

CAPT. FRANK WEBER AWARDED LEGION OF MERIT MEDAL

RECOGNITION GIVEN FOR MERIT- OROUS SERVICE IN THE BATTLE OF LUZON

aug. 23, 1945

With the 32nd Infantry Division on Northern Luzon — Captain Frank L. Webber, husband of Mrs. Marietta Webber, 303 E. Morgan, Newton, Ill., has been awarded the Legion of Merit for “exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services” in the battle for Luzon.

During the period while the Red Arrow Division was fighting high in the Caraballo Mountains on the famous Villa Verde Trail and sustaining many casualties Captain Webber, Dental Surgeon of the 107th Medical Battalion with the Clearing Station of Company “D” procured and improvised the equipment for a complete Prosthetic Laboratory to provide dentures for the men in the front lines.

“Besides eliminating the necessity for evacuating men to hospitals far in the rear”, the citation reads, “his work was instrumental in maintaining a high standard of oral hygiene and morale among the fighting men of the Division.”

In addition to caring for the 32nd Division, Captain Webber and his team of technicians, rendered service to the 130th Infantry Regiment, of the 33rd Division, guerilla forces fighting nearby and also Philippine civilians. These operations, from the period of the 1st of February to the 10th of May 1945, recorded a total of 1687 admissions for dental work or 2476 sittings.

Captain Webber is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Webber of Teutopolis, Illinois. He entered the Army on the 26th of November, 1943, and embarked for overseas duty in April of the following year. Four months after his arrival at Milne Bay, New Guinea, he joined the 32nd Division then engaged in the savage fighting along the Dri-niumor River at Aitape.

Capt. Webber practiced dentistry in Teutopolis, Illinois, before the war and is a graduate of the University of St. Louis.