties on this mission. "A" Company had sustained a total of four casualties at this point. By this time, daylight was approaching, and our visibility was improving, but so was the enemy's, and his fire grew more accurate as a result.

At about 0815, Lieutenant Robinson again reported that the company was under machine gun and small arms fire, and that several men had been hit. He again brought down our Artillery on the enemy, destroying one machine gun and its crew with a direct hit, and forcing the other crew to abandon their position. He also reported heavy casualties from the enemy fire.

By 1130 the Company had reached a bridge in a draw about 1000 meters SE of Herbolzheim. Sniper, machine gun and mortar had been deadly, and the company had lost more than half of their personnel.



At this point, Lieutenant Magin, Company Commander, was killed by a sniper, leaving Lieutenant Adams as the only Infantry officer with the Company. A few minutes later, Tec 5 Moody (Lieutenant Robinson's reconnaissance sergeant) was killed by a sniper, and Private Tacke (radio operator) was seriously and painfully wounded. Because there were only about 25 men left with the Company, Lieutenant Robinson carried and operated his heavy radio (weight 78 pounds) in addition to carrying his other equipment this point on, in order that all of the men present could be as effective as possible.

About noon Lieutenant Adams was wounded, and had to be evacuated a short time later.

By this time, the morale of the remaining few men of the Company was very poor. Some of them were almost panic stricken. All of the non-commissioned officers and other key enlisted men had been killed or wounded. Enemy fire was terrific, and to expose oneself to the view of the enemy was almost suicidal.

Lieutenant Robinson realized that the plight of the little group was desperate, and that their only hope to succeed in the Company's mission lay in making a bold, and ferocious assault on the objective. He also knew that the men were exhausted, demoralized, and ready to quit.

Lieutenant Robinson made a decision which was characteristic of his colossal fortitude and courage, and his unflinching devotion to duty. With absolute disregard for his personal safety, completely ignoring the terrific hail of enemy fire, he coolly walked among the men and told them what he intended to do, and asking each in turn if he were ready to join in the assault. Lieutenant Robinson's

magnificent leadership, outstanding personal magnetism, and his gallant action were here clearly portrayed. Every uninjured man and several walking wounded rose to their feet shouting, "Let's go". This was the beginning of the most remarkable action which has ever come to my attention. The little group, led by Lieutenant Robinson, moved quickly to the base of the hill which was the objective. When some men started to lag behind, Lieutenant Robinson gave the order to double-time. The tanks, acting under Lieutenant Robinson's order, had established a base of fire. They led the maneuver element into the enemy positions with their machine guns, firing into the foxholes and trenches. The maneuver element, led by Lieutenant Robinson, encountered a group of enemy riflemen in four foxholes. Without pausing, Lieutenant Robinson emptied his M-1 rifle and his pistol at these enemy, killing them all (a later count disclosed that there were ten), and continued to lead the assault on the hill. By 1400, capture of the hill was complete, the enemy had all been killed or driven from their positions and "A" Company had nineteen riflemen left.

Two small patrols went out. The remaining men dug in. One patrol caught a group of 21 enemy in a draw south of the hill near Kressbach, and killed them all. Lieutenant Robinson kept the enemy mortars and machine guns in the town of Kressbach and in the woods to the south pinned down by adjusting our artillery on them. This allowed our men to dig in and prevented the usual German counterattack.

At 1445 Lieutenant Therney, Company Executive Officer, arrived to take command. He sent tanks back to the ammunition dump in

Untergriesheim to get a new supply of ammunition. By the time the [redacted] returned, at 1600, orders had been received to take Kressbach. The men were in worse physical condition than before the capture of the hill. Another attack at this time seemed suicidal, and again the men were extremely reluctant to move. Again it was Lieutenant Robinson who inspired them to Herculean feats. Responding to his powerful leadership, they prepared, for the second time within an afternoon, to assault a position which was held by a fanatical enemy in superior numbers, in prepared positions.

At 1615, Lieutenant Robinson was hit by a fragment from a mortar shell. His larynx was severely lacerated, and it was very difficult for him to speak. He bled continuously and profusely.

