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GENERAL ORDERS
NO. 6

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *12 January 1997*

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918, and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, is awarded (posthumously) by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

Staff Sergeant Ruben Rivers, [redacted], United States Army, for extraordinary heroism during 16 - 19 November 1944, while serving with Company A, 761st Tank Battalion, near Guebling, France. On 16 November 1944, Staff Sergeant Rivers' tank hit a mine while advancing toward Guebling, France. Though severely wounded in the leg, Sergeant Rivers refused medical treatment and evacuation, took command of another tank, and advanced with his company into Guebling the next day. Repeatedly refusing evacuation, Sergeant Rivers continued to direct his tank's fire at enemy positions through the morning of 19 November 1944.

At dawn, Company A's tanks began to advance towards Bougaltroff, but were stopped by enemy fire. Sergeant Rivers' tank, joined by another tank, opened fire on the enemy tanks, covering Company A as they withdrew. While doing so, Sergeant Rivers' tank was hit, killing him and wounding the crew. Staff Sergeant Rivers' fighting spirit and daring leadership were an inspiration to his unit and exemplify the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

[DAPE–ZXI–IC]

Togo D. West, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

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