

Corporal Eugene Salyers Is Awarded Bronze Star Medal

June 5, 1945
Writes Home That He Was Presented with Bronze Star Medal in Czeckoslovakia Recently

Corporal Eugene Salyers has written his mother, Mrs. Nellie Salyers of Newton, that his commanding officer recently presented him with the Bronze Star medal for "heroic achievement" while serving with the Second Cavalry of the Third army under General George S. Patton during the period from November 1, 1944, to January 31, 1945, in France and Belgium, when he was wounded. He was in Czeckoslovakia when he was presented with the medal, after having returned to duay.

His brother, Private First Class Delmar Salyers is home from a hospital in Florida on a thirty day furlough. He was wounded January 29 about Cologne, when struck in the knee by shell fragments. He was a paratrooper with the Eighty-Second Airborne division of the First army. He says that his comrades are being returned home rapidly.

A third son, Jesse Salyers, is in Italy.

Sergeant Vanderhoof Home

Technical Sergeant Merle Vanderhoof, who had been a German prisoner of war until recently, arrived home Friday afternoon for a sixty day furlough. He was feeling fine and weighed twenty pounds more than when he went into the service.

He was captured on February 22, 1944, when the bomber on which he was a waist gunner, was shot down in the vicinity of Pilsen, Czeckoslovakia, during a raid on Regensburg, Austria. They had left the Fifteenth Air Force base at Brindisi, Italy, flown toward Vienna, Austria, and then headed toward Regensburg, and were met with interceptors and intense anti-aircraft fire, which crippled their plane.

The pilot ordered the crew to bail out at a height of three and one-half miles and all made the parachute jump successfully, although it was their first. After being captured, they were taken to Frankfurt, Germany, for questioning and then to a prisoner of war camp in East Prussia. When the Russians advances began last summer, they were taken by boat to a German Baltic sea port, and thence to Southeastern Germany, where they were finally liberated by General Patton's Third army on April 29.