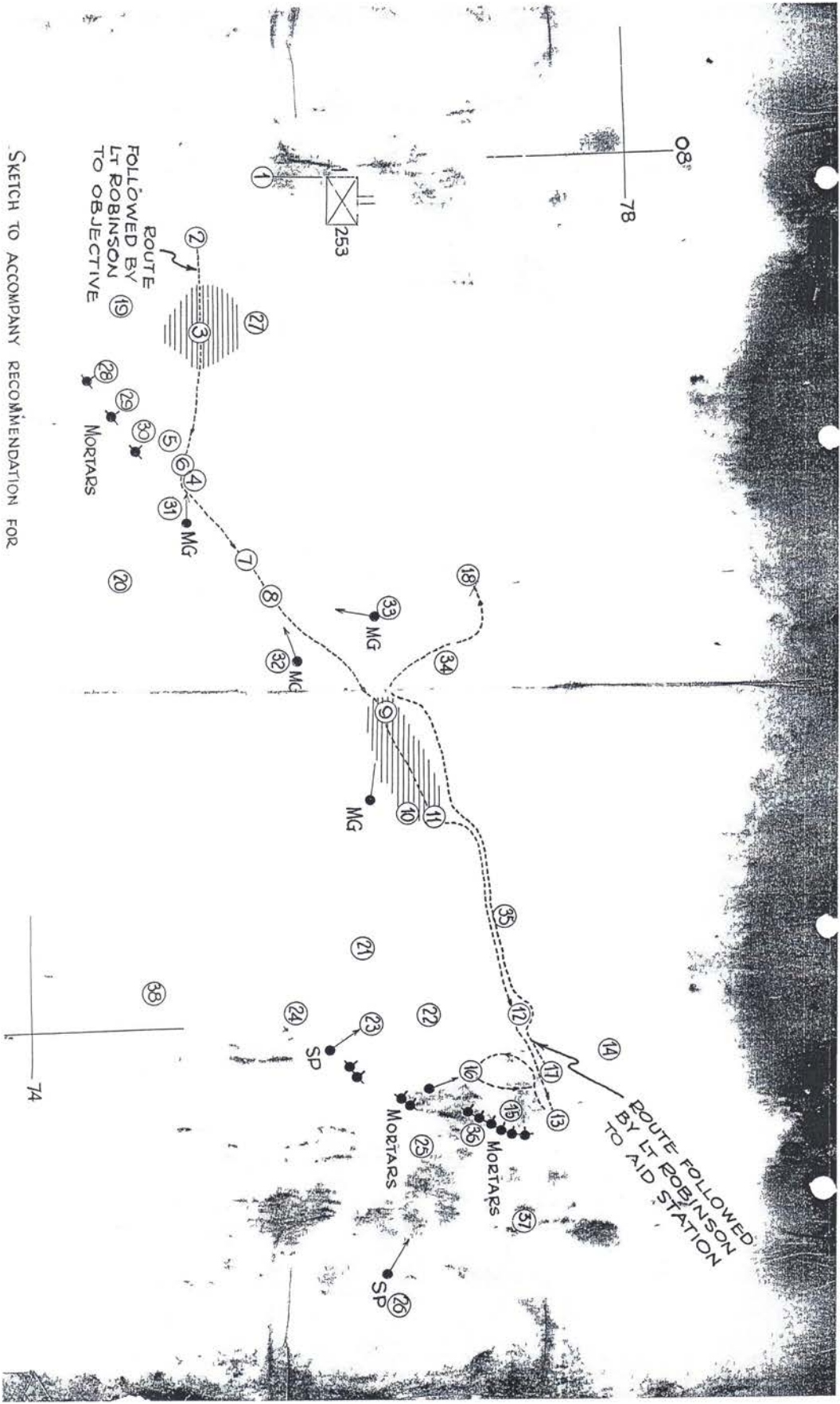
Enemy mortar and artillery fire, in addition to rifle and machine gun fire from the woods south of Kressbach and from a hill east of the town, were making it very difficult for the company to enter the town. Lieutenant Robinson knew that success of the Company in taking the town depended on whether or not this enemy fire could be stopped. He was the only person present who could accomplish that. He refused medical aid, paused long enough to inform the liaison officer's radio operator, Corporal Joseph E. Evans, that he had been hit, that he didn't think he would be able to carry on, and that it would be necessary to send up an entire new forward observer section. He apparently knew that he was mortally wounded, because he also asked Corporal Evans to send all of his personal effects home to his wife.

