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Pagels Given Bronze Star

Sgt. Howard W. Pagels, who was reported by the war department as killed in action May 9 on Luzon island in the Philippines, was awarded the Bronze Star medal before his death for heroic service against the enemy during the 38th (Cyclone) division's 16-day battle for strategic Zig Zag pass, east of Olongapo on Luzon.

On February 9, during an attack through heavy bamboo growth, Pagel's squad came under the murderous crossfire of enemy machine guns and was unable to advance. In this desperate situation, Pagels deliberately exposed himself to enemy fire in order to reconnoiter a route and lead his squad to safety. He successfully accomplished his mission at the risk of his life and the squad was able to continue its advance without the loss of a man.

Pagels, an assistant squad leader of Company G, 132nd infantry, was overseas 17 months and had served in Hawaii, New Guinea and Leyte. He was the son of William C. Pagels, Route 2, Wisconsin Rapids.

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