

Mieczyslaw Najman's Citation For The Capture Of Tempelburg, Falkenburg And Dramburg



This is a document with an excerpt of Stalin's order which states that I participated in the capture of the towns in Western Pomerania. I express my gratitude for the brilliant military action of the 1st Polish Army, which broke the German defence east of Stargard and captured Tempelburg, Falkenburg and Dramburg (...). I covered the entire combat trail. I stormed the Odra, was at Siekierki, captured Warsaw, crossed the Vistula. At one point I demonstrated heroism, was awarded with the Battlefield Merit medal for it. We were storming Warsaw. A German division stood opposite us. I went for reconnaissance to take a captive, to obtain information. And I succeeded in taking one. We snatched a sentry who fell asleep. I took him back and he told us everything, what units, where, everything, from A to Z. I received various decorations for that, they wrote about me in a newspaper. You had to have a lot of courage, because it was a whole kilometer away from our lines, in the night. It's dark, you can't use the flashlight because the Germans will see you. I placed stones along the way to know my way back. For if I had gone the wrong way, I would have gotten into enemy territory. I was in the artillery, 76-mm pieces. They fired far, five, six kilometers. You had to do reconnaissance. I went to the first line, watched, and reported to our commanding officer. But most often my job was to get in the night to, say, a church, climb to the very top of it, to set up a binocular there and observe the enemy. Our artillery's compass and mine were aligned. I watched them fire. If he fired short, I told him to correct it. If he hit the target, I said 'Right on.' There was that commanding officer, he often went with me, we sat together and watched. I had to make sure the enemy didn't see me while I saw him. We got to Warsaw. They, the Home Army staged the uprising to forestall the Russians, to show that they captured the city. So the Russians stood back and stopped their advance. The Germans murdered the uprising soldiers, and the uprising was all for nothing, we had to storm Warsaw. Always politics, was it necessary for these

200,000 people to die? They did gain nothing, and the civilians were murdered and taken prisoner. We were in Praga, right-bank part of Warsaw. Our General Berling ran around, saying, 'We'll go into action, we'll help them.' And half an hour later he was gone. They didn't permit him to cross the river. We ask where he is. 'Gone to Moscow for training' to a military academy. And we already knew where he had been sent, we were aware. We marched into left-bank Warsaw, and it's just smoldering ruins.