

# National Archives & Records Administration War Department Files

## 1 LT Albert B. Konikoff Class 32-42

**ID: O1170811**

**Branch of Service: U.S. Army**

**Hometown: Erie County, NY**

**Status: DOW February 16, 1944**

### **History of the 125th Field Artillery excerpt:**

Across the Vernafro hills to San Vittore, Mount Pantano and Mount Trocchio, the 125th FA assisted the infantry who advanced to Cassino, part of the German Gustav Line. The 125th FA dug deep, permanent gun pits at the edge of Purple Heart Valley, about 4,000 yards from Cassino. They fired for 33 days until February 19, 1944, when Cassino fell. A 125th observer ventured beyond the Cassino's Monastery Hill and was captured by two Germans, but returned unharmed to his camp when a shell killed both of his captors.

Another observer, 1st Lt. Albert B. Konikoff of Washington D.C., set up his outpost at the crest of a Cassino hill that was the direct goal of German counterattacking force. Keeping his ground, he directed the heavy fire that eventually repelled the enemy force. The Lieutenant was killed in the fight. For two months the 125th FA assumed a variety of artillery roles on the Anzio beach. They fired surrender leaflets at the Germans. They spotted and harassed enemy batteries and supported raiding parties.

1LT Konikoff was awarded the Silver Star ( General Orders No. 63 (1944) HQ 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

