

Silver Star Awarded To George 'Fritz' Bergbower

April 29, 1944

Posthumous Citation Will be Given Parents of Bou- gainville Hero

Mr. and Mrs. George Bergbower have been notified that the Silver Star decoration has been awarded posthumously to their son, Sgt. George F. Bergbower, who was killed in action at Bougainville, in the Solomon Islands on January 20, 1944 for gallantry in action.

The citation was awarded April 2 at U. S. Army Headquarters in the South Pacific by Lt. Millard F. Harmon commanding United States Forces in the South Pacific area.

The citation tells how Sgt. Bergbower lost his life when he exposed himself to enemy fire in an attempt to rescue one of the men in his patrol who was wounded and had fallen helplessly exposed to enemy fire.

The communication from the South Pacific area which came direct to the

Mentor-Democrat this week, telling of this decoration and the heroic self-sacrificing act of Sgt. Bergbower, reads as follows:

"By direction of the President, the Silver Star was awarded posthumously on April 2, 1944 by Lt. General Millard F. Harmon, Commanding United States Army Forces, in the South Pacific Area to George F. Bergbower, (36029574), Sergeant, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action at Bougainville, Solomon, Islands, on 20 January, 1944. When one of the men in his patrol was wounded and fell, helplessly exposed to enemy fire, Sergeant Bergbower crept from behind a log which had afforded him concealment and attempted to evacuate the casualty. In doing so he was fatally wounded. His action was exemplary of courage and determination, inspirational to the men in his organization, and in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Next of Kin: Mrs. Anna Bergbower, Mother, Newton, Illinois.