World War II Casualties

10-8-1944

Clarence Strand

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Posthumous Gold Star Won by Maj. Clarence Strand

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Strand of Shelton witnessed the ceremony in Dallas, Tex., in which the bronze star, posthumously awarded by the war department, to Maj. Clarence J. Strand, medical corps, was presented to his widow, Mrs. Vivian Strand. The award was made for meritorious achievement while serving with a hospital in Japanese military prison camp No. 1, Cabanatuan, Philippine islands.

The decoration was pinned on the breast of Master Robert Strand, young son of Major Strand, by Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker, commanding general, Eighth Service Command, at service command headquarters in Dallas.

In addition to Major Strand’s widow and parents, Mrs. Lorena Paulson, his widow’s mother, also witnessed the ceremony.

The citation on which the award was based reads:

“For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy in the Philippine islands from June 8, 1942, to Oct. 8, 1944. Serving with a hospital in military prison camp No. 1, Cabanatuan, Philippine islands, Major Strand rendered outstanding service to his fellow soldiers over a prolonged period despite the most difficult conditions. During the first few months the death rate assumed alarming proportions due to a diphtheria epidemic as well as frequent outbreaks of dysentery, malaria, beri-beri and pneumonia, which assumed such proportions as to jeopardize his and repeatedly exposed himself to the ravages of these diseases and by his unfailing loyalty to the patients prevented what might have become a wholesale decimation of American prisoners of war. Handicapped by a completely inadequate medical supply and starvation rations, he worked unflinchingly and faithfully to curtail the physical and mental deterioration which was becoming apparent among the diseased prisoners. He courageously continued to perform his duties while suffering from hunger, illness and exhaustion. By his dauntless spirit of self sacrifice, untiring devotion to duty and unwavering courage in the face of increasingly disheartening conditions, Major Strand was instrumental in saving the lives of many comrades and his selfless service exemplifies the highest traditions of the United States army medical corps.”