



John W. Simonson 15-42

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

Service # 1165569

**314th Field Artillery Battalion
80th Infantry Division**

Entered the Service from: Illinois

Died: 11-Feb-1945

Buried at: Plot B Row 3 Grave 25

Luxembourg American Cemetery

Luxembourg City, Luxembourg

**Awards: Bronze Star, Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf
Clusters, Purple Heart**



LT. JOHN W. SIMONSON

Award of Bronze Star Is Made to John W. Simonson

Lt. John W. Simonson, son of Mr and Mrs Devore N. Simonson, 3739 Twelfth street, Rock Island, has been awarded the Bronze Star "for heroic service in France during the period Aug. 6 to Nov. 15, 1944." Lt. Simonson has been with the 80th Division, a part of General Patton's Third army, since landing in France in July. The 80th Division is now fighting near Bastogne, Belgium.

The citation received by his parents reads, "Lt. Simonson distinguished himself by his service as an artillery forward observer. He has performed his duties in a superior manner by his skill and devotion to duty in placing artillery fire where most needed... He has worked continuously, going without necessary food and rest on numerous occasions and has directed artillery missions while under constant enemy fire. His outstanding devotion to duty, bravery, tactical ability, and efficiency have been an inspiration to all who have witnessed his deeds, and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States."

Entering the service in July, 1941, Lt. Simonson trained at Ft. Bragg, N. C., and received his commission in the Field Artillery at Ft. Sill, Okla., in 1942.

Lt. John W. Simonson of Rock Island Killed in Action in Germany Feb. 11; Had Received Medals for His Service

Mr and Mrs Devore N. Simonson, 3739 Twelfth street, Rock Island, received word yesterday that their eldest son, First Lt. John W. Simonson, was killed in action in Germany Feb. 11.

Lt. Simonson was awarded the bronze star medal for heroic service in France as a forward artillery observer from Aug. 6 to Nov. 15, 1944, and he received the air medal for meritorious achievement with the 314th F. A. Battalion in France from Nov. 15 to Dec. 8 as an aerial artillery observer. He was again acting as ground forward observer since Feb. 1.

Inducted in 1941

Lt. Simonson was inducted into the army in July, 1941, and received his basic training at Fort Bragg, N. C. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the field artillery after completing the officers' training course at Fort Sill, Okla., in June, 1942. He was then assigned to the 80th division with which he had served since. His promotion to first lieutenant took place in January, 1943.

Lt. Simonson was sent overseas in July, 1944, and landed in France in early August, joining Lt. Gen. George Patton's Third army.

Born in Rock Island

John Wyckoff Simonson was born in Rock Island Sept. 23, 1918. He attended Edison school and prepared for college at Los Alamos ranch school, Santa Fe, N. M., and Lake Forest academy, from which he was graduated in 1937. While at Lake Forest he was editor-in-chief of the school paper and a member of the Cum Laude scholastic honor society.



LT. JOHN W. SIMONSON

He attended Amherst college, Amherst, Mass., where he was a member of Chi Psi fraternity and where he was graduated in June, 1941.

On Nov. 8, 1942, Lt. Simonson married Margaret Query Barringer of Lynchburg, Va.

Surviving are the widow; a nine-months-old daughter, Ann Barringer Simonson; his parents, Mr and Mrs Devore N. Simonson, his twin sister and brother, Mrs Margaret S. Ramsey, at home, and Pvt. David F. Simonson, serving with the 83rd infantry division in Germany, and his maternal grandmother, Mrs C. A. Ficke ofavenport.