

National Archives & Records Administration War Department Files

2 LT Howard V. Stephens Jr.

Class 70-43

ID: 01183423

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Hometown: St. Louis, MO


Status: KIA December 17, 1944



*Saint Louis Star and Times, March 15, 1945
Report of Death after being listed as
Missing in Action since December 17, 1944*

Lt. H. V. Stephens Reported Killed In Belgian Action

Lt. Howard V. Stephens, Jr., 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard V. Stephens, 5165 Lindell blvd., who was reported missing in action in Belgium December 17, has been listed officially as killed. His parents have been notified by the War Department.



The officer, who served with the field artillery, received the Bronze Star for meritorious service the day he was reported missing.

A graduate of Yale University in 1938, Lt. Stephens was St. Louis district tennis champion three times and served as captain of the Yale tennis team. As captain of the Yale-Harvard tennis team in 1938, he won the deciding game in an international match with an Oxford-Cambridge team.

He enlisted in the regular army in August, 1941, and served in the Pacific area 18 months before going to the European theater. He was at Pearl Harbor when war was declared.

ST. LOUISAN'S UNIT BEATS OFF GERMANS

Lt. Howard Stephens Dec-
orated in Field for Stand
on West Front.

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY SOUTH OF MONSCHAU, Dec. 18 (AP).—The commander of a combat engineer battalion whose members are fighting as foot soldiers was awarded the Bronze Star on the spot yesterday by his division commander for a gallant stand which slowed the pace of the current Nazi counterdrive into Belgium.

Although outnumbered, sometimes as much as eight to one, the engineers held on to a crossroads position until reinforcements could be brought up, and remained in the line for another half hour until the force of the enemy attack had been blunted.

During the attack, enemy tanks roared into the village, where Lt. Howard Stephens of St. Louis, Mo., was stationed with Pvt. Ernest Siegel of Richmond, Va., and six other enlisted men.

The men took to the cellar when German artillery leveled the house in which they were sheltered. After the Nazi air cover was broken up by American planes, the men worked their way out through the back of the village and up a ridge to some foxholes.

Stephens told Siegel to try to get back to the unit commander, Capt. George Young, whose wife lives in Portsmouth, O. Siegel forced a German truck to turn back by firing most of his lone clip of ammunition at it and then had to hole up for a half hour to avoid enemy machine-gun fire. He eventually reached a reconnaissance company which gave him ammunition and walked the rest of the way to division headquarters.

The only Lt. Howard Stephens listed in directories for the metropolitan area is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard V. Stephens Sr., 5165 Lindell boulevard. Lt. Stephens, 28 years old, is with the United States First Army, and is in the field artillery, his mother said. Lt. Stephens was assistant factory manager of the Johnson-Stephens & Shinkle Shoe Co. when he enlisted in August, 1941. His father is president of the firm.

Saint Louis Post Dispatch, December 18, 1944