

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

AGPD-R 201 Swedick, John J.
42 112 443

11 December 1945

Mrs. Catherine T. Swedick
1347 Seventh Avenue
Watervliet, New York

Dear Mrs. Swedick:

I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President, the Silver Star has been posthumously awarded to your husband, Private John J. Swedick, Infantry. The citation is as follows:

SILVER STAR

"For gallantry in action in Belgium, on 17 December 1944. At 1300 hours, on 17 December 1944, Company "K", 23d infantry, dug in around a road junction three miles east of Krinkelt, Belgium, was attacked frontally by a strong force of German Infantry. By 1400 hours a friendly unit on the left flank driven from their positions by a vicious combined tank-infantry assault had withdrawn behind Company "K". A short time later a strong force of German infantry accompanied by several tanks struck the company's left flank and succeeded in surrounding the 2d Platoon. When ordered to withdraw Private Swedick, member of the second squad, second platoon refused and stayed at his position giving covering fire to the remainder of the platoon as they withdrew. As the German tanks approached the foxholes firing pointblank with artillery and machine gun fire, Private Swedick, with fixed bayonet, climbed out from his cover, rushed forward to the enemy infantry following the tanks. When last seen Private Swedick had closed with the enemy and was engaged in bitter hand to hand fighting. Private Swedick, together with every other member of the squad, is missing in action. By his heroic and self-sacrificing decision to hold his position "at all costs", the remaining platoon and company safely withdrew. This gallant action by Private Swedick was an inspiration to every officer and enlisted man in his organization. The gallantry, unswerving devotion to duty, loyalty to comrades in arms far above and beyond the call of duty and complete disregard for personal safety displayed by this enlisted man reflect highest honor upon himself and the Army of the United States."

(Authority: G.O. #17, Hq. 2 Inf. Div, 16 Feb. 45, Pvt., 23 Inf Regt.)