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R E S T R I C T E D

**HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403**

*Typed
by
Rising
19/7/45*

GENERAL ORDERS

18 July 1945.

NUMBER 180

See Serial 180

**SECTION I - Award of Silver Star.
SECTION II - Award of Soldier's Medal.
SECTION III - Award of Bronze Star Medal.
SECTION IV - Unit Citation.**

I. AWARD OF SILVER STAR - By Direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 Mar 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Silver Star is awarded to:

Private First Class JOSEPH L SERPAS, 38497063, Company C, 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion, United States Army. For gallantry in action in BELGIUM. On 16 December 1944, during action near ROCHELATH, BELGIUM, Private SERPAS courageously volunteered to secure vitally needed mortar ammunition. With utter disregard for his own safety he drove to an enemy-held town, ordered his driver to return and fearlessly approached the ammunition dump. Selecting a truck loaded with appropriate ammunition, he audaciously mounted it and drove through intense enemy artillery fire to his company area. Private SERPAS'S heroic actions and unflinching devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

II. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL - By Direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 Mar 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Soldier's Medal is awarded to:

Technician Fifth Grade NONCE H DANIEL, 35471641, 116th Signal Radio Intelligence Company, United States Army. For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. On 14 May 1945, near REGENSBURG, GERMANY, Technician Fifth Grade DANIEL, although fully dressed and hampered by the weight of his heavy combat boots, fearlessly plunged into the swiftly moving Regen River and went to the aid of three drowning comrades. Observing that one man was able to reach shore through his own efforts he skilfully disengaged another comrade from the frantic grip of the third man and carried him to safety. Technician Fifth Grade DANIEL'S heroic actions and unselfish devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.

III. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL - By Direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 March 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States during the respective periods indicated, to:

Master Sergeant JOHN W BARBIJUX, 20330705, 3259th Signal Service Company, United States Army. 26 February 1945 to 8 May 1945 in GERMANY.

Technical Sergeant RAYMOND B JABS, 16059286, 3259th Signal Service Company, United States Army. 24 February 1945 to 8 May 1945 in GERMANY.

Technician Fifth Grade WILLIAM L ZIPNOCK, 33166431, 3577th Quartermaster Truck Company, United States Army. 20 September 1944 to 8 May 1945 in FRANCE, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG and GERMANY (cont)

R E S T R I C T E D

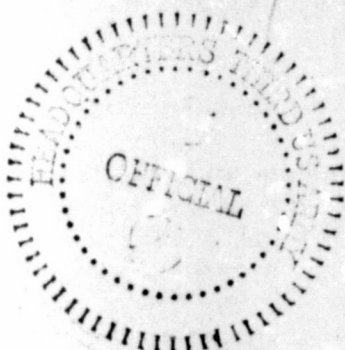
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IV. UNIT CITATION - Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular 333, War Department, 22 December 1943, the 634th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion is cited for outstanding performance of duty against the enemy from 16 - 21 December 1944. During the violent enemy counteroffensive near ST. VITH, BELGIUM, the battalion was deployed in advance positions which necessarily committed it as a ground fighting unit. Despite this shift from their primary mission, the members of the battalion temporarily held the numerically superior enemy forces throughout five days of bitter fighting. Battery "D", although completely surrounded, gallantly continued the fight and maintained communication with the battalion during the entire period of heavy combat. Battery "B" aggressively fought its way from encirclement and, displaying consummate skill in using its mobile weapons, protected the withdrawal of a field artillery battalion. Headquarters Battery and Batteries "A" and "C" were assigned defensive positions on the north flank of ST. VITH and courageously held their ground while the infantry and tank destroyers withdrew through their thin but tenaciously held line of resistance. When the enemy attacked with an overwhelming number of tanks and infantry on the morning of 18 December, the 80mm guns of the battalion made little impression upon their heavy tanks but the battalion dauntlessly maintained a constant stream of harassing small arms and machine gun fire which stopped and completely routed the German infantry. In spite of direct, close-range tank fire which resulted in heavy casualties and the loss of vitally needed guns, the officers and men of this intrepid battalion held their ground against the surging enemy forces with fearless determination and unbreakable spirit until relieved by friendly armored elements.

By command of General PATTON:

HOBART R. GAY,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.



R. E. CUMMINGS,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

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