

Award of Bronze Star Medal
May 30, 1945

William R. Kirby, , First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant),
Headquarters Company, 735th Tank Battalion, for heroic achievement in action
against an armed enemy of the United States near Netz, France, on 6 October, 1944.
When the tactical situation made it necessary for Lieutenant Kirby to withdraw his
tanks to assume defensive positions, he made a personal reconnaissance of a deep
tank trap. Realizing the necessity of crossing the trap, Lieutenant Kirby led his tanks
to a place where the trap had been partially filled with bomb debris. In spite of
heavy small arms fire and artillery fragments, he personally directed the crossing of
the barrier, leading his platoon to safety. The exemplary leadership displayed by
Lieutenant Kirby reflects the highest credit upon his training as an officer in the
United States Army. Entered military service from Missouri.