



Susan and Constantine Mims -
September 5, 1942

1LT Constance Mims Jr (KIA)



1LT Constance Mims Jr was a 1940 graduate of North Texas Agricultural College who is honored for his courageous service to his country resulting in the sacrifice of his life while

-serving in the United States Army during World War II to preserve the freedom of the United States and the world.

During the period 1939 to 1940, he attended the University when it was North Texas Agricultural College, better known as NTAC, and participated as a member of the Corps of Cadets. For his outstanding leadership qualities and military bearing, he was selected to serve as the Corps Commander in 1940. Following the completion of ROTC training and graduation from North Texas Agricultural College, he transferred to the University of Texas at Austin to complete his degree.

After graduating from college, he entered the United States Army. He was subsequently commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry after attending Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. As World War II progressed, LT Mims was deployed to Germany with the (137th Infantry Regiment - Company K) 35th Infantry Division. On November 2, 1944 in the vicinity of Aulnois, France, LT Mims led a patrol of five men into enemy territory at dusk with the mission of probing enemy defensive positions. He skillfully directed the movement of his patrol through a mine field and several barbed wire entanglements then deployed the troops near the objective. He moved forward alone to reconnoiter, encountered a German soldier and rendered him prisoner. The first German soldier regained consciousness and was killed by LT Mims in the ensuing fight. The noise of the struggle had alerted enemy positions in the area and LT Mims led his patrol back to the American lines through a concentration of machine-gun fire. By his aggressive leadership and initiative, LT Mims secured information which contributed to the success of an attack launched in the area several days later. In recognition of his courageous actions and outstanding leadership, LT Mims was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

On December 17, 1944, LT Mims died of wounds sustained in close combat while still serving with the 137th Regiment of the 35th Infantry Division. Two days later, the 35th Infantry Division was withdrawn from the battle line after having been in the thick of the fighting on the European continent for 162 consecutive days.

In addition to the **Silver Star Medal**, 1LT Mims was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the **Purple Heart**, and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

LT Mims performance while at North Texas Agricultural College as the Commander of the Corps of Cadets and the sacrifice of his life in the defense of the United States while serving in the United States Army brought great credit and recognition upon himself, the Corps of Cadets and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Silver Star Medal Citation

*First Lieutenant Constantine Mims Jr, O1312198, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action in the vicinity of * * * , France on 2 November 1944. Lieutenant Mims led a patrol of five men into enemy territory at dusk on 2 November with the mission of probing enemy defenses. He skillfully directed the movement of his patrol through a mine field and several barbed wire entanglements, then deployed the troops near their objective. He moved forward alone to reconnoiter, encountered a German soldier and rendered him unconscious, then engaged a*

second German in hand-to-hand combat and took him prisoner. The first German regained consciousness and was killed by Lieutenant Mims in the ensuing fight. The noise of the struggle had alerted enemy positions in the area and Lieutenant Mims led his patrol back to the American lines through a concentration of machine gun fire. By his aggressive leadership and initiative, Lieutenant Mims secured information which contributed to the success of an attack launched in this area several days later. Entered military service from Texas.

General Orders No. 56, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division, 12 December 1944

Article & Transcript Featuring a letter from 1LT Mims during WWII.

