

**Donald Eugene Rudolph Sr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant** (Technical Sergeant at time of Action)

Compiled by Beth Iseminger, Maria Sanford DAR Chapter, Associate Member



**Born**

February 21, 1921; South Haven, Wright County, MN

**Entered Service**

Hennepin County, MN

Feb. 17, 1941- Dec. 4, 1945; Feb. 2, 1948-Feb. 7, 1950 & June 12, 1960-July 31, 1963.

**U.S. Army**

Company E, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry & 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**WWII**

Munoz, Luzon, Philippine Islands; February 5, 1945

## **Died**

May 25, 2006; Bovey, Itasca County, MN.

Fort Snelling National Cemetery; Section DS Site 22-S.

## **Presentation Date**

August 23, 1945 by President Harry S. Truman

Also Awarded: Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, Asiatic Pacific ribbon, Bronze Star and a Good Conduct Medal

## **Citation**

2d Lt. Rudolph (then T/Sgt.) was acting as platoon leader at Munoz, Luzon, Philippine Islands. While administering first aid on the battlefield, he observed enemy fire issuing from a nearby culvert. Crawling to the culvert with rifle and grenades, he killed 3 of the enemy concealed there. He then worked his way across open terrain toward a line of enemy pillboxes which had immobilized his company. Nearing the first pillbox, he hurled a grenade through its embrasure and charged the position. With his bare hands he tore away the wood and tin covering, then dropped a grenade through the opening, killing the enemy gunners and destroying their machinegun. Ordering several riflemen to cover his further advance, 2d Lt. Rudolph seized a pick mattock and made his way to the second pillbox. Piercing its top with the mattock, he dropped a grenade through the hole, fired several rounds from his rifle into it and smothered any surviving enemy by sealing the hole and the embrasure with earth. In quick succession he attacked and neutralized 6 more pillboxes. Later, when his platoon was attacked by an enemy tank, he advanced under covering fire, climbed to the top of the tank and dropped a white phosphorus grenade through the turret, destroying the crew. Through his outstanding heroism, superb courage, and leadership, and complete disregard for his own safety, 2d Lt. Rudolph cleared a path for an advance which culminated in one of the most decisive victories of the Philippine campaign.

Medal of Honor Society [www.cmohs.org](http://www.cmohs.org)

## **Post War Years**

After retiring from the Army in 1963, he worked for the Veterans Administration as a Benefits Counselor in both Minneapolis and St. Cloud until retiring 1976. Then he and his wife, Helen, moved to Shamrock Lake north of Bovey, MN.

Lt. Rudolph was a member of the Medal of Honor Society, Legion of Valor, Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 159 in Minneapolis, American Legion of Grand Rapids, Legion of Honor, National Sojourners-Minnesota Chapter # 25 in Minneapolis, the National Order of Battlefield Commissions plus other civic organizations.



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