

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 90, U. S. Army

3 July 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 22

I. AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and circular 66 First U. S. Army, cs, the Silver Star is awarded the following named officers and enlisted men for gallantry in action in northern France:

MAJ MURRAY FRANKLIN, 0442251, MC, United States Army. On 16 June 1944 Maj Franklin, being informed that Medical supplies were needed at the aid station of an isolated Infantry unit and realizing the wounded were in need of attention, personally attempted to reach this unit by going through enemy fire. Although wounded while attempting to make this contact and in great pain, he refused to be evacuated and remained with his Detachment until adequate relief was sent eight hours later. Entered service from New York.

CAPT DAVID E. GRAF, 0383298, FA, United States Army. On 14 June 1944 an Infantry battalion in the attack was advancing across small, level fields bounded by hedge rows. Excellent observation was afforded the enemy and heavy artillery, machine gun and small arms fire was encountered. Despite this enemy fire, which was unceasing, Capt Graf, as Field Artillery Combat Liaison Officer, advanced to the furthest point possible, analyzed the situation and succeeded in neutralizing the enemy emplacements within a distance of 50 yards with Artillery fire, thus enabling the Infantry elements to withdraw and reorganize. Entered service from Illinois.

CAPT ROBERT H. SCHULZ, 025303, Inf, United States Army. On 11 June 1944 a rifle squad in the attack was pinned down by fire from enemy machine guns. Capt Schulz, a Battalion Executive Officer, arriving and finding the platoon leader had been wounded, with disregard for his own safety brought forward a telephone and crawled forward to where he could direct mortar fire into the machine gun positions following which he personally led a bayonet charge resulting in destruction of the enemy. Entered service from Iowa.

CAPT RALPH L. LaFORGE, 0325806, Inf, United States Army. During the period 10-13 June 1944 Capt La Forge continually exposed himself to enemy fire to aid in successive organization of the attack and led the assault on three separate occasions on the town of \* \* \*, France. His courage and devotion to duty were an inspiration to his troops and a considerable factor in their success. During this period he personally attacked and overcame enemy machine gun positions on two occasions. Entered service from Arkansas.

CAPT THOMAS J. MORRIS, JR, 0387871, Inf, United States Army. On 14 June 1944 Capt Morris was leading his company in the attack. Heavy machine gun fire covered the entire area of advance and some casualties were suffered from mortar fire, causing their attack to break. Without regard for his own



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safety Capt Morris deliberately exposed himself to this fire, reorganized his unit, pushed forward to capture immediate enemy positions and continued the attack to capture his objective. Entered service from Kansas.

CAPT LAWRENCE R. WATSON, 0410281, Inf, United States Army. On 11 June 1944 Capt Watson was given the mission of organizing and supervising the assault on a fortified position. He personally led the attack in the face of heavy machine gun and mortar fire and when all members of the assaulting party were pinned down, worked his way forward to a position where he was able to attract fire away from his men. By firing numerous rounds with his own weapon he killed at least five of the enemy and was placed in an extremely hazardous position where he was the object of machine gun and small arms fire and enemy hand grenades. Nevertheless he continued to direct the operation from his position until relieved. Entered service from South Carolina.

1ST LT RONALD W. CAMPBELL, 0512850, Inf, United States Army. On 11 June 1944 Lt Campbell, while leading a rifle company, was wounded and given first aid. Since all other officers of his company had become casualties, he refused to be evacuated but led his company through extremely difficult terrain into the town of \* \* \*, France. Though later forced to withdraw through lack of support, his resolute example was a considerable factor in maintaining high morale despite severe casualties and unceasing contact with the enemy. Entered service from Kansas.

S Sgt Ernest W. Flentge, 38155702, Inf, United States Army. On 13 June 1944 when his company was held up by concentrated fire of three enemy machine guns, Sgt Flentge, on his own initiative, took a rocket launcher team and at great danger worked his way to a position from which fire could be placed on the enemy. Despite heavy opposing fire he remained there until successful in knocking the enemy guns out of action. By so doing he enabled his unit to continue the advance and his courageous action was an example to the remainder of the organization who had suffered a number of casualties. Entered service from Texas.

