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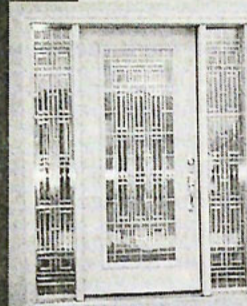
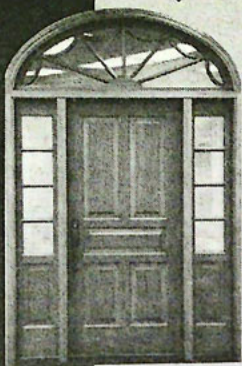
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Brig. Gen. William Leners awards Harry Glassman his Bronze Star.

A Star for Harry

WWII vet gets medal for heroism — 60 years later.

BILL CARROLL
Special to the Jewish News

Like many other veterans of World War II, Harry Glassman, 87, of Southfield is reluctant to talk about his combat experiences. But that didn't stop his relatives and friends from talking about them — and getting him the medal he deserved for heroism 60 years ago.

Just in time for this year's celebration of Veterans Day, Glassman received the Bronze Star from Brig. Gen. William M. Leners, head of the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Command in Warren. The ceremony came after more than two years of research to replace military records lost in a fire and the intervention of U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. Also attending were Glassman's daughter, Lea Trager of Waterford, and two of his four grandchildren.

"I really didn't want to make a big thing out of this and talk about that terrible time in my life, but I'm honored to get the medal, and I'm glad it's over with," said Glassman. More than 400,000 members of the U.S. military died in the war, thousands more were wounded. World War II veterans are now dying off at a rate of about 1,000 a week.

Glassman was drafted into the army and served 1943-46 as a private. He was a Browning automatic rifle gunner in the 79th Infantry Division and landed on Utah Beach in Normandy six days after D-Day (June 6, 1944). He was taking part in the "Battle for Bloody Hill 255" as part of his outfit's role in capturing the German-held port city of Cherbourg when a shell from a German 88 mm gun landed near him and "blew me six or seven feet in the air," he recalled. "I started bleeding from leg wounds, and blood was coming out of the soles of my feet."

While making his way back to a first-aid station, Glassman heard a wounded comrade moaning: "Harry, Harry, don't leave me." Glassman picked him up and carried him over two fences back to the station. "I couldn't just leave him behind," Glassman explained, "I could hear bullets whizzing all around us as I carried him. How we got out of there, I'll never know. Most of my unit was massacred. There were bodies everywhere. I'll never forget that sight and all of the blood."

Glassman received a Purple Heart for his wounds at the time, but apparently no one thought of rewarding him for his heroism with a medal. He

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