After that, Lieutenant Robinson continued to perform his duty, adjusting our artillery on the enemy positions, neutralizing them.

fire, and by 1700 the capture of Kressbach had been completed without further casualties. Lieutenant Robinson could no longer speak, so he turned his radio over to the Infantry and walked back to Herbolzheim to the Aid Station. Here he received first aid and was sent further back to be given surgical treatment. He died on the operating table at 1900.

During my experience in the service, both in training and in combat, I have had the opportunity to work with many forward observers, some of whom were superior in the performance of their duty. Lieutenant Robinson, in my professional and personal opinion, had no peer among these nor any others. His leadership, courage, resourcefulness, and devotion to duty, demonstrated so many times and under all conditions and circumstances, are an example for all. His expert knowledge of infantry and artillery tactics, his speed and accuracy in placing our fire on the enemy whenever and wherever he showed himself, and his superb teamwork with the Company Commander are legendary among the men of Company A. His achievements in this, his final action, in which he gave his life so that his company might accomplish their mission, have not, to my knowledge, been equaled, and they will never be forgotten by those who survived the experience.

*John C. Fralish*  
JOHN C. FRALISH, 04  
Capt., 861st FA Bn.  
Liaison Officer.



SKETCH TO ACCOMPANY RECOMMENDATION FOR



HEADQUARTERS 63D DIVISION ARTILLERY

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

APO 410

c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

11 April 1945

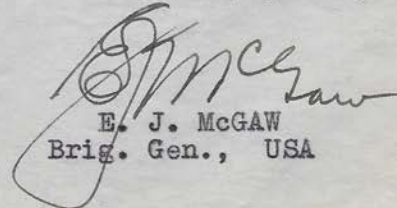
Mrs Vina E Robinson  
1122 South 15th Street  
Waco, Texas

My dear Mrs Robinson:

It is with a feeling of deep regret that I write you relative to the recent death of your husband, 1st Lieutenant James E. Robinson Jr, ASN 01181988. I realize fully that there is very little that anyone can say, at a time like this, to compensate for or ease your burden. However, you should know that "Robbie", as he was known to me, was one of my very best officers, irrespective of grade. His eagerness, determination, and consideration for others earned for him the admiration and respect of all the officers and enlisted men of the entire command. His courage was outstanding and was recognized on two occasions by the award of a Bronze Star Medal and an Oak Leaf Cluster thereto.

I am certain that you would wish to know that Robbie gave his life on the battlefield. He was then, as he always had been, an inspiration to his men. His passing was a great personal loss to me. Please accept my deepest sympathy. I pray with you that this sacrifice of his shall not have been in vain, and that we may soon look upon a world blessed with peace.

Sincerely yours,



E. J. McGAW  
Brig. Gen., USA

BATTERY A 861ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 410 c/o Postmaster  
New York, New York

CMY/cgk

April 15, 1945

Mrs. Vina E. Robinson  
1215 Brooke Avenue  
Waco, Texas

My dear Mrs. Robinson:

It is with a deep sense of personal loss that I write of the death of your husband, First Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr., ASN O1 181 988, who gave his life in action near Herbolzheim, Germany on April 6, 1945 while serving as artillery forward observer.

Funeral services were conducted by the Catholic Chaplain and he was interred April 7, 1945 in the United States Military Cemetery in Southern Germany.

Jim's ever present cheerfulness and magnificent courage were an inspiration to all. He enjoyed the respect and admiration of all the officers and enlisted men with whom he was associated. We have suffered an irreplaceable loss.

There is nothing that I can do or say to help ease your sorrow, but may I offer my heartfelt sympathy on behalf of all the officers and men in our battalion.

