Document pertaining to Order of Glory # 266.855

1. Information card

Order Booklet No B No 578042

1. **Last name :** *Stepenko*
2. **Name and patronymic:** *Ivan Grigoryevich*
3. **Rank:** *Red Army Solider*
4. **Sex:** *Male*
5. **Birth year:** *1923*
6. **Birth place:** *Chernigovsky Region, Olishevsky District, the Village of Krasnoe*
7. **Party membership:** *Member of the LCYL (Lenin Communist Youth League) since 1944*
8. **Education:** *Elementary*
9. **Nationality:** *Ukrainian*
10. **Joined red army:** *October 1943 to July 1945*
11. **Place of service and duty position at time of awarding:** *271st Infantry Regiment, 181st Infantry Division, Connections Specialist*
12. **Place of service at current time:** *Agricultural C*ommunity “Shliah do Krashchego Zhitia”, village of Krasnoe, *Olishevsky District, Chernigovsky Region, Agricultural Worker*
13. **Home address: :** *Chernigovsky Region, Olishevsky District, the Village of Krasnoe*
14. **Awards**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Award name** | **Award number** | **Reason for awarding** |
| Medal for Bravery | 1.911.980 | # 130473; Order of the 271st Infantry Regiment  # 013 May 07 1944 |
| Medal for Bravery | 1.911.175 | # 130472; Order of the 181st Infantry Division  # 05 August 17 1944 |
| Order of Glory III | 266.855 | # 789122; Order of the 181st Infantry Division  # 09 February 28 1945 |

Document pertaining to Order of Glory # 266.855

Award sheet

1. **Last name, name and patronymic :** *Stepenko, Ivan Grigoryevich*
2. **Rank :** *Red Army Soldier*
3. **Duty position and Unit:** *telephone operator with the 567th Separate Communications Battalion, 181st Rifle Division*
4. **Birth year:** *1923*
5. **Nationality:** *Ukrainian*
6. **Party membership:** *Member Lenin Communist Youth League) since 1944, Ticket # 21729564*
7. **In combat:** *since 1943*
8. **Wounds of Contusions:** *1 wound from 1944*
9. **In Red Army:** *1943*
10. **Inducted by:** *Olishevsky DMC, Chernigovsky Region*
11. **Earlier Awards:** *2 medals "For Bravery" -- 013/N of 05/07/44 and 050/N of 08/14/44*
12. **Permanent address:** *Chernigovsky region, Olishevsky District, village of Krasnoye*

***Short description of the specific details of the individual’s military exploits and services:***

*In the battles against the German occupators, Comrade Stepenko demonstrated devotion to his motherland and bravery in battle. On January 21-22, 1945, when communications battalion was surrounded by the enemy forces, he volunteered to demolish the enemy machine gun with grenades. He snuck in through a hidden way, killed three machine gun shooters with a grenade, and then shot thirteen Germans with the occupators' machine gun and caused the rest to run away. On February 02nd 1945, while establishing the communication line to one of the division units, he encountered seven Germans in the woods. Retaining his cool, he opened machine gun fire, killed four Germans and brought the other three as captives to the battalion. For the duration of the offensive battle actions, Comrade Stepenko included in his personal count thirty-five killed German soldiers. For demolishing thirty-five German soldiers with his machine gun, for taking three German soldiers captive, and for the timely installation of the communication line while simultaneously actively leading the battle action against the enemy, all the while demonstrating bravery and courage, he merits the award with Order "Glory 3rd degree".*

*Commander of the 567th Separate Communications Battalion, Captain Logvinenko 18 February 1945*

*Awarded with the government award of Order "GLORY 3rd DEGREE"*

*DIVISION COMMANDER, COLONEL MOROZOV 27 February 1945 181st Stalingradsky Rifle Red Banner Division "Order Lenin" By order #09/H to the 181st Stalingradsky Rifle Red Banner Division "Order Lenin" of 02/28/45 Head of the Personnel Division, Guard Major 181st Stalingradsky Rifle Red Banner Division "Order Lenin"*

Document pertaining to Bravery Medal # 1.911.980

Award sheet

1. **Last name, name and patronymic :** *Stepenko, Ivan Grigoryevich*
2. **Rank :** *Red Army Soldier*
3. **Duty position and Unit:** *telephone operator with the 567th Separate Communications Battalion, 181st Rifle Division*
4. *Presented for award with Order "RED STAR"*
5. **Birth year:** *1923*
6. **Nationality:** *Ukrainian*
7. **Party membership:** *not a party member*
8. **In combat:** *1943*
9. **Wounds of Contusions:** *None*
10. **In Red Army:** *1943*
11. **Inducted by:** *Olishevsky DMC, Chernigovsky Region*
12. **Earlier Awards:** "For Bravery" -- order 013/N of 05/07/44 to the 271th Rifle Regiment of 05/07/1944
13. **Permanent address***: Chernigovsky region, Olishevsky District, village of Krasnoye. Mother: STEPENKO Uliana Ivanovna*

***Short description of the specific details of the individual’s military exploits and services:***

*On July 15, 1944, at the time of our offensive at the 252, 2 hill, Comrade STEPENKO manned 2 telephone communication lines. In spite of the heavy enemy artillery-mortar fire, he maintained an uninterrupted communication with the regiment's headquarters. Throughout the battle duration, Comrade Stepenko never once left his position at the telephone line and repaired all damages. In just one day, he repaired more than 40 instances of damage on the phone lines, thus ensuring proper communication with the regiment's headquarters***.**

*He merits the government award of Order "RED STAR".*

*REGIMENT COMMANDER*

*LT.-COLONEL SHCHERBA*

*8 August 1944*

*271st Rifle Nizhnevolzhsky Regiment*

Document pertaining to Bravery Medal # 1.911.195

Award sheet

1. **Last name, name and patronymic :** *Stepenko, Ivan Grigoryevich*
2. **Rank :** *Red Army Soldier*
3. **Duty position and Unit:** *271st Infantry Regiment, 181st Infantry Division, communications company telephone operator*
4. **Birth year:** *1923*
5. **Nationality:** *Ukrainian*
6. **Party membership:** *Not a member*
7. **In combat:** *1943*
8. **Wounds of Contusions:** *None*
9. **In Red Army:** *1943*
10. **Inducted by:** *Olishevsky DMC, Chernigovsky Region*
11. **Earlier Awards:** *None*
12. **Permanent address:** *Chernigovsky region, Olishevsky District, village of Krasnoye* *Mother: STEPENKO Uliana Ivanovna*

***Short description of the specific details of the individual’s military exploits and services:***

In the battle actions on the west shore of the river Stir on February 22, 1944 and in the subsequent battles, he demonstrated bravery and courage. During the offensive of our troops at the village of Stara Rakina on March 3, 1944, communications were often interrupted by artillery-mortar fire. In spite of the heavy fire, Comrade STEPENKO quickly came on the line and repaired the damages, thus ensuring uninterrupted communication with the regiment's headquarters. In just one day of battle, he repaired more than 20 instances of damage on the phone lines.

*REGIMENT COMMANDER*

*LT.-COLONEL SHCHERBA*

*02 May 1944*

*271st Rifle Nizhnevolzhsky Regiment*