

Heroic actions brought Medal of Honor to Adams

Port Arthur native Lucian Adams received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions near St. Die, France, on Oct. 28, 1944, when the staff sergeant single-handedly knocked out the three machine gun emplacements that were destroying supply lines between several U.S. Arm companies in the area.

He was born Oct. 26, 1922, and died March 31, 2003.

Adams graduated from Franklin Jr. High School and Port Arthur High School. He enlisted right out of high school. To honor Adams for his achievements, Aurora Park in Port Arthur was renamed Lucian Adams Field, and a monument was erected in 1974. In 1986 a section of 61st Street in Port Arthur was renamed in his honor. Adams was also honored on Veterans Day in 1988 with the dedication of a bust to be displayed in the Museum of the Gulf Coast.

Besides the Medal of Honor, Adams also received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for gallantry in action during the Casino campaign in Italy during World War II.



Medal of Honor recipient Lucian Adams shakes hands with President Ronald Reagan

RANK AND ORGANIZATION:

Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, 30th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division. Place and date: Near St. Die, France, 28 October 1944.

ENTERED SERVICE AT:

Port Arthur, Tex.

BIRTH:

Port Arthur, Tex.

G.O. NO.:

20, 29 March 1945.

hand grenades at him from a position only 10 yards distant; however, S/Sgt. Adams dispatched him with a single burst of BAR fire.

Charging into the vortex of the enemy fire, he killed another machine gunner at 15 yards range with a hand grenade and forced the surrender of 2 supporting infantrymen.

Although the remainder of the German group concentrated the full force of its automatic weapons fire in a desperate effort to knock him out, he proceeded through the woods to find and exterminate 5 more of the enemy.

Finally, when the third German machine gun opened up on him at a range of 20 yards, S/Sgt. Adams killed the gunner with BAR fire.

In the course of the action, he personally killed 9 Germans, eliminated 3 enemy machine guns, vanquished a specialized force which was armed with automatic weapons and grenade launchers, cleared the woods of hostile elements, and reopened the severed supply lines to the assault companies of his battalion.

After the war, Adams was a benefits counselor for 40 years with the Veterans Administration in San Antonio. Later he worked as a consultant on veterans affairs for United States Congressman Frank Tejada. San Antonio honored him in 1994 by naming Interstate 37, from Interstate 10 to Loop 410, the Lucian Adams Freeway. Adams died March 31, 2003, and was buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio on April 5, 2003.

CITATION: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 28 October 1944, near St. Die, France.

When his company was stopped in its effort to drive through the Mortagne Forest to reopen the supply line to the isolated third battalion, S/Sgt. Adams braved the concentrated fire of machine guns in a lone assault on a force of German troops. Although his company had progressed less than 10 yards

and had lost 3 killed and 6 wounded, S/Sgt. Adams charged forward dodging from tree to tree firing a borrowed BAR from the hip.

Despite intense machine gun fire which the enemy directed at him and rifle grenades which struck the trees over his head showering him with broken twigs and branches, S/Sgt. Adams made his way to within 10 yards of the closest machine gun and killed the gunner with a hand grenade.

An enemy soldier threw

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