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from Japanese positions in the ditches. Then they started throwing mortars at us."

The foremost men of Company A were pinned down on the edge of town, so Perez took a handful of grenades and started heaving them from behind a log.

He was backing away to get a new supply, firing his rifle, when a sniper's bullet caught him through the chest.

Perez was awarded the silver star posthumously for his work at Santa Tomas.

Everybody said it was hard to believe that one bullet could kill such a tough little man.

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