

JOHN T. PULLUM

PUTNAM MEDAL WINNER IN D-DAY, FAMILY IN DARK

By Don Foy: Herald-Citizen Staff, Cookeville, TN

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John T. Pullum of Buffalo Valley was at the Normandy invasion 50 years ago today.

Pullum, a Technician 4th Grade in Company C of the 7th Engineer Battalion ferried troops on D-Day. He ferried troops across rivers across much of Eastern Europe.



Without his family knowing it.

Until February 8, 1945, when a US Army dispatch commending him for his heroism on the Moselle River.

His family knew he was probably involved in D-Day and the subsequent fighting across France and Germany. But they didn't know for sure.

"He was a country boy from Buffalo Valley," Pullum's daughter, Linda Goodwin said, "He only wrote home twice."

On the Moselle River in Germany, Pullum's troop carrier was blown out of the water by German mortar, howitzer and machine-gun fire. He swam ashore and joined the crew of another boat, where he continued his work.

But his family didn't know. They hadn't heard from him since before D-Day.

But an Army press release reprinted in the Feb. 8, 1945, edition of the *Putnam County Herald* was good news to the family. Pullum had been awarded the Bronze Star medal for his heroic acts on the Moselle River.

"I just want to remember him for his efforts to help defend the freedoms I now enjoy," Goodwin said.

Pullum died about 20 years ago. (John T. Pullum, d. 4 March 1975)

*See files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>