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U.S. ARMY NURSE RECEIVES TWO AWARDS ON BEHALF OF PRISONER-HUSBAND

On behalf of her husband, now a prisoner in Italian hands, Second Lieutenant Helen Page Brown of the United States Army Nurse Corps tonight was presented the Silver Star for gallantry and the Order of the Purple Heart for battle wounds by Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers, commanding general of the European Theater of Operations.

The presentation ceremony, in which citations were read by Lt. Brown's commanding officer, Colonel Paul Crawford, was the subject of a special radio broadcast to the United States over the Blue Network. General Devers addressed Lt. Brown and the radio audience, commending her and the women of today who are fighting on all fronts, as well as Lt. Brown's husband for his heroic exploits.

Captain Paul W. Brown, an attorney in civil life and son of Mr. and Mrs. William Brown, 801 Glacier Height Road, Youngstown, Ohio, was wounded and captured in the North African campaign.

Col. Crawford read the following Silver Star citation: "Captain Paul W. Brown personally and voluntarily led a platoon of his company forward to fire on advancing enemy tanks and cover the withdrawal of American forces. Although under heavy combined enemy artillery, tank, small-arms fire and dive-bombing attacks, Capt. Brown completely disregarded his own welfare by continuously exposing himself to enemy observation and fire in order to more effectively direct and control the action of his men. As a result of his daring and heroic action, three enemy tanks were destroyed and others were damaged.

"He removed his platoon only after the American forces had withdrawn and he had successfully completed his mission. While personally directing the withdrawal of his platoon, he was wounded, evacuated, and then captured. The gallantry, aggressive leadership and devotion to duty with disregard for his own welfare displayed by Capt. Brown reflect great credit upon himself and the command and are deserving of the highest praise."

Gen. Devers, in his address, declared: "...in Peace and, particularly, in War times, the word 'Nurse' -- is a title of exceptional honor.

"Never before in the history of the world have women been called upon to such an extent as during this war. This is all-apparent here in Britain, where, hardly without exception, the women are engaged in essential war work. Many are in uniform, while others, are performing equally essential services with ability, determination and courage.

"This, Nurse Helen Brown, is essential in an all-out war. In giving you these two medals, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, to keep for your husband -- Capt. Paul W. Brown, I want to commend you as well as Captain Brown."

The General continued, with praise for the Captain's bravery and leadership, concluding that "the battle courage of our soldiers is of a high order, but not of a higher order, Nurse Helen Brown, than the continuing courage required of those women who have husbands, brothers, fathers and other loved ones at the front."

Lt. Brown, a pretty, blue-eyed girl who joined the Army Nurse Corps because "our country needed nurses, that's all," has heard from her officer-husband only once since he was captured. In a postcard message recently he

said his leg wound is healing and he is feeling well.

She said she has no idea whether her husband receives the letters she writes every day, but "it does me good just to think I'm talking to 'Brownie' when I write."

Capt. Brown held a Reserve commission in the Field Artillery and in March, 1941, was called into active service. He arrived overseas in May, 1942.

Lt. Brown's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Page, live in Newburyport, Massachusetts. The Lieutenant trained at Salem Hospital Nursing School, and worked at Captain John Adams' hospital in Chelsea, Massachusetts, and the United States Veterans Administration Hospital in Bronx, New York, before joining the Army in February, 1942. She was sent overseas five months later.

The couple met in Ireland at an Officers' dance last August. A month later they were engaged and soon after that Capt. Brown's unit was transferred to England. On November 8, 1942, they were married in England by an Army chaplain. In December, on the day Lt. Brown's hospital unit was transferred to England, her husband's outfit was moved to another theater of operations.

"Of course I was shocked when I learned 'Brownie' was wounded, but I heard from some of the officers who knew him in Africa and they said that the injury wasn't too serious," Lt. Brown said.

"Then his folks received a message through the Vatican saying he was in Italy and finally my postcard came through. I think I was happier about that postcard than I was about the Silver Star."

Lt. Brown said they plan to return to Youngstown after the war. It'll be like home even though I've never been there," she said. "I correspond with 'Brownie's' parents and friends and I feel we really know one another. I can't cook and I can't sew -- but I can learn. Besides, even if I can't cook I know my meals will be a welcome change after C ration and prison camp food."

The Lieutenant has but one plan in mind for after the war: "We're going to settle down and lead a very, very quiet life. And we're going to have nine children."