Sgt Marle Welfare, 37190269, Inf, United States Army. On 19 June 1944 a mortar squad commanded by Sgt Welfare received enemy fire and was rendered inactive. Although himself wounded, Sgt Welfare remained in command of his squad, assisted in evacuating one wounded man and returned to cover his squad against enemy attack while other men evacuated the wounded. His leadership, courage and devotion to duty were conspicuous and by his gallantry he prevented the wounded from falling into enemy hands. Entered service from Iowa.

Tec 4 Walter J. Starvish, 31031598, Inf, United States Army. On 12 June 1944 Tec 4 Starvish's company was moving forward across an open field when they received enemy machine gun fire. While the men sought cover, one soldier was wounded, rendered helpless and unable to move. Tec 4 Starvish, with disregard for his own life, made his way to the wounded man and despite the heavy fire which was unceasing, removed him to a point of comparative safety from which he might be evacuated. Entered service from Massachusetts.

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Tec 5 Maurice Y. White, 1E00C130, Inf, United States Army. On 16 June 1944 Tec 5 White, receiving fire from an enemy machine gun, set out alone to overcome the machine gun. After advancing approximately 100 yards, he was again fired upon by both rifles and machine guns from nearby cover. He answered the fire with hand grenades whereupon the firing ceased and two enemy soldiers came out and surrendered to him. His courage and coolness were predominate despite the fact that during the course of the action a bullet passed through his helmet, grazing his face and his rifle was rendered ineffective by enemy fire. In taking out the enemy position he undoubtedly saved numerous lives and made possible a more rapid advance to the objective. Entered service from Texas.

Pfc Russel J. DeBenedetto, 3E487442, Med Dept, United States Army. On 14 June 1944 the Infantry company to which Pfc DeBenedetto was attached, moving forward in the attack, had outdistanced the units on its right and left. When the left flank platoon received heavy surprise machine gun fire, three men were wounded and although the enemy continued to spray the unit with withering fire, Pfc DeBenedetto, without regard for his own safety, advanced over the field, administered first aid and remained with the wounded until relieved. Entered service from Louisiana.

II. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and circular 66, First U. S. Army, cs, the Silver Star is awarded posthumously to the following named enlisted man for gallantry in action in northern France:

Pvt James F. Casalenuovo, 33484896, Inf, United States Army. On 11 June 1944 during an action, another soldier of Pvt Casalenuovo's organization was wounded by enemy machine gun fire and so paralyzed that he could not move to cover. Pvt Casalenuovo crawled to him under direct enemy fire and extricated the wounded man to a position which afforded protection. Later during the action his platoon was ordered to withdraw and consolidate its position and in order to remove the wounded soldier from this forward position so that he would not fall into enemy hands or remain in the fire-swept area unattended, Pvt Casalenuovo again exposed himself to direct enemy machine gun fire as a result of which he lost his life in a gallant effort to save a comrade. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

III. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and circular 66 First U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded to the following named enlisted man for bravery in action in northern France:

T Sgt Carl M. Amber, 3E125102, Inf, United States Army. On 15 June 1944 during the attack on \* \* \*, France, the platoon leader of the assaulting platoon of his company was killed. Sgt Amber took command of the platoon and by his initiative and aggressive leadership coupled with personal example and bravery, led his platoon to successfully rout approximately forty enemy soldiers who had infiltrated into his company's position. This action assisted greatly in pressing the attack without interruption. Entered service from Texas.

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S Sgt T. G. (I.O.) Hull, 6297720, FA, United States Army. During the period 13-17 June 1944 Sgt Hull, as an assistant in the Forward Observation Party of a Field Artillery Battalion so competently and thoroughly performed his duties under machine gun, mortar and artillery fire that he was able to maintain practically continuous wire communication as a result of which the observer was able to adjust heavy casualty-producing Artillery fire upon enemy forces. Sgt Hull operated over a period of several days with little rest, ignoring snipers and although greatly fatigued, continued to perform his duties in a superior manner. Entered service from Oklahoma.

S Sgt Virgil C. Peterson, 38149071, Inf, United States Army. On 12 June 1944 Sgt Peterson was leading his squad in assault when four enemy machine guns suddenly opened fire. His men, being inexperienced, were confused and in a state of disorder but Sgt Peterson calmly reorganized his squad and in plain view of the enemy, opened fire himself. His leadership and control resulted in the remainder of his company being able to flank the enemy machine guns, compel them to withdraw and enabled the advance to continue. Entered service from Colorado.

