

No 'Slackers' Mar Record Of Fighting Gonzales Family

If anybody stages a contest to pick America's "fighting-est" family, the Gonzaleses of 230 Recio St. in San Antonio should rank very close to the top.

The head of the family, Ernest Gonzales, Sr., fathered six servicemen—then found he had been put in Class 1-A himself. That was during World War II.

The elder Gonzales didn't get into uniform. But his sons definitely did. Among them, they

won two Air Medals and three campaign stars in Europe in World War I. He later took part in the Eniwetok atom bomb tests.

Johnny Gonzales, 32, now a Corpus Christi resident, spent 42 months with the Coast Artillery in the Pacific in World War II. His service totals 46 months.

Roy Gonzales, 27, now living in Chicago, brought home "eight or nine" campaign ribbons from his three-year tour with the Navy



Ray

Ernest

Johnny

Roy

Manuel

Lionel

won the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, two Air Medals, two Purple Hearts, the Dutch Ganyard, Belgian Fourragere and enough campaign ribbons to decorate all the brass in the Pentagon.

The lion's share of the honors belong to 26-year-old Ray Gonzales, a veteran of four years' service in World War II and Korea. The ex-paratrooper holds the D.S.C., the nation's second highest award for heroism, along with the Silver Star, two Purple Hearts and the Belgian and Dutch decorations. He jumped with the 82nd Airborne Division in Europe during World War II.

T/Sgt. Ernest Gonzales, 51, has completed his 10th year in the Air Force. Currently an Eglin Air Force Base radar mechanic, Ernest

which took him to both the European and Pacific Theaters of World War II.

Manuel Gonzales, 24, an ex-marine now residing in Detroit, had three years' service in the China-Burma-India Theater and the Pacific in World War II and was recalled for 12 months in Korea.

Lionel Gonzales, 20, is a sergeant with the Fifth Air Force in Korea. He has been in service two years. Like his brother Ray, Lionel was a standout football player at Tech High School a few years ago.

The combined service of the Gonzales family totals close to 27 years. Says their mother, Mrs. Ernest Gonzales, Sr.:

"I feel proud that we had no slackers. They all volunteered."