



Norbert J. Heidelberger 30-42

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

Service # 1170000

**169th Field Artillery Battalion
43rd Infantry Division**

Entered the Service from: New York

Died: 15-Aug-1943

Buried at: Plot A Row 3 Grave 71

Manila American Cemetery

Manila, Philippines

Awards: Silver Star, Purple Heart

Silver Star



(Citation Needed): Norbert J. Heidelberger, United States Army, is reported to have been awarded the Silver Star under the below-listed General Orders for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with the 43rd Infantry Division during World War II.

**General Orders: Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces in the South Pacific Area
General Orders No. 519 (1943)**

From The History of the 43rd Division Artillery page 90-91:

The Baanga Campaign

LIAISON AND FORWARD OBSERVATION

Standard Operating Procedure was followed in the assignment of liaison parties which communicated with the forward command post rather than with individual infantry battalions. One forward observer normally accompanied each battalion and was used at the discretion of the liaison officer. (In all cases contact was made with each liaison officer when close-in missions were fired.) This was absolutely necessary since there was no observation at all in the thick jungle terrain found on Baanga Island, and sound sensing had to be used for each adjustment. This close contact kept one observer from bringing fire into another unit. The primary job of the liaison officers was to keep an accurate picture at all times of the *location of all elements of the infantry to include patrols*. Actually, forward observers did very little in this operation except assist the liaison officers and supply liaison with companies which were sent on separate missions. This practice, however, was found to be unsatisfactory in that one observer was lost in action and his party of three men severely wounded while accompanying *a company of only 42 men*. It was not felt advisable to send artillery observers into unreconnoitered areas with less than a *full company*, unless, of course, the need was very urgent and *communication to the rear could be maintained*.

Following are the names of the liaison party who were casualties during this operation.

1st Lt. Norbert J. Heidelberger	Btry. C, 169th F. A., MIA
Cpl. Samuel B. Morgan	Btry. C, 169th F. A., MIA
Cpl. Norbert F. McElroy	Btry. C, 169th F. A., MIA
Pfc. Jack T. Dickerson	Btry. C, 169th F. A., MIA

(MIA — Missing In Action)

This liaison party was one of the most aggressive in the Division Artillery and had always done an excellent job.