

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AGPD-R 201 Lehman, William E.
33 763 999

14 February 1946

Mrs. Grace Lehman
814 Annie Avenue
Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Lehman:

I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President, the Distinguished Service Cross has been posthumously awarded to your husband, Staff Sergeant William E. Lehman, Infantry. The citation is as follows:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

"For extraordinary heroism in action on 18 February 1945, in the vicinity of Behren, France. Sergeant Lehman dived on his own grenade, the pin of which had been pulled accidentally, to smother the fragmentation with his body and save the lives of five soldiers who were with him. Receiving the full brunt of the concussion and burst of the grenade, which he covered with his body, he suffered instant death. His gallantry, courage and devotion to his fellow soldiers, exemplified the highest traditions of the armed forces." (Authority: GO No. 577, Hq 7th Army Western Military Dist., 4 Oct 45, S/Sgt, Inf, Co E, 274th Inf Regt.)

The decoration will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Third Service Command, Baltimore, Maryland, who will select an officer to make the presentation. The officer selected will communicate with you concerning your wishes about the presentation.

My deepest sympathy is extended to you in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

Edward F. Witsell
EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General