



Sergeant Alfred B. Nietzel
MEDAL OF HONOR
WORLD WAR II



Posthumous

Location of Action: Heistern, Germany

Date of Action: Nov. 18, 1944

Service Dates: Oct. 5, 1940 - Unknown

Hometown: Queens, New York

Medal of Honor candidate Sgt. Alfred B. Nietzel was born April 27, 1921 in Queens, N.Y. He joined the U.S. Army on Oct. 5, 1940.

Nietzel is being recognized for his valorous actions while serving with Company H, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in Germany, on Nov. 18, 1944. An enemy assault was threatening to overrun his position when he opened fire and slowed the enemies' advances. Despite his accurate fire, the enemy continued to close in on his position. It was then that Nietzel ordered the three remaining members of his squad to retreat and get reinforcements. He continued laying suppressive fire on the enemy until all of his ammunition was expended. Once his machine gun ammunition was out, he opened fire on the enemy with his rifle until he was killed by an enemy hand grenade. His actions delayed advancing enemy troops long enough for reinforcements to arrive, occupy defensive positions and stop the hostile drive.

Robert Nietzel will accept the Medal of Honor award from President Barack Obama on March 18, 2014 on behalf of his cousin.