Sincerely yours,

*Charles M. Young, Jr.*  
CHARLES M. YOUNG, JR  
Captain, Field Artillery  
Commanding

**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
 WASHINGTON 25, D C

REPORT OF DEATH AG/ess/3811

DATE 28 April 1945

FULL NAME <b>Robinson, James E., Jr.</b>		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER <b>01181988</b>	GRADE <b>1st Lt.</b>				
HOME ADDRESS <b>Waco, Texas</b>		ARM OR SERVICE <b>FA</b>	DATE OF BIRTH <b>10 July 1919</b>				
PLACE OF DEATH <b>European Area</b>	CAUSE OF DEATH <b>Wounds received in Action</b>		DATE OF DEATH <b>6 Apr 1945</b>				
STATION OF DECEASED <b>European Area</b>		DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE <b>13 May 1943</b>	LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS MONTHS DAYS				
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) <b>Mrs. Vina E. Robinson, wife, 1215 Brooke Ave., Waco, Texas</b>							
BENEFICIARY (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) <b>Mrs. Vina E. Robinson, wife, same as above Martha D. Robinson, daughter, same as above</b>							
INVESTIGATION MADE?	IN LINE OF DUTY	OWN MISCONDUCT	WAS DECEASED ON DUTY STATUS	AUTHORIZED ABSENCE	IN FLYING PAY STATUS	OTHER PAY STATUS (SPECIFY BELOW)	
YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT

BATTLE  NON BATTLE

Beneficiaries continued:  
 Mrs. Dolores Robinson, mother, same as above  
 Mr. James E. Robinson, Sr., father, same as above  
 Evidence of death rec'd in WD 18 Apr 1945

COPIES FURNISHED:		
S G O	F B I	F O U S A
Z O C M G	O F D	ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU
G A O	V E T A D M I N	CASUALTY BRANCH FILE
		A G R O I F I L E

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

*Overstunck*

ADJUTANT GENERAL

WD AGO FORM 52-1  
 1 FEBRUARY 1945

THIS FORM SUPERSEDES WD AGO FORM 52-1 1 DECEMBER 1944,  
 WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL EXISTING STOCKS ARE EXHAUSTED



28 April 1945

Mrs Vina E. Robinson  
1215 Brooke Avenue  
Waco, Texas

Dear Mrs Robinson

The War Department has informed me that your husband, Lt. James E. Robinson, Jr., has given his life in the performance of his duty. It is therefore with deep sympathy that I address you on behalf of this Command and extend every possible comfort and assistance.

We have a grateful and lasting interest in the brave men who have given their lives for our Country and in the dependents of these heroes. The Army has made provision for you to have the benefit of our best counsel and advice in the adjustment of your problems.

You will find the Personal Affairs Officer in your vicinity not only willing but eager to help you. The address of the officer nearest you may be located by referring to the list which I am inclosing with this letter. Should you need this service or assistance, please feel most free to use it. The nearest chapter of the American Red Cross also is available to provide counsel and assistance.

I hope that the passing days will bring you comfort and a consoling pride that your husband gave up his life to set men free. His name will be honored among all who were privileged to know him.

Most sincerely yours,

RICHARD DONOVAN  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

567

R E S T R I C T E D

I N V E N T O R Y F O R M

25 April 1945

SUBJECT: Inventory of personal effects of:  
Robinson, James E. Jr., 1st Lt., ASN 01 181 988.

TO: Effects Quartermaster, Communication Zone, ETO USA,  
U. S. Army.

The above named individual of Battery A, 861st Field  
Artillery Battalion, APO 410, New York, New York was reported  
killed about 6 April 1945.

Designated Beneficiary: Mrs. Vina Elizabeth Robinson,  
(wife), 1215 Brooke Avenue, Waco, Texas

I N V E N T O R Y O F E F F E C T S

- One Sewing kit
- Two pair cotton socks, OD
- Six cotton handkerchiefs
- one pair grey cotton socks
- One Field Artillery insignia
- One Red Cross sewing kit
- One cotton undershirt
- Two pairs cotton shorts
- One Wool OD shirt
- One towel
- One jacket, leather, wool lined
- One 1st Lt., insignia
- One blue glove containing German marks
- One bundle letters
- One envelope containing pictures



File in Officers Branch  
 Date 27 MAY 1945  
 Initials ...

