

MEDAL OF HONOR: ALFRED L. WILSON

Medal of Honor Series

Our "Medal of Honor" series explores the stories behind the courageous Pennsylvania veterans who have been awarded the prestigious Medal of Honor for their exemplary service in the United States military. In this entry, we recognize the achievements of Alfred L. Wilson, who received the Medal of Honor on June 18, 1945.



Alfred Wilson was a Technician Fifth Grade, U.S. Army, Medical Detachment, 328th Infantry, 26th Infantry Division. He entered service at Fairchance, PA in March 1943.

Tech-5 Wilson was involved in a firefight near Bezange la Petite, France on 8 November 1944. He volunteered to assist in a company other than his own, which was suffering casualties from constant artillery fire. He administered to the wounded and then returned to his own company when a shell burst injured a number of its men. While treating his comrades he was seriously wounded, but refused to be evacuated by litter bearers sent to relieve him. In spite of great pain and loss of blood, he continued to administer first aid until he was too weak to stand. Crawling from one patient to another, he continued his work until excessive loss of blood prevented him from moving. He then verbally directed unskilled enlisted men in continuing the first aid for the wounded. Still refusing assistance himself, he remained to instruct others in dressing the wounds of his comrades until he was unable to speak above a whisper and finally lapsed into unconsciousness. The effects of his injury later caused his death. By steadfastly remaining at the scene without regard for his own safety, Tech-5 Wilson

through distinguished devotion to duty and personal sacrifice helped to save the lives of at least 10 wounded men. He died of his wounds and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor seven months later, on June 18, 1945. Wilson, aged 25 at his death, was buried at Maple Grove Cemetery in his hometown of Fairchance, PA.