

Bernard J. Gurick

U.S. Army 473rd Infantry Regiment



Bernard J. Gurick
US Army

Entered Service:	September 16, 1942
Overseas:	February 28, 1943
European Theatre Engagements:	Tunisia, Naples-Foggie, Rome-Arno; North Apennines, Po Valley
Awarded:	European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbons With Silver Battle Star, and Bronze Metal
Returned to US:	October 10, 1945
Rank:	Sergeant
Served:	3 years, 1 month, 5 days

Bernard J. Gurick was born in Gillespie, Illinois on July 15, 1915 and passed away at age 87 on December 11, 2002. He was a kind, gentle man who didn't married until late in life. He loved to garden, was quick to smile and laugh. Little did we realize that this kind soul had served valiantly and bravely in WWII.

He would on occasion tell a "story" or two about the war, but never made a big deal about his serve.

After he passed, the family was doing research into his WWII service and discovered the following account of bravery:

For anyone out there who have relatives who have received a Bronze Star. These medals are/were a big deal. Below is the account of how our Uncle Bernard received his Bronze Start as told in the Gillespie News, August 1945.

"Sgt. Bernard Gurick, a member of the 473rd Infantry Regiment, who has been in Italy for more than two years, was among the men of that group who were decorated with the Bronze Star for heroism displayed when they took a major part in the final victorious drive of the Fifth Army. The regiment, formerly made up entirely of reconverted ack-ack veterans, is being inactivated and its long point soldiers absorbed into the Pacific war. Sg. Gurick with the 473rd Infantry was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and a citation for meritorious achievement. The citation reads: "For heroic achievement in action on 7 April 1944 in Italy. Sgt. Gurick, a machine gun squad leader, was with his company attacking a heavily fortified objective on the Strettoia hill mass when forward elements of the company were pinned down by two enemy machine guns

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and subjected to intense mortar fire, he voluntarily and without regard for personal safety, left his place of cover and exposing himself to the enemy fire, crawled back down the hill. Obtaining a bazooka and ammunition, Sergeant Gurick exposed himself for the second time and advanced to a position within 75 yards to the left of the forward elements and opened fire against the foe. This sudden, diverting fire temporarily disorganized the enemy, allowing our troops to regain the fire initiative and successfully complete the advance. His quick action in the face of determined opposition was undoubtedly responsible for the prevention of many casualties and reflects high credit upon the traditions of the Armed Forces.”

God Bless You, Uncle Bernard and God Bless all our military men and women.

***Lovingly submitted by your grateful family
on May 23, 2015.***

Vicki DeWitt, Niece by Marriage
Gillespie, Illinois