

Athlete Cited For Gallantry On Battlefield

C. E. 12/12/45

Thomas J. Niland, Jr., a former first lieutenant with the 101st Airborne Division and now a student at Canisius College, where he is captain of the basketball team, received the Silver Star Medal yesterday at the Army recruiting office from Maj. Winston V. Morrow, officer in charge. It was for gallantry in action on December 23d and 24th, 1944, in the vicinity of Marvie, Belgium.

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T. J. Niland

The citation declared:

"When the enemy launched a strong attack,

penetrating the center of his battalion and opening a passage to the command post, Lieut. Niland organized all available personnel and, under very heavy enemy fire, established a defense by placing his men in key positions.

"Continually exposed to heavy shelling, he guided and placed into position two Sherman tanks, which greatly assisted in repelling the enemy attack. He then led a patrol to contact friendly forces which reinforced nearby positions."

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Niland, 149 Adam St., Tonawanda, the lieutenant was a student at Canisius College until he enlisted April 19, 1942.