

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

**2 LT Stanley S. Sadaj**

**Class 44-42**

**ID: O1175300**

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

**Hometown: San Joaquin, CA**

**Status: KIA 7 Mar 1945**





## **Distinguished Service Cross**

### **2LT Stanley S. Sadaj**

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Second Lieutenant Stanley S. Sadaj (ASN: 0-1175300), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company C, 400th Armored Field Battalion, in action against enemy forces in Germany, on 7 March 1945. On that date, Lieutenant Sadaj and a pilot were on an observation mission, flying low over the point units of the spearhead striking towards Remagen, Germany. Without thought of their own safety they braved enemy anti-aircraft fire to observe and direct fire upon enemy installations as the striking troops approached and formed for the assault against the bridge across the Rhine River. When enemy fire hit the plane, causing it to crash, they were flying too low to parachute to safety, and Lieutenant Sadaj and the pilot were killed. The courage and determination Second Lieutenant Sadaj displayed and his supreme devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

**General Orders:** Headquarters, Third U.S. Army, General Orders No. 120 (May 29, 1945)

1 April 1945

Mrs. Evelyn W. Sadaj,  
608 Chestnut Street,  
Louisville, Kentucky.

Dear Mrs. Sadaj:

There is little, I realize, that anyone can say to help lessen the grief that you and many others throughout America are experiencing over the loss of your husband and theirs in this war. I would like, however, to tell you something of the circumstances surrounding the death of 2d Lt. STANLEY B. SADAJ, O-1175300, and how his Battalion and the men who knew him felt about his death.

On 7 March 1945, during the course of the establishment of a bridgehead across the Rhine River, Stan was acting as observer from the liaison plane for the force of which this Battalion was a part. He was flying in the face of heavy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. It was during this battle that the plane was hit. I saw him crash and ran to the plane. When I arrived Stan was dead. I am sure that he suffered no pain and that death was instantaneous. His body was evacuated promptly and buried in an American Cemetery somewhere in Belgium. Burial services were conducted by a Chaplain of his faith.

There was not a man in the Battalion who did not feel deeply grieved at the news, because he had something that not all men have - it is a spirit and character that is like to think of as ~~unusually American~~, in its best and finest sense; good nature, cheerfulness, a willingness to do more than his share, an ability to lead, not because he was bigger or tougher than the next fellow but because the next fellow was willing to follow him, to other with a courage that enabled him to come up from the front just going with a grin and a quip. Your husband was a real man.

Stan was killed by the enemy, but what the enemy is beginning to realize is that America has bred enough men with character and courage like his to make the destruction of the enemy and what he stands for, inevitable.

We are proud to have had him with us, and are deeply sorry that he has gone.

Sincerely yours,

John R. McLean  
Lt Col., 400th A. FA.,  
Commanding



*Buried in Saint Andrews Cemetery, Christopher, Illinois*