On the morning of 6 October 1944, the combat near Bruyères was still fierce, and PFC Roseland’s 3d Battalion was thrust into German territory. The battalion held its line despite the dense woods, thick fog, and poor weather. German forces, however, captured the commanding officer of 3d Battalion, and PFC Roseland and other members of his unit moved into a defensive position on high ground southeast of Grandvillers. Later, the battalion received orders to withdraw to stronger positions farther to the rear. As the unit withdrew, German forces counter attacked. PFC Clarence E. Roseland was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions under fire that day. Below is the story of his actions per PFC Roseland’s Company Commander:

*“The second platoon of M Company with a section of heavy 30 caliber machine guns was left to cover the withdrawal. One machine gun squad had*

*already made its withdrawal and the other was making preparation to do so, when a heavy German counter attack was launched, by approximately 50 SS troops was launched, supported by artillery, mortar, and automatic weapons.*

*PFC Clarence E. Roseland, manning the machine gun, started to deliver fire. By this time, the squad was pinned down and was slowly being encircled. The Germans had advanced through the wooded terrain to within 40 yards of his machine gun, PFC Roseland ignored the heavy enemy fire and continuously exposed himself to observe enemy movements. He continued to lay down a heavy concentration of fire. Each time the Germans assaulted; they were met by deadly fire from PFC Roseland's gun. The squad received orders to attempt withdrawal, PFC Roseland volunteered to cover their withdrawal. Each member of the squad was able to exit the position but before PFC Roseland was able to retreat his gun was overrun and he himself killed. His personal sacrifice made possible the safe withdrawal of his company and his own section of machine guns. The German loss was fifteen dead and fourteen wounded. The counter-attack was completely disorganized."*

CPT Robt. V. Jones

M Co, 3rd Bn, 179th Infantry Regiment

Company Commander