

HEADQUARTERS, 117TH INFANTRY
APO 30, c/o POSTMASTER
NEW YORK, N. Y.

3 January 1945

Mr. Delbert A. Meeker
Britton
South Dakota

Dear Mr. Meeker:

The regretful news that your son, S/Sgt. Bernard D. Meeker, 37580807, was killed in action on 19 December 1944 in Belgium has already been delivered to you by the Secretary of War.

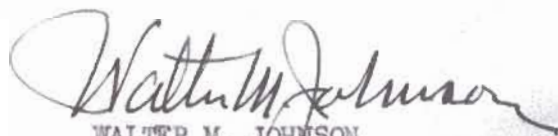
My purpose in writing this letter is to express my deep sympathy for you in the loss you have suffered, and, at the same time, answer some of the questions which I know are in your mind, by acquainting you with all the facts which are available at this time. I wish it were possible for me to give you all the details surrounding the death of your son, but I am sure you understand the need for censorship regulations at the present time.

Your son died in line of duty, in keeping with the highest standards and traditions of the Army and of his country which he served so nobly and well. I hope that it will alleviate your sorrow just a little when I tell you that no man could have done more to help bring an early end to this crusade for human freedom. He was a soldier and a man. Both officers and men of his unit miss him greatly, but his courageous example in making the supreme sacrifice has given all of us additional strength to complete the unfinished tasks before us.

Protestant religious services were conducted in your son's memory at his grave in Belgium by the chaplain. Information concerning his personal effects may be obtained by writing to the Quartermaster General, ASF, Washington, D. C.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,


WALTER M. JOHNSON
Colonel, 117th Inf.,
Commanding

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AG 201 Meeker, Bernard D.
PC-N ETO 228

4 January 1945

Mr. Delbert A. Meeker
Britten, South Dakota

Dear Mr. Meeker:

This letter is to confirm my recent telegram in which you were regretfully informed that your son, Staff Sergeant Bernard D. Meeker, 37,580,807, Infantry, has been reported missing in action since 19 December 1944 in Belgium.

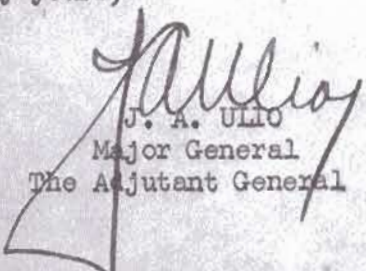
I know that added distress is caused by failure to receive more information or details. Therefore, I wish to assure you that at any time additional information is received it will be transmitted to you without delay, and, if in the meantime no additional information is received, I will again communicate with you at the expiration of three months.

The term "missing in action" is used only to indicate that the whereabouts or status of an individual is not immediately known. It is not intended to convey the impression that the case is closed. I wish to emphasize that every effort is exerted continuously to clear up the status of our personnel. Under war conditions this is a difficult task as you must readily realize. Experience has shown that many persons reported missing in action are subsequently reported as prisoners of war, but as this information is furnished by countries with which we are at war, the War Department is helpless to expedite such reports.

The personal effects of an individual missing overseas are held by his unit for a period of time and are then sent to the Effects Quartermaster, Kansas City, Missouri, for disposition as designated by the soldier.

Permit me to extend to you my heartfelt sympathy during this period of uncertainty.

Sincerely yours,


J. A. ULLO
Major General
The Adjutant General

1 Inclosure
Bulletin of Information



IN REPLY REFER TO:

AGPD-R 201 Meeker, Bernard D.
37 580 807

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



23 May 1945

Mr. Delbert A. Meeker
Britton, South Dakota

Dear Mr. Meeker:

I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President, the Silver Star has been posthumously awarded to your son, Staff Sergeant Bernard D. Meeker, Infantry. The citation is as follows:

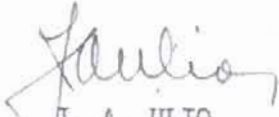
SILVER STAR

"For gallantry in action on 18 November 1944, in Germany. When his squad had to make an attack through an enemy mine field, Sergeant Meeker voluntarily led the way, picking a path through which the others could safely follow. Despite fierce opposition, he displayed an unusual courage and fighting spirit and contributed to the neutralization of an enemy strongpoint, aiding in capturing fifty-one (51) enemy soldiers and large quantities of arms and ammunition."

The decoration will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Seventh Service Command, Omaha, Nebraska, who will select an officer to make the presentation. The officer selected will communicate with you concerning your wishes in the matter.

May I again express my deepest sympathy to you in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,


J. A. ULIO
Major General
The Adjutant General



MEEKER AWARDED
STAR POSTHUMOUSLY

The Silver Star was a

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION CENTER

4300 GOODFELLOW BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS 20, MISSOURI

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGRS-DA 201 Meeker, Bernard D.
(8 Dec 47) 37 580 807

13 April 1948

Mr. Delbert A. Meeker
Box 172
Britton, South Dakota

Dear Mr. Meeker:

Reference is made to your letter requesting information concerning the decorations and awards to which your son was entitled.

I have the honor to inform you that by direction of the President, the Bronze Star Medal has been posthumously awarded to your son, Staff Sergeant (then Private) Bernard D. Meeker, 37 580 807. The citation is as follows:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

"For exemplary conduct in ground combat against the armed enemy during the Northern France Campaign in the European Theater of Operations."
(Authority: AGO Letter Order, dtd 13 Apr 48, S Sgt, Inf)

In addition to the above decoration, he was entitled to the following:

Good Conduct Medal
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Service Ribbon
with three (3) Bronze Service Stars for the Northern
France, Rhineland and Ardennes Campaigns
World War II Victory Medal
Combat Infantryman Badge
Distinguished Unit Emblem with one (1) Bronze Oak Leaf
Cluster
Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar

I have requested the Commanding Officer, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, to forward the foregoing decoration and awards to you.

An appropriately inscribed Certificate representing the Bronze Star Medal will be forwarded under separate cover.

Although the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal is authorized, only the ribbon pertaining to this medal is at present available for issuance. When the medal becomes available, the matter will undoubtedly be

AGRS-DA 201 Meeker, Bernard D.
(8 Dec 47) 37 580 807
Mr. Delbert A. Meeker

13 April 1948

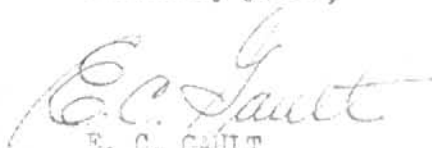
given wide publicity through the press. It is suggested that you make request for the medal at that time to the place designated in the announcement.

The Distinguished Unit Emblem consists of a blue ribbon one and three-eighths (1 - 3/8) inches in length and three-eighths (3/8) inches in width, set in a gold colored metal frame of laurel leaves approximately one-sixteenth (1/16) inch in width. It will be worn on the right breast centered over the pocket. It is awarded to individuals assigned or attached to units cited in Department of the Army General Orders for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy for one citation occurring on or after 7 December 1941.

No medal has been authorized nor is it contemplated to strike a medal to accompany the Distinguished Unit Emblem.

It is hoped that these mementos of your son's faithful service to his country will be a source of comfort in your great loss.

Sincerely yours,



E. C. GAULT
Colonel, AGD
Commanding