<p>Patrol Has Exciting Night</p> <p>By LEWIS HAWKINS</p> <p>AT A 35TH DIVISION COMBAT POST, Nov. 4. (AP)—Night patrolling is one of the most difficult and dangerous of an infantryman's jobs, but it can have its moments of grotesque humor, as Lt. Constantine Mims Jr., 22, of Laredo, Texas, discovered a few nights ago.</p> <p>"Our regiment, the 137th Infantry, needed information on German positions across a valley from a ridge we were holding," he explained, "so I was sent out with five men to reconnoiter the lines and bring back a prisoner.</p> <p>"Wearing the darkest clothes we could find, and each carrying a Tommygun, a fragmentation grenade and a smoke grenade, we moved a few feet at a time. It took us nearly three hours to cover less than two miles.</p> <p>"After moving the last couple of hundred yards across a plowed field to the edge of an orchard where we thought the Germans must be, we crouched motionless for five minutes about four or five yards from the trees, while I was no more than that many feet from a bush at the edge of the orchard.</p>	<p>German Dugout</p> <p>"Finally I moved over by the bush, and there was a German half hidden in the uncovered end of a two-man dugout. He was standing and awake, but still hadn't seen us until I thrust a Tommygun against him and said, 'haunde hoch,' the only German phrase I knew. He threw his hands up, but started yelling and kicking at his buddy, apparently asleep in the covered part of the dugout, urging him to come out.</p> <p>"As soon as he started this fuss I sent out flankers to watch for any Germans coming up, and we expected to be fired on immediately. But . . . Dave Briggs of Claremont, Calif., and I stayed there trying to pull the German out as a prisoner. He refused to come and kept yelling for help so finally I had to shoot him.</p> <p>"We went to work on the man in the covered part of the dugout. I kicked his rifle out of reach. He showed no fight, but just passively resisted with his weight, and he must have weighed over 300 pounds. Finally we tore the planking and sheetmetal top from the dugout, making as much noise as if tearing down a house, but still we drew no fire. The Jerry just slumped down and was so heavy we couldn't lift him out.</p>	<p>"After at least 15 minutes of this noise-making, we convinced the German he had to go with us or be killed, but just as we started back over the plowed field his pals opened up with three or four machine guns, half a dozen machine pistols and a few rifles from the orchards on both sides of us.</p> <p>"Their tracers were converging right over our heads, but too high. We really sweated it out crawling across the field. At the start I was in one furrow, reaching across to the next, holding the German by the hair and almost literally dragging him inch by inch. Then when bullets began zipping along my furrow I got over to his, and crawled backward, holding a pistol between his eyes.</p>	<p>"By then we were getting near the crest of the ridge and a road behind. We were afraid they might have a party coming out to intercept us, so I ordered the men to throw their smoke grenades as a target, and we soon had a fine smoke screen.</p> <p>"As we broke and ran for it, that stubborn German wrenched himself away and ran back into the smoke and into his own fire, which was coming down lower and heavier by then so we knew it was no good trying to chase him.</p> <p>"We ran on until we reached the relative safety of a road near our camp, and plopped down and laughed about the whole spectacle of trying to move and capture that German. We're convinced now that if all Germans were as stubborn as that Jerry, there would be few prisoners taken by night patrols. If they want to come, they will, but if not, you'll have a devil of a time making them. It's easy to kill them, but hard to capture. We had no casualties, and we learned plenty about patrolling."</p>
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Patrol Has Exciting Night

By LEWIS HAWKINS

AT A 35TH DIVISION COMBAT POST, Nov. 4. (AP)

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Obituary

Constantine Mims, Jr, son of Constantine Sr and Mary (Irwin) Mims, was born May 26, 1921 in Laredo, Texas. He married Susan Jane Cherry September 5, 1942 and the couple had two children, Constantine III and Mary Louise. He registered for the draft February 16, 1942 when he was a 20-year-old student at the University of Texas and was inducted into the Army June 8, 1942 at San Antonio, Texas. He joined Company K, 137th Infantry Regiment as an Infantry Unit Commander from the 38th Replacement Battalion October 15, 1944, while the unit was in the vicinity of Aboncourt, France. He was awarded a Silver Star Medal for gallantry while leading a patrol in the vicinity of Fossieux, France on November 2, 1944, and was awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge December 1, 1944. 1st Lt Constantine Mims Jr was seriously wounded by a shell blast in the Breiterwald Woods near Frauenberg, Germany December 17, 1944 and died the same day. He is buried at Laredo City Cemetery, Laredo, Texas.

<http://www.coulthart.com/134/137-ir/mims-c.htm>