

Floyd Wilson Wins

Honor In Philippines

April 26, 1945

With the 11th Airborne Division on Luzon, April 9 (Delayed) — Though his rifle squad has been ordered to withdraw when heavy Nip machine gun and mortar fire made the position untenable, PFC Floyd R. Wilson, paratrooper from Newton, Ill., advanced alone in the face of the withering fire to administer first aid to two wounded buddies and carry them back to safety.

The Newton paratrooper's "great courage and high sense of loyalty" won the Bronze Star for him, which is awarded for heroic achievement in the face of the enemy.

Wilson, a rifle-toting infantryman of the 11th Airborne Division was advancing with the other paratroopers during the fighting in the southern Manila suburbs when the action for which he was cited occurred.

He and the other members of his squad were crossing an open field on a patrol when the Nips opened up from camouflaged positions with 20-millimeter machine gun and mortar fire from their protected pillboxes.

Two of the men crumpled under the murderous blast, and the squad was ordered to withdraw. Without orders, the Newton paratrooper advanced under fire to where the two men lay.

Veteran of the Leyte campaign where he fought through the typhoon swept mountains and over the root-tangled trails ankle-deep in mud to mop up the Nip crack 26th Division, he was one of the first men ashore in the 11th's amphibious invasion on January 31 of southwestern Luzon.

For rehearsal for his Philippines fighting, he trained for seven months in the dark heat of the New Guinea jungles.

Wilson, whose mother, Mrs. Celia Wilson lives on Route 2, Newton, was trained before going overseas at Camp Mackali, N. C., and Camp Polk, La.