



LATE WAR HERO HONORED

In The Netherlands, he is remembered gratefully as a humble hero. Captain Harold F. Hoppe, Commanding Company "E" of the 117th Infantry Regiment, "Old Hickory" 30th Division, led the liberation attack that freed the town of Heer, now a suburb of Maastricht on 13 September 1944.

A large granite monument, bearing Hoppe's name, the liberation date, the Old Hickory insignia and the Regimental Crest of the 117th was unveiled during the ceremonies in the center of the town of Heer, on 13 September 1994.

This was called the "4-4-4" ceremony, to mark the liberation of Heer. On 13 September 1944, the town was liberated after four years, four months and four days of Nazi tyranny.

Since Major Hoppe had died in 1990, his son, Mr. Hal Hoppe and wife, Judy, were invited to attend this very solemn and impressive ceremony, and they were emotionally elated to know that the people of Heer still remembered and respected their liberator.

Capt. Harold Hoppe served with distinction with the 117th Infantry, and was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his participation in the liberation of Heer. Later he received an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star, and was promoted to Major.