

HEADQUARTERS 4TH ARMORED DIVISION  
A.P.O. 254, U. S. ARMY

CITATION

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to Technician Fifth Grade. WALTER C. RIGHTON, 36314630, Field Artillery, 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion, U. S. Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States, on 1 August 1944, in France. Technician Fifth Grade RIGHTON, as a truck driver, was given the detail of taking two gasoline trucks from Avranches, France to the division gasoline dump in Perriers, France, where he was to refill with gasoline and return to the battalion. Before he could return with the load the battalion had moved out without leaving any guide to direct him. Unable to locate his unit after several hours search, he returned to the division control point to find that it also had moved forward. After catching a few hours sleep he continued on with his trucks in search of the elements of the division. Thinking the division might have moved toward St. James, France, he headed his trucks in that direction, not knowing that the enemy had counter-attacked and retaken that town. Moving into the town the trucks ran into heavy mortar and small arms fire. Realizing the danger Technician Fifth Grade RIGHTON stopped his trucks and turned them around and managed to get them out of the town before material damage was inflicted by the enemy. Both trucks were brought to safety with only slight damage to a few cans and no injury to personnel. Later that day he caught up with his unit safely. His initiative and determination in the face of a difficult situation reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.