S Sgt Ivan D. Rieder, 35001950, Inf, United States Army. On 15 June 1944 Sgt Rieder, while advancing with his company on enemy position in dense and numerous hedge rows, came under intense cross-fire from two hostile machine guns and numerous machine pistols. Notwithstanding this fire which pinned down his platoon at a point where they could not return it, Sgt Rieder moved to an exposed position and fired upon the enemy until his weapon jammed; then boldly exposing himself, threw three hand grenades at spaced intervals, thus holding down the opposing fire until his platoon could withdraw to suitable firing positions. During this action Sgt Rieder was wounded. Entered service from Ohio.

Sgt Selmer H. Johnson, 37173152, Inf, United States Army. During the period 9-20 June 1944 Sgt Johnson, as wire chief of an Infantry Battalion Headquarters Company, operated over very difficult terrain through territory known to the enemy and often under heavy mortar and machine pistol fire. During the assault on \*\*\*, France, and in later actions against \*\*\*, he succeeded in maintaining excellent wire communications under fire with a high degree of technical proficiency. Entered service from Minnesota.

Sgt Jay A. Pilgrim, 37172213, Inf, United States Army. On 13 June 1944 while supporting an assault by an Infantry Company, Sgt Pilgrim and his machine gun squad were attacked from their left rear by a group of enemy soldier making a counter-attack. When the enemy threw hand grenades into and around the machine gun position, all of the squad with the exception of Sgt Pilgrim took cover. Sgt Pilgrim remained at his gun alone, continuing to fire and his outstanding courage and devotion to duty resulted in the enemy counter-attack being repulsed and fifteen enemy soldiers being slain at his gun position. Entered service from North Dakota.

Tec 5 J. D. (I.O.) Hahn, 38089961, Med Dept, United States Army. During the attack of \*\*\*, France, 10 June 1944, Tec 5 Hahn advanced with the forward elements of an Infantry rifle company as an aid man and assisted in the evacuation of numerous casualties. Headless of machine gun and mortar fire, he gave first aid to many wounded men, in most cases without cover or



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concealment, and also rendered great assistance in carrying a number of casualties to the rear or to defilated places of safety. Entered service from Texas.

Tec 5 Edwin Larson, 37173208, Inf, United States Army. During the period 9-20 June 1944 this soldier operated as a lineman over very difficult terrain known to the enemy and, often under heavy mortar and machine pistol fire. He operated many times with the leading echelons of troops and while severe casualties were sustained. During the assault on \* \* \*, France and in later action against \* \* \*, he maintained excellent wire communication under fire. His skill, devotion to duty and efficiency were outstanding. Entered service from Minnesota.

Pfc Frank S. Hartman, 33484506, Med Dept, United States Army. On 10 June 1944 Pfc Hartman led aid men and litter bearers into a shelled position being abandoned by an Infantry company. Although troops were withdrawing and he had been told it was impossible to evacuate casualties, he remained to make a thorough search for casualties, was the last man to leave and reported promptly upon departure that no men were left who could be treated. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

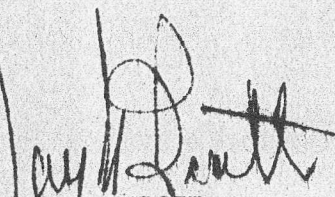
IV. AWARD OF SOLDIERS MEDAL. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 the Soldiers Medal is awarded the following named enlisted man for heroism in northern France not involving actual conflict with an enemy:

Tec 5 Robert S. Schuetz, 37156394, FA, United States Army. On 14 June 1944 an airplane crashed on its takeoff and began to burn. Disregarding the impending explosion, Tec 5 Schuetz rushed to the plane and extricated the observer who was still alive before the gasoline tank exploded. His fearlessness and prompt action saved the life of the airplane observer who would otherwise have burned to death in a few moments. Entered service from Kansas.

By command of Major General LANDRUM:

ROBERT L. BACON,  
Col, GSC,  
CofS.

OFFICIAL:

  
RAY C. SCOTT,  
Lt Col, AGD,  
Adj Gen.

Distribution: "B"

TAG, Attn: Decorations and  
Awards Br, Munition Bldg, Wash, DC--3  
CG ETOUSA -----2  
CG FUSA, Attn: G-1 Misc Sec APO 230-1  
O concerned-----2

Ea EM concerned-----2  
Ea Orgn concerned-----2  
Div PRO-----2  
G-1 Sec -----1