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AWARD RECOMMENDED:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (POSTH)

JOB DESCRIPTION WRITTEN BY

MOORE & LEVINE

DATE FORWARDED TO A/D BOARD: 7 August 45

DATE APPROVED BY A/D BOARD: 7 August 45

DATE FORWARDED TO ETOUSA: 9 Aug. 45

AWARDED PER PAR. \_\_\_\_\_ SEC. \_\_\_\_\_, GO \_\_\_\_\_, DATED \_\_\_\_\_, HQ. \_\_\_\_\_

AWARD RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_, PRESENTED: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: Rec. for BSM (Post) was forwarded under cover ltr dtd 30 June 45.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

GRUBER, KURT

GERMAN CIVILIAN

SI LABOR AGENT



Minutes of A/D Board meeting held 7 August 45, minutes dtd 8 August 45, lists Gruber's  
rec. for BSM (Post) as apvd.



*Gruber  
(Gen. cin.)*

SECRET

HQ & HQ DETACHMENT  
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
U.S. Army  
(MAIN)

APC 413  
18 June 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for award of the BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
(POSTHUMOUSLY)

TO : Commanding General, European Theater of Operations,  
United States Army, APC 887.

1. a. It is recommended that KURT GRUBER, German civilian, formerly serving with the Labor Division of the Secret Intelligence Branch, Office of Strategic Services, ETOUSA, be awarded the BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Posthumously).

b. KURT GRUBER was serving as a Secret Intelligence Agent for the Labor Division, SI Branch, ETOUSA at the time of the act for which this award is recommended.

c. Name and address of nearest relative:

Jessie Campbell Leith Gruber (wife)  
185 Byres Road,  
Glasgow, Scotland.

d. Entered military service from; not applicable

e. Decorations previously awarded: None

f. The entire service of KURT GRUBER has been honorable since the rendition by him of the service upon which this recommendation is based.

g. A similar recommendation for this individual has not been submitted.

2. a. The officer recommending this award has personal knowledge of the service upon which this award is based.

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*info from Gen Consul's office  
30 Sept 46  
Corrected address  
as of August 45  
7, Marlborough Hill  
London, NW8  
England*



S E C R E T

b. This recommendation is supported by official records of the Office of Strategic Services.

3. a. KURT GRUBER, German civilian, while serving in close collaboration with the Army of the United States distinguished himself by heroic achievement in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against an enemy of the United States.

3. b. Detailed narrative of the service for which this award is recommended:

In December 1944, the Labor Division, Secret Intelligence Branch, OSS, ETOUSA, formulated a project for establishing contact with an anti-Nazi underground organization of German coal miners known to be functioning in the Ruhr. The potential value of the organization for intelligence purposes was estimated to be great, and this value was thought to justify an effort to overcome the complex problems involved in dispatching an agent into the region to establish relations and transmit intelligence.

The hazards and difficulties involved in making an initial contact with the clandestine miner's group arose from the facts that, due to the nature of the operation, no reception committee was possible; the drop had to be a blind one, and names and addresses of possible collaborators could not be supplied. Disruption of life in the target areas through the constant and heavy Allied bombings also increased the agent's difficulties in locating the few contacts known personally to him.

The great danger and difficulties of such an undertaking were fully discussed with GRUBER. It was emphasized that it would reflect no discredit upon him to refuse the assignment for he was a coal miner, deemed essential, and deferred from military service. In addition, as a German national he could have felt his employment in an important war industry as an adequate contribution to the Allied war effort. However, displaying outstanding courage and a great desire to make an invaluable contribution to the allied prosecution of the war, GRUBER volunteered for the mission.

S E C R E T



S E C R E T

To the task at hand GRUBER brought a store of experience and qualifications rarely equalled. He had lived in the Ruhr from his birth in 1912 until the summer of 1934. He was himself a coal miner, and had personally organized among the German miners more than 100 local groups dedicated to fighting Hitlerism during the turbulent years 1931 and 1933. He had himself worked underground with the remnants of these groups during 1933 and 1934; and if any survivors of them were active in the 1944 organization, he would know them and be known to them. In addition, GRUBER was acquainted by experience with the problems of living and travelling illegally in Nazi Germany; for between 1934 and 1938, he made ten trips from Czechoslovakia to Berlin to establish and maintain contacts with German underground groups in that city.

GRUBER agreed to be parachuted into Germany wearing civilian clothes as an integral part of his "cover" story. The knowledge that discovery by the Gestapo would mean torture and perhaps death as an enemy agent did not deter him; and, after the necessary training, including practice parachute jumps, GRUBER was dispatched on the night of 19 March, 1945. The plane did not return, nor has any trace of it been found since; and GRUBER and the crew are presumed dead. Attempts to contact GRUBER by means of the communications equipment which he carried were unsuccessful, and recent investigation in the Ruhr area has yielded no trace of him. It is now assumed that he lost his life either in a crash of the plane or at the hands of the Germans while carrying out his work. The heroism he displayed in leaving his wife and the safety of his civilian work in England to undertake such an extremely dangerous mission was of the highest order.

4. Proposed Citation: For the BROWNE STAR MEDAL:  
(Posthumous)

MR. KURT GRUBER, civilian, in recognition of his outstanding gallantry and devotion to the Allied cause. He volunteered for a special and extremely dangerous assignment, and sacrificed his life in attempting to carry it out. His bravery and desire to serve the Allied Armies was of the highest order.



SECRET

5. In order to support this recommendation, it has been necessary to divulge in the preceding paragraphs information classified as Secret. However, the Proposed citation has been made sufficiently general to permit publication of it separately with the classification Restricted.

JAMES H. FORDAN  
Colonel, OSC,  
Commanding.

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