

MESSENGER

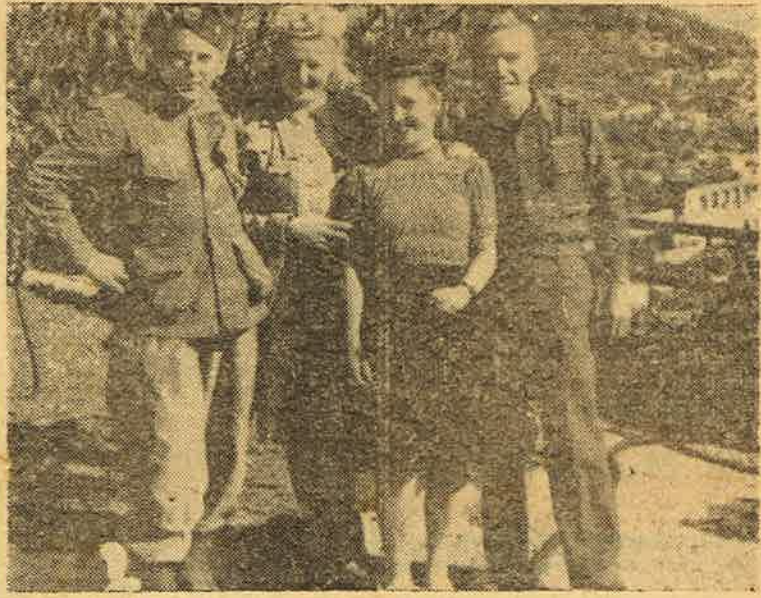
IRISH SCHOOL BOARD, TOWN OF ST. MARTINVILLE,
GE OF PARKS & DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

TO ALL —

COMPLETE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1945

LT. FRED PATIN GETS SILVER STAR



At extreme left is First Lieutenant Thomas Fred Patin of Breaux Bridge. The photograph was taken at Nice, France with some of his friends.

First Lieutenant Thomas Fred Patin of the 517th Parachute Infantry, U. S. Army, was recently awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. "While ascending a barren hill in an attack on the town of Trois Ponts, Belgium, January 3rd, 1945, Lieutenant Patin and his demolition section were pinned down by a heavy artillery barrage. Disregarding his own safety, Lieutenant Patin proceeded forward in an effort to find cover for his men. He discovered a group of enemy-dug foxholes near the crest of the hill and returned through the withering fire for his men. Considering their safety above his own, Lt. Patin led his men in small groups through the barrage to this cover, thus necessitating his own passage through the barrage at least eight times. After having brought the last group to safety, this officer turned again through the barrage to check the casualties. On discovering one man with a serious back wound, Lt. Patin carried him through the barrage to the base of the hill, from there he could be evacuated, and then rejoined his men." Last August, Lt. Patin was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action. "Landing by parachute behind the enemy lines near Le Muy, France, Lt. Patin voluntarily sought a position with the lead scouts during the move through enemy positions to the Battalion objective. After moving a few hundred yards, Lt. Patin observed troops, but was unable to determine whether they were Allied or Germans due to the poor visibility. He advanced, but at a distance of 100 yards from the observed troops, he was fired upon by German Machine guns and machine pistols. Lt. Patin took cover and observed enemy dispositions, then withdrew under heavy small arms fire to the 2nd Battalion and reported the enemy strength and dispositions. Using this information the Battalion was able to bypass the enemy without loss of men or time." The Lieutenant is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alberie Patin of Breaux Bridge. He graduated from the Breaux Bridge High School in the class of 1939.