R E S T R I C T E D

(CV 3)

May 18, 1945.

My dear Mrs. Robinson:

At the request of the President, I write to inform you that the Purple Heart has been awarded posthumously to your husband, First Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr., Field Artillery, who sacrificed his life in defense of his country.

Little that we can do or say will console you for the death of your loved one. We profoundly appreciate the greatness of your loss, for in a very real sense the loss suffered by any of us in this battle for our country, is a loss shared by all of us. When the medal, which you will shortly receive, reaches you, I want you to know that with it goes my sincerest sympathy, and the hope that time and the victory of our cause will finally lighten the burden of your grief.

Sincerely yours,

F. P. WILSON.

Mrs. Vina E. Robinson,  
1215 Brooks Avenue,  
Waco, Texas.

ES

jc

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.  
 NOTICE OF AWARD OF DECORATION

Date of Action **7 July**

Last Name <b>Robinson, Jr., James</b>		First Name	Middle Initial <b>J</b>	Serial No. <b>01 161 987</b>	Grade <b>1st Lt</b>	To be engraved as follows <b>JAMES E. ROBINSON JR.</b>
Organization <b>Field Artillery</b>		Component	Foreign	Others		
Home address — upon entry into service						
Present station if living; otherwise present status <b>Killed in Action</b>					Station or APO	
Next of kin (Name & Address) <b>Mrs. Vina E. Robinson 1215 Brooke Avenue Sanco, Texas</b>					Relationship <b>wife</b>	
GO AUTHORIZING AWARD		Headquarters				
GO No. <b>61</b>	Sec	Year <b>45</b>	<b>63rd Inf Div</b>			
Type of Award and Date <b>Bronze Star Medal</b>					Posthumous <b>Yes</b>	
Oak-Leaf Clusters to the <b>Bronze Star Medal</b>					Number <b>1</b>	Posthumous <b>Yes</b>
Presentation to be made by: <b>Commanding General Eighth Service Command Dallas, Texas</b>				Name of officer recommending award		

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

W H FALLS

1945  
Adjutant General

CITATION

OGC to ETC:

GO 66, 63rd Inf Div, 8 Apr 45

To: Officer's or Enlisted Man's  
201 File



## WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
 AGPD-R 201 Robinson, Jr., James E. WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
 01 181 988

7 July 1945

Mrs. Vina E. Robinson  
 1215 Brooke Avenue  
 Waco, Texas

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President, the Bronze Star Medal and one Oak-Leaf Cluster, representing an additional award of the same decoration, have been posthumously awarded to your husband, First Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr., Field Artillery. The citation is as follows:

## BRONZE STAR MEDAL AND ONE OAK-LEAF CLUSTER

"For heroic achievement in action on 27 February 1945 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, \*\*\*. During a savage enemy counter-attack spearheaded by self-propelled guns, machine guns, mortars and riflemen, Lieutenant Robinson, through his skillful manipulation and direction of artillery fire in darkness and fog, materially aided the infantry in repelling the enemy. Numerous enemy were captured and an undetermined number killed in this action; and for heroic achievement in action on 3 March 1945, in the vicinity of \*\*\*, \*\*\*. Lieutenant Robinson was forward observer with Company "A", \*\*\* Infantry Regiment, which was under murderous enemy mortar and artillery fire. Although exposing himself to the same fire coupled with machine gun and small arms fire, he changed his position to one which enabled him to observe and silence by artillery fire two enemy artillery batteries and numerous mortar positions."

The decorations will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Eighth Service Command, Dallas, Texas, who will select an officer to make the

Mrs. Vina E. Robinson  
AGPD-R 201 Robinson, Jr., James E.  
01 181 988

presentation. The officer selected will communicate with you concerning your wishes in the matter.

