

T/4 DALTON E. HOWARD- (KIA)

409th, G-Company



was born Aug 12, 1909 in Butternut, WI and graduated from Minot (ND) High School in 1929. He was employed in various positions, and by the early '40's, was assistant manager of the Waverly Hotel in Minot and married to the former Irene Kessler. He was inducted into the Army in June, 1942 at the age of 32, and initially trained in military intelligence. However, he was assigned to a tank destroyer unit and gunnery school at Camp Hood and thence assigned to an anti-aircraft unit and deployed to England in July of '44. Later due to the demand for infantry replacements, he was re-trained and sent to the 7th Army in France and assigned to G Company 409th Infantry on Dec 12, '44 as a machine gun squad leader. G Company crossed the German border on 17 Dec and attacked into the Siegfried Line on the 18th. This precipitated the most intense combat activity of the entire war (for G Co) and lasted 4 days and

nights unabated. G Company had captured 2 pill boxes of the Siegfried Line and the Germans wanted them back. It was in this situation on Dec 20, that a shell exploded close to Howard's gun position, killing both Howard and Vernon G. Miller and wounding several others, including Robert L. Leslie, who was on the gun at the time, and has provided the details of this action. Dalton was the oldest of five children and his next to youngest brother, James A. Howard, a major and commander of an Air Force fighter squadron was killed on 8 Nov '44 in Germany less than one hundred miles away and 6 weeks earlier than his brother's death. Both Howard brothers were returned to the veteran's section of the Minot Cemetery and a training facility building at the Minot Air Force Base has been named in honor of the Howard Brothers.