

KARL E. SEIDEL, O-1687064, Captain, Medical Corps, 352nd Bomb Sq, 301st Bomb Gp. For heroism at great risk of life at an Allied air base in Italy. On 12 April 1945, a B-17 type aircraft returning from a sortie over enemy territory had mechanical difficulty in landing and ran off the runway toward a line of parked aircraft. The B-17 crashed into four of the parked aircraft and burst into flames. Capt Seidel, anticipating the crash, was at the scene of the accident almost immediately. Ignoring the obvious danger, he made a quick check which revealed that all members of the crew had escaped from the burning plane with but minor injuries. Capt Seidel then saw that a fifth aircraft which was parked beyond the B-17, had caught fire and the flames were creeping down the wing towards the full gasoline tanks. With complete disregard for his own safety and despite the dangers of exploding ammunition, Capt Seidel drove his ambulance to a position where it could be attached to the landing gear of the aircraft, and after several attempts, was able to tow the aircraft to a point of safety where the fire-fighters were able to extinguish the fire on the wing. By his heroic efforts, exceptional courage and devotion to duty, Capt Seidel has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Niles, Michigan.