May I again express my deepest sympathy to you in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

*Edward F. Witsell*  
EDWARD F. WITSELL  
Brigadier General  
Acting The Adjutant General

AGPB-B 201 Robinson, James E.  
← (20 Jun 45)

30 October 1945

Medal of Honor

Commanding General  
Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot  
2800 South 20th Street  
Philadelphia 45, Pennsylvania

1. The Commanding General, Army Service Forces, directs that the Medal of Honor awarded First Lieutenant James E. Robinson, OI 181 988, be forwarded to this office, Decorations and Awards Branch, 2026 Munitions Building, Washington 25, D. C., with the least practicable delay.

2. It is desired that the medal be engraved as follows:

THE CONGRESS  
TO

1st Lt James E. Robinson  
F. A. U. S. Army  
Untergriesheim, Germany  
6 April 1945

Adjutant General

AGPD-B 201 Robinson, James E.  
(20 Jun 45)

6 December 1945

Mrs. Vina Elizabeth Robinson  
1215 Brooks Avenue  
Waco, Texas

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

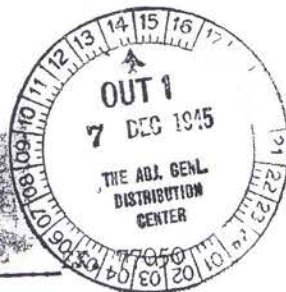
I have the honor to inform you that by direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Medal of Honor has been posthumously awarded by the War Department, in the name of Congress, to your husband, First Lieutenant James E. Robinson for conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty near Untergriesheim, Germany, on 24 March 1945.

The Commanding General, Eighth Service Command, Dallas, Texas, has been directed to select an officer to represent the President in presenting this decoration to you. You will be further advised as to time and place of presentation by that officer who, I am sure, will be pleased to make such arrangements as will be most convenient to you.

May I extend my deepest sympathy in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

Edward F. Witsell  
EDWARD F. WITSELL  
Major General  
Acting The Adjutant General



DV&A:RR.

*Handwritten notes and signatures, including "2025" and "102".*



C E R T I F I C A T E

14 ay 1945  
Zuttlingen, Germany.

I certify that I heard the radio transmission made by Lt Robinson on 6 April 1945 in which he gave instructions to the Liaison Officer's radio Operator who was in the CP of the 1st Bn, 253d Inf at Untergriesheim after Lt Robinson had been wounded. His instructions were as follows:

"Evans, I want you to gather up all of my belongings and send them home to my wife. Also, send up a new Forward Observer section. I have been hit, and I don't think I will make it." . . . or words to that effect.

I further certify that after this transmission, Lt Robinson continued to adjust artillery fire on appropriate targets until he could no longer speak.

/s/ Frank J. Tettener, Jr  
/t/ Lt Col J. TETTENER, JR  
Capt, 253d Inf  
S-3, 1st Bn  
APO 410, S F NYC NY

"A TRUE COPY"

GEORGE S. RADER,  
WOJG, USA,  
Asst Adjutant,  
861st FA Bn.

AG 201-(Off) Robinson, James E. 1st Ind JBM/mw  
SPLBG-B (6 Dec 45)  
Headquarters, Eighth Service Command, ASF, Dallas 2, Texas, 27 Dec 1945

TO The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.

The Medal of Honor posthumously awarded to subject named officer was presented, with suitable ceremony, to his wife, Mrs. Vina Robinson, 1215 Brooke Avenue, Waco, Texas, by Brigadier General Edwin H. Marks, USA, at this headquarters, on 22 December 1945.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Incls w/d ;

*C. F. Tarkington*  
C. F. TARKINGTON  
Captain, Infantry  
Actg Asst Adjutant General

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Bureau of Public Relations  
PRESS BRANCH  
Tel. RE 6700, Brs. 3425 and 4860

Hummers-416

SIS Release C-596

FUTURE RELEASE

First Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr., field artillery forward observer with the 63d Infantry "Blood and Fire" Division, has been awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for rallying and leading a commanderless infantry company through two assaults, in the second of which he was mortally wounded, the War Department announced today. The action took place near Untergriesheim, Germany on April 6, 1945.

