

**National Archives & Records Administration  
War Department Files**

**1 LT Edward R. O'Brien  
Class 13-42**

**ID: 01165319**

**Branch of Service: U.S. Army**

**Hometown: Oelwein, IA**

**Status: KIA 3 Jan 1945**



**Killed in action serving with the 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
82nd Airborne Division during the Battle of the Bulge**



## Silver Star



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Edward R. O'Brien (ASN: 0-1165319), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Headquarters Battery, 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, 82d Airborne Division, in action on 3 January 1945, near \*\*\*\*, Belgium. First Lieutenant O'Brien, a Field Artillery Liaison Officer, voluntarily went forward to serve as Forward Observer during an attack when the regular Forward Observer was not available. Moving to the outpost line of the battalion he immediately brought effective fire to bear on strong enemy forces which were preparing to counterattack. This fire was so effective that the enemy counterattack never materialized. In this exposed outpost, First Lieutenant O'Brien was killed by enemy fire while carrying out his duties as Forward Observer. His aggressiveness and devotion to duty saved the lives of many men and reflects the highest credit on himself and the Airborne Forces.

**General Orders: Headquarters, 82d Airborne Division, General Orders No. 35  
(March 18, 1945)**

*Buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Oelwein, Iowa*