

Herbert Siercks Recommended for DSC for Heroism

First Lt. Herbert M. Siercks, with a tank destroyer division in Italy, who was some months ago awarded the silver star for bravery in action and is also possessor of a citation awarded by the British government, has been recommended for the distinguished service cross for extraordinary heroism in action.

The recommendation states in part: "On or about May 29 while his platoon was in direct support of a company in an attack on strong enemy positions in the vicinity of Lanuvio, Italy, First Lt. Siercks' tank destroyer was operating over an open road when it was taken under fire by enemy guns at a range of 250 yards. Lt. Siercks had pulled his vehicle out in front of the leading infantry elements and had come under intense enemy small arms and anti-tank fire.

"Even though his vehicle was hit and disabled by the close range anti-tank fire, First Lt. Siercks ordered the crew to open fire and succeeded in destroying the enemy anti-tank gun. He was then taken under fire by two enemy tanks from the immediate vicinity of the destroyed gun which his gun set on fire. With the vehicle burning and unable to move First Lt. Siercks stayed by the gun and directed fire against the tanks. Only when the enemy tanks had been destroyed did he abandon the tank destroyer and lead his crew through the intense fire of automatic weapons to the leading elements of friendly infantry. Under intense fire and in the face of grave danger First Lt. Siercks remained calm, giving orders quietly and precisely, and displayed great courage and intrepidity.

Lt. Siercks' wife and children Carol, two and Sandra, ten months, reside at 806 W. Ninth. He has never seen the baby who was born after his arrival overseas. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Siercks. Lt. Siercks has been in the armed service over two years and went overseas a year ago in April.