

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS BRANCH,  
MILITARY PERSONNEL DIVISION, ACO.

Initials RDD  
Date 29 Sept. 1944

RECORD OF AWARD OF DECORATION BY AGENCY OTHER THAN WAR DEPARTMENT

Last Name <b>SALFEN</b>	First Name <b>AMBROSE</b>	Middle Initial <b>GEORGE</b>	Serial No. <b>0-436682</b>		Grade <b>Captain</b>
Organization <b>601st Tank Destroyer Battalion</b>			Foreign		Others
Headquarters <b>300th General Hospital (US)</b>		Station or APO <b>378</b>	C.O. No. <b>37</b>	Section <b>I</b>	Date <b>21 June 1944</b>
Type of Award <b>PH</b>			Posthumous <b>No</b>		DO NOT WRITE IN COLUMN BELOW
Oak-Leaf Clusters		Number	Posthumous		
By Command of <b>Col. Reyer</b>			Amended	Revoked	

CITATION

For wounds received in action 23 May 1944 in XXX Italy.

Entered service from O'Fallon, ~~Missouri~~ Missouri.

<input type="checkbox"/>
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DECORATIONS AND AWARDS BRANCH,  
MILITARY PERSONNEL DIVISION, AGO.

Initials H. C.  
Date 14 Aug. 44

RECORD OF AWARD OF DECORATION BY AGENCY OTHER THAN WAR DEPARTMENT

Last Name <b>SALFEN</b>	First Name <b>AMERSE</b>	Middle Initial <b>G</b>	Serial No. <b>G-436682</b>		Grade (then 1st Lt.) <b>Capt.</b>
Organization <b>FA Co B, Tank Destroyer Bn. 601st TD Bn.</b>			Foreign		Others
Headquarters <b>3rd Inf, Div.</b>		Station or APO <b>3</b>	G.O. No. <b>139</b>	Section <b>I</b>	Date <b>27 Jun. 44</b>
Type of Award <b>DCM</b>			Posthumous <b>NO</b>		DO NOT WRITE IN COLUMN BELOW
Oak-Leaf Clusters		Number	Posthumous		
By Command of <b>MAJ GEN WALKER</b>			Amended	Revoked	

CITATION

For valorous conduct in action against the enemy. On 9 November 1943, near \*\*\*\*\* when their company tank destroyers were exposed to enemy shelling on a forward slope of a hill and one tank destroyer was stalled, Captain SALFEN and Sergeant MARTELL left the safety of their tank destroyer to hook a chain on the immobilized tank destroyer and tow it until it started. Although enemy shells were landing within 15 yards of the tank destroyer and shell fragments were striking its sides, they remained outside exposed to this fire for 10 minutes, thereby saving the vehicle and its crew. Residence at appointment: (Captain SALFEN) Port Orange, Florida.





HEADQUARTERS  
601ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 464 U. S. Army

26 July 1944

SUBJECT : Recommendation for Award of Silver Star.

TO : Commanding General, 3rd Infantry Division, APO #3, U. S. Army.

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, it is recommended that Captain (then First Lieutenant) AMBROSE G. SALFEN, 0436682, Company "B", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion be cited in General Orders and awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

2. CITATION:

AMBROSE G. SALFEN, 0436682, Captain, (Then First Lieutenant) Field Artillery, Company "B", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action. On 30 January 1944, at about 0600 hours, near ISOLA BELLA, Italy, Captain Salfen's platoon was given the mission of supporting the Rangers in an attack on CISTERNA. A group of Rangers had become trapped by enemy machine gun fire which forced them to stick flat on the ground. Captain Salfen ordered his destroyer to slowly advance up the road to CISTERNA in an attempt to allow these men to escape. His destroyer finally stopped in a position where enemy machine guns were only 150 yards away on his left and right flanks and enemy snipers were about 800 yards to his rear. From an exposed position, he personally directed the fire of his tank so efficiently that it knocked out an enemy OP, destroyed many machine gun nests, killed at least 5 individual enemy soldiers, and thereby relieved the pressure on our entrapped Rangers, who were able to move to safe positions. RESIDENCE: O'FALLON, MO.

3.a Character of terrain: Flat, gently rolling ground.

b Visibility: Excellent. Time of day: 0600 hours.

Atmospheric conditions: Sunny, scattered clouds.

c Proximity of enemy: 150 yards on each flank, about 800 yards to the rear.

d Morale of troops: Ours; Excellent. Enemy; Excellent.

e Casualties sustained: One man wounded.

f Effect of deed: About 20 trapped Rangers freed. Enemy OP and several machine guns; and at least 5 enemy soldiers destroyed.

4. The service of the above named individual since rendition by him of the above mentioned service has been honorable.

5. Prior Awards: Purple Heart Medal (Awarded in Hospital).  
Bronze Star Medal, GO #139, Hq 3rd Inf Div, 27 June 1944.

6. I was not an eye-witness to this action, but attached hereto are affidavits which contain a Complete Description of Services Rendered.

*Walter E. Tardy*  
WALTER E. TARDY  
Lt. Col., FA.,  
Commanding.