Presentation of the Nation's highest award will be made in the near future to the hero's wife, Mrs. Vina E. Robinson, 1215 Brooke Avenue, Waco, Texas.

Lieutenant Robinson of Battery A, 861st Field Artillery Battalion, took over command of Company A, 253d Infantry Regiment, when its commander and most of its key enlisted personnel had been killed by German fire. While leading the attacks, the slight 130-pound officer carried and operated his heavy 78-pound radio himself in order to leave the remaining men of the dwindling company free to handle their own arms and equipment.

The courageous officer killed ten of the enemy who threatened to halt the first assault, then led his men on to a successful mopping-up of the area. Ordered to take the town of Kressbach, he rallied the group and spearheaded the successful assault. Then, wounded in the throat, he walked two miles to an aid station, where he died soon after.

Two eyewitnesses to the action, Captain John C. Fralish, of 716 Fleming Street, Key West, Florida, liaison officer of the 861st Field Artillery Battalion, and Major Robert K. Liedling, of 421 Hill Street, Kohler, Wisconsin, executive officer, First Battalion, 253d Infantry Regiment, told of the intrepid observer's courageous leadership.

"Sniper, machinegun and mortar fire was deadly and the company had lost more than half of its personnel," related Captain Fralish. "The morale of the remaining few men of the company was very poor. All of the key men had been killed or wounded. Enemy fire was terrific, and to expose oneself to the enemy's view was suicidal.

"Lieutenant Robinson, with colossal fortitude and courage and with absolute disregard for his personal safety, ignoring the terrific hail of enemy fire, coolly walked among the men and told them what he intended to do, asking each in turn if he were ready to join in the assault. Every uninjured man and several walking wounded rose to their feet, shouting, 'Let's go!'"

"Lieutenant Robinson led Company A, after the commanding officer died in action, in an heroic and successful assault on an objective held by a stronger force, well entrenched," Major Liedling reported. "Two hours later, painfully and mortally wounded, knowing that failure to have medical

- More -

attention would cost him his life, he remained with his company. He kept the enemy paralyzed by the deadly accuracy of his fire, while the men proceeded to the capture of another objective. This would have been impossible without the artillery support which he along was in a position to give."

Seriously wounded and feeling that death was near, Lieutenant Robinson radioed Corporal Joseph E. Evans of 740 $\frac{1}{2}$  Perry Street, Defiance, Ohio, Headquarters Battery liaison officer's radio operator: "Evans, I want you to gather up all of my belongings and send them home to my wife. Also, send up a new Forward Observer Section. I have been hit, and don't think I will make it." This message was heard also by Captain Frank J. Tetterer, Jr., of 44 Crescent Street, Hewlett, Long Island, operations officer of the 1st Battalion, 253d Infantry Regiment.

Lieutenant Robinson, known to the men as "one of the best infantrymen in the company," was reported as having an uncanny ability to spot the source of enemy fire. At the time of this action he and his little group of infantry were facing the famed German 17th Panzer Division.

Previously Lieutenant Robinson had been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for directing artillery fire in darkness and fog, shattering the enemy who were counterattacking with self-propelled guns, machineguns, mortars, and infantry, on February 27, 1945. An Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal has been awarded, posthumously, for an action on March 3, 1945, wherein the heroic officer exposed himself to mortar and artillery fire while placing friendly artillery fire on enemy batteries.

A commercial artist, Lieutenant Robinson was born July 10, 1919. Prior to his enlistment on June 2, 1939, he lived with his mother at 1122 S. 15th Street, Waco, Texas. He served with Howitzer Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Appointed private first class August 7, 1940, he rose steadily through each of the noncommissioned ranks until on July 1, 1942, he was promoted to the rank of master sergeant.

At the time he was appointed to Officer Candidate School, Lieutenant Robinson was serving with the 14th Air Depot Group, Duncan Field, Texas. He graduated from the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was commissioned a second lieutenant May 13, 1943. Promotion to first lieutenant came on August 24, 1944.

Besides his wife, Lieutenant Robinson is survived by a daughter, Miss Martha D. Robinson, who resides with her mother in Waco.

