



Our Men



In

Service

SOLDIER DECORATED FOR HEROIC RESCUE

WITH THE 26th INFANTRY DIVISION ON THE WESTERN FRONT—Private first class Henry G. Preston, Jr., husband of Mrs. Jean Preston, of Culpeper, has received the Soldier's Medal for rescuing two soldiers from a mined vehicle's burning wreckage after they had been disabled by the blast and their clothing caught fire.

Pfc. Preston was aided by two others, who also received the decoration: Cpl. George H. Messmer, husband of Mrs. Marie Messmer, of 832 Concord street, Northside, Pittsburgh; and Pfc. Louis E. Charnock, son of Mrs. Marie Charnock, of 1010 Beaver avenue, Northside, Pittsburgh.

It was during a night patrol that one vehicle, off a safety track, detonated a mine. Flames shot up around the vehicle and its two occupants, who were unable to extricate themselves from the wreckage. A scout in the intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, Pfc. Preston entered the mined area to carry one man from the fire. A second mine went off, but he returned for the other man. As he tried to beat out flames on the soldier's clothes, several belt cartridges were detonated, the bullets missing the soldiers by little margin. Finally, Pfc. Preston smothered the flames with his overcoat and evacuated both victims to an aid station.

Preston Pulls Captain From Blazing Jeep

(By Lee McCardell, Baltimore
Sun War Correspondent)

With the United States Third Army, Jan. 4—All in the day's work: PFC. HENRY G. PRESTON, of Harrisonburg, member of HQ Company of the 328th Infantry of the Yankee Division, was jeeping back from a reconnaissance patrol when another jeep about 200 yards ahead struck a mine, overturned and burst into flames.

While he was pulling out the captain, pinned under the burning wreck, two other mines went off and the jeep's gas tank exploded setting Preston's combat jacket afire. He whipped off the jacket, stamped out the flames, took the officer to the nearest aid station and went on his way.

(PFC. Preston is a son of Dr. and Mrs. H. Grant Preston.)