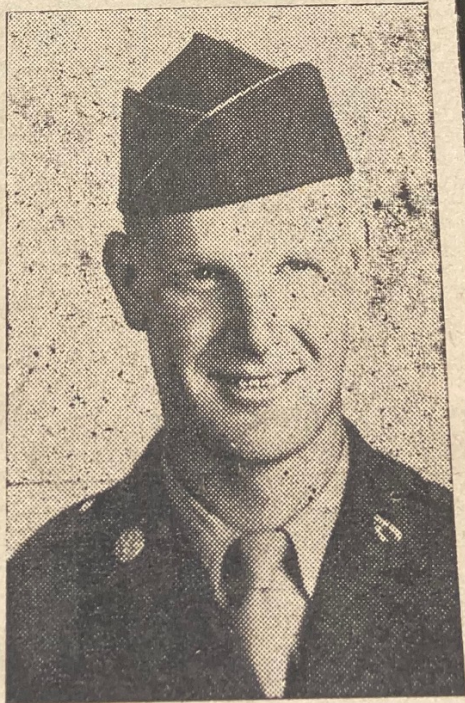


## Mt. Vernon Wounded Soldier Relates Battle Experiences

Private Verner G. Nelson of Mt. Vernon, Lawrence county, is now receiving treatment and convalescing at O'Reilly General hospital in Springfield after being wounded while fighting the Germans near Leipzig, Germany.

Private Nelson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nelson, route 3, Mt. Vernon. This 22-year-old infantryman entered the service August 4, 1944, taking his basic training in the infantry at Camp Hood, Texas. After completing his basic training, Nelson went to camp Miles Standish, Mass., and then overseas. His boat docked at Glasgow, Scotland, on January 15, 1945, and he went directly through England and across the channel into France.

Nelson first entered combat at Helenthau, Germany, on February 15; and went across Germany with the



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69th Division until he reached Leipzig. It was while trying to take a small town near Leipzig that he was wounded on April 12.

"I had been participating in street fighting from the time I first entered the town," Nelson said, "and was standing in the doorway of a building when hit. I was firing at some Germans down the street when a German sniper in a building across the street from me sent a bullet into my right cheek. The bullet broke my jaw, broke my nose, and came out my left cheek, breaking the jaw bone in my left cheek.

"I fell to the ground as soon as I was hit, and called for a medic. The medics couldn't come up to give me aid, as it would be suicide to attempt a trip to the building I was in. So I decided to attempt a trip back to the street intersection where the medics were staying; and succeeded in arriving there without being wounded again. The medics bandaged my wound and carried me to the battalion aid station for further treatment.

"At the battalion aid station the doctors dressed my wounds, then sent me to the evacuation hospital. There the surgeons sewed up the large wounds in my face and wired my jaw together. I boarded a plane and flew to Paris, where I stayed two weeks before being shipped to Aix,

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The combat medics did a wonderful job—and frequently took more chances than the infantrymen. I have received the very best of medical care ever since I was wounded and have been treated by the most modern medical equipment of today."

Nelson is scheduled to have plastic surgery performed, while at O'Reilly General hospital, to remove the scars from his face. He will probably have an operation on his jaw, as it is still loose and slips out of place occasionally. Nelson is anxious to get out of the army, so that he can return to farming at Mt. Vernon. He has been awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and European Theater Ribbon.