

**DECLASSIFIED**

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ANNEX I

(p) Technical Sergeant Richard V. Pass, 15 334 173, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism while serving as Radio-Operator-Mechanic-Gunner on a B-26 type aircraft on a combat operational mission on 9 August 1944. After Technical Sergeant Pass's aircraft, which was flying in number 2 position of A Flight of the second box, had dropped its bombs on the target, a railroad bridge and embankment at Pontise, France, it was hit by a barrage of heavy, intense, and accurate flak which seriously injured the pilot, knocked out the right engine, and damaged the left engine. The co-pilot immediately took control of the airplane while the enlisted bombardier and Technical Sergeant Pass pulled the pilot from his seat and cared for his wounds. Sergeant Pass also got some wire, and made a static line to hook to the pilot's ripcord in case it became necessary to bail out. The co-pilot elected to attempt to bring the aircraft back to allied territory, however the airplane quickly lost altitude from 12,000 feet to 2,000 feet, at which time the left engine cut out. The co-pilot attempted to crash land the ship, however it crashed in an orchard, and caught fire. The pilot and enlisted bombardier were killed instantly. The co-pilot was mortally wounded. The engineer was thrown clear of the airplane. Technical Sergeant Pass was badly bruised and shaken up, but he managed to drag himself out of the airplane to safety, however, after leaving the plane he saw that the tail gunner was still in the tail section of the airplane which had broken off from the rest of the plane, and which also was afire. Returning to the plane through the flames, and through bursts of 50 caliber ammunition which was exploding all around him, Technical Sergeant Pass, without regard for his own personal safety, pulled the tail gunner out of the plane and out of danger. He then collapsed, awakening later to find himself and his companions enemy prisoners.

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