The official citation follows:

"First Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr., Battery A, 861st Field Artillery Battalion, was a field artillery forward observer attached to Company A, 253d Infantry, near Untergriesheim, Germany, on April 6, 1945.

"Eight hours of desperate fighting over open terrain swept by German machinegun, mortar and small arms fire had decimated Company A, robbing it of its commanding officer and most of its key enlisted personnel

- More -

when Lieutenant Robinson rallied the twenty-three remaining uninjured riflemen and a few walking wounded, and, while carrying his heavy radio for communication with American batteries, led them through intense fire in a charge against the objective.

"Ten German infantrymen in foxholes threatened to stop the assault, but the gallant leader killed them all at point-blank range with rifle and pistol fire and then pressed on with his men to sweep the area of all resistance. Soon afterward he was ordered to seize the defended town of Kressbach.

"He went to each of the nineteen exhausted survivors with cheering words, instilling in them courage and fortitude, before leading the little band forward once more. In the advance he was seriously wounded in the throat by a shell fragment, but, despite great pain and loss of blood, he refused medical attention and continued the attack, directing supporting artillery fire even though he realized he was mortally wounded. Only after the town had been taken and he could no longer speak did he leave the command he had inspired in victory and walk nearly two miles to an aid station where he died from his wound.

"By his intrepid leadership Lieutenant Robinson was directly responsible for Company A's accomplishing its mission against tremendous odds."

-30-

RECOMMEND NATIONAL RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AGAO-I 600.05 (9 Sep 48)


9 September 1948

Mrs. Vina E. Robinson  
P. O. Box 1765  
Waco, Texas

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, I am pleased to inform you that the Army-owned cargo vessel "Lt. James E. Robinson" has been named in honor of your husband, the late Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr.

Sincerely yours,

  
EDWARD F. WITSELL  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl.  
(GO No. 52)



## Campagnes pour la libération de la France

(1944 - 1945)

### Décision N° 245

*Le Président du Gouvernement Provisoire  
de la République.*

Cite à l'Ordre \_\_\_\_\_ de la DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

Ist Lt James E. ROBINSON Jr OII8I988 86I FA Bn

*" Pour services exceptionnels de Guerre rendus au  
" cours des opérations de libération de la France."*

Cette Citation comporte l'attribution de la Croix de  
Guerre avec Etoile d'Argent.

PARIS, le 12 Juillet 1946  
P.O. Le Général d'Armée JUIH

*A. Juin*



UNITED STATES ARMY  
THE CHIEF OF STAFF

22 October 1948

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

While it is beyond the power of anyone to add to the renown of those brave men who have won this nation's highest award, the Department of the Army has prepared a history of the Medal of Honor, dedicated to those who, while serving with the Army, have distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty.

The name and the distinguished acts of heroism of your brave husband are recorded for history in this volume, and I am happy to send you a copy as evidence again of the honor due his memory from a grateful nation.

As one of his fellow soldiers, may I tell you of my own great admiration for his heroic achievements.

Sincerely,

*Omar N Bradley*

Mrs. Vina E. Robinson  
P. O. Box 1765  
Waco, Texas







JAMES E  
ROBINSON JR



MEDAL OF HONOR

1ST LT  
US ARMY  
WORLD WAR II

JUL 10 1918  
APR 6 1945

First Lieutenant James E. Robinson's grave in the National Cemetery at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. Courtesy of Dolores Milhous, daughter of James Robinson.

# SOURCES

The collection of papers and pictures of James Robinson's daughter Dolores Milhous.

The Collection of The National World War II Museum

National Personnel Records Center  
(Military Personnel Records)  
1 Archive Drive  
Saint Louis, MO 63138

The Library of Congress

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The Orangetown Historical Museum & Archive

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The Institute for the Study of War and Democracy

Dan Olmsted  
Jason Dawsey  
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The National World War II Museum



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WWII MUSEUM  
NEW ORLEANS

HISTORICAL RESEARCH SERVICES 945 MAGAZINE STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130 | 504-528-1944