Incl: Affidavits - Sergeant JOHN NOWAK  
- Sergeant ANTON J. MELLO

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION

AF0

3

10 Sept 1944  
date

GENERAL ORDER)

NUMBER 189 ) : E X T R A C T

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

I

I-AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star Medal is awarded each of the following named individuals:

AMBROSE G. SALFEN, O 436682, Captain (then 1st Lt.), Field Artillery, Company B, 601st Tank Destroyer Bn. For gallantry in action. When a group of Rangers attacking near \*\*\* Italy, at about 0600 hours on 30 January 1944, was threatened with entrapment by heavy German machine gun fire, Captain Salfen ordered his destroyer forward in an attempt to effect their escape. Reaching a point 150 yards from enemy machine guns to his left and right flanks, Captain Salfen raised himself head and shoulders above the turret while enemy mortar shells struck within 15 yards of the destroyer and enemy bullets hit the vehicle's sides. In this exposed position he directed the destroyer's fire so effectively that an enemy OP and several machine guns were knocked out, at least 5 Germans killed, and the Rangers enabled to move to positions of safety. Residence: Port Orange, Fla.

By command of Major General O'DANIEL:

CHARLES E JOHNSON  
Colonel, GSC,  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ S. J. Rogers  
/t/ S. J. ROGERS  
Captain, AGD  
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: (EXTRACT)

*F. W. Wagner*  
F. W. WAGNER  
CWO, AUS, 601st TD Bn  
Personnel Officer

SCREENED  
3  
OPIS

RESTRICTED

JUL 19 1955



"B" COMPANY  
601ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 512 U. S. Army

3 August 1944

COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES RENDERED

I am Sergeant ANTONIO J. MELLO, gun commander of an M-10 Tank Destroyer in Captain (then 1st Lt) AMBROSE G. SALFEN's Platoon, Company "B", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion. On the morning of January 30, 1944, our platoon was given the mission of supporting the Ranger attack on CISTERNA. Three of our destroyers, Captain SALFEN leading, slowly advanced down the road toward ISOLA BELLA. Captain SALFEN stopped about 200 yards short of ISOLA BELLA. I was about 300 yards behind him.

Enemy machine gun fire and sniper fire was all around us, many times ricocheting off our tank. Seeing our own troops being pinned down by enemy machine guns, Captain SALFEN without regard for his own personal safety, placed himself in view of the enemy so that he might direct fire on those machine guns. Because of this, an enemy OP was knocked out, at least 5 enemy soldiers killed, and it enabled over 20 Rangers to escape.

Shortly after this at least eight mortar shells landed within 15 yards of Captain SALFEN's tank. Despite all this shell fire the Captain remained in position firing at the enemy until his 100 rounds of ammunition was gone. On his way back to pick up more ammunition, Captain SALFEN again exposed himself to enemy fire by leaving the inside of his destroyer to help a wounded Ranger onto the tank so that the soldier could be evacuated to a rear aid station. After receiving more ammunition, the Captain returned to his former position and knocked out several enemy machine guns.

Captain SALFEN's coolness and excellent leadership under severe enemy fire inspired all the members of his platoon to hold their ground and destroy all possible enemy resistance.

*Antonio J. Mello*  
ANTONIO J. MELLO  
Sgt, "B" Co.,  
601st TD Bn.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 3rd day of August 1944.

*David N. Huchison*  
DAVID N. HUCHISON  
2nd Lt., T.D.,  
Summary Court.

COMPANY "B"  
601ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 512 U. S. Army

3 August 1944

COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES RENDERED

I am Sergeant JOHN NOWAK, "B" Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, at the time of this action, I was a gunner on Captain (then 1st Lt) SALFEN's M-10 Tank Destroyer, in which capacity I was present at and an eye-witness to the following incident.

On 30 January 1944, at about 0600 hours, near ISOLA BELLA, Italy, my platoon was given the mission of supporting the Ranger attack on CISTERNA. Captain SALFEN directed his tank destroyer slowly up the main road to CISTERNA. One of his Destroyers had already been disabled by a land mine in ISOLA BELLA and two others under his command were following in his immediate rear. On either side of the road and to the front as close as 150 yards, were enemy machine gun nests and snipers who constantly fired on Captain SALFEN'S destroyer. There were some enemy snipers to the rear of his tank as far back as 800 yards.

Captain SALFEN, despite small arms fire that was ricocheting off his destroyer, directed his tank destroyer forward so that he might support the Rangers. Because of fire laid down by Captain SALFEN's destroyer, over 20 Rangers who had been pinned down by enemy machine gun fire, were able to escape entrapment. While directing fire, shells from approximately 8 mortars bracketed his destroyer and landed only 15 yards away.

Captain SALFEN's accurate estimation of distances to targets and his ability to control the firing of his destroyers to it's best advantage, gave maximum support to the infantrymen. Despite severe enemy machine gun fire that was continuously hitting his tank, Captain SALFEN stood head and shoulders above the turret of his tank in order to fire his entire load of 100 rounds of ammunition. He then backed his destroyer back down the road, reloaded it with ammunition, returned to the former position and continued firing. In returning for ammunition, a wounded Ranger was evacuated to the rear area.

Because of Captain SALFEN's coolness and aggressiveness, his tank destroyer knocked out an enemy CP, many machine gun nests, and killed at least 5 enemy soldiers. Because of this fire, the Rangers were able to hold their ground and to advance in many places.

*John Nowak*  
JOHN NOWAK  
Sgt., "B" Co.  
601st TD Bn.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 3rd day of August 1944.

*David N. Huggison*  
DAVID N. HUGGISON  
2nd Lt., T.D.,  
Summary Court.