

R E S T R I C T E D

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

17 August 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 39

I. AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Silver Star is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men for gallantry in action in northern France:

359
CAPTAIN DONALD B. HUTCHENS, 0413899, Inf, United States Army. On 6 July 1944 when his company had reached its objective which they were to organize and secure, they encountered very heavy enemy mortar and artillery concentrations. Troops on the flank fell back and the enemy began a counterattack. Capt Hutchens rapidly organized his position and in order to better direct his company, took an exposed position in a tree from which he not only supervised the defense but directed mortar fire to repel the counterattack. When enemy fire clipped off the limb on which he was resting, knocking him to the ground, he immediately climbed back into the tree and continued to direct the fire. Later, he personally went to the right front of the sector being heavily pressed and assisted in repelling the attack by personally throwing hand grenades at the advancing enemy troops. His action was an inspiration to the men and in keeping with the highest traditions of the military spirit. Entered service from Oregon.

359
1ST LT ALBERT E. HART, 01315307, Inf, United States Army. On 6 July 1944 when his company was extremely hard pressed, Lt Hart worked himself to an exposed position where he knocked out an enemy machine gun. When the enemy began to counterattack, Lt Hart ordered the men to hold position and directed the fire to repel the counterattack. When his troops showed signs of wavering, Lt Hart grabbed two hand grenades, maneuvered to a position from which he could reach an enemy gun and, although knocked down by an enemy hand grenade, he continued on his mission and knocked out the machine gun, forcing the enemy to withdraw. When he encountered two other machine gun positions, he placed himself in a position where he could direct friendly mortar fire on them and silenced them. This gallant action of Lt Hart's contributed greatly to the successful defense of the position and was an example of the highest traditions of the military spirit. Entered service from New Jersey.

359
CAPTAIN EDWARD R. LIENHART, 0355003, Inf (then 1st Lt) United States Army. On 5 July 1944 when his company was held up by heavy enemy fire and one of the platoons was greatly depleted by losses, Capt Lienhart worked his way along the hedgerow alone, rounded up twelve prisoners including one officer and brought them back to the

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(Sec I Award of Silver Star, GO 39 Hq 90th Inf Div 17 Aug 44 contd)

company. Turning them over to the guard to take them to the rear, he returned to the hedgerow again alone and returned some time later with six prisoners including another officer. Sending them to the rear, he sought out three friendly tanks which had retired to avoid anti-tank fire and directed them toward this position which resulted in the capture of the strong point and made it possible to advance his company. Entered service from South Dakota.

339
T Sgt Albert Lowe, 35459989, Inf (then Sgt) United States Army. On 4 July 1944 Sgt Lowe, advancing with other members of his company, encountered a defended enemy CP. He, with two other members of his company, moving out in advance of their platoon, rapidly charged through the enemy position, killing one officer and six other members of the garrison; capturing one officer and twenty-three others, seven machine guns, three machine pistols, eight rifles and five pistols; rioting the garrison and rapidly taking the position. Entered service from Kentucky.

359
Sgt John K. McGuire, 42023405, Inf, (then Pvt) United States Army. On 5 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sgt McGuire was acting as assistant squad leader. Noting enemy machine guns holding up their attack, he shifted to a position some sixty yards from his foxhole, leaving the squad in position. He crawled thirty yards to place himself in position to use rifle grenades against the enemy machine guns. When the rifle grenade failed to detonate, he crawled to within close proximity of the machine gun position, which was then firing, and threw a hand grenade into the machine gun nest, killing three of the enemy gun crew and dispersing the remainder. Entered service from New York.

359
Sgt Elzy F. Moss, 35258395, Inf (then Pfc) United States Army. On 6 July 1944 Sgt Moss, with his platoon, was holding a defensive position against powerful and repeated counterattacks. The enemy succeeded in placing a machine gun at a point which threatened the platoon's position. Sgt Moss, acting at the time as a rifleman, crawled through a hedgerow onto a road and worked himself to a position close to the enemy gun where he threw five hand grenades and thereby wiping out the machine gun nest single handed. Sgt Moss' aggressiveness and determination was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military spirit and an inspiration to the members of his platoon. Entered service from Kentucky.

II. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF BRONZE STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded posthumously to the following named officer for bravery in action in northern France:

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(Sec II Posthumous Award of Bronze Star, GO 39 Hq 90th 17 Aug contd)

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1ST LT FRANK A. SPADAVECCHIA, 01311442, Inf, United States Army. On 5 July 1944 when his company's position was exposed to an attack from the flank, Lt Spadavecchia learned that a companion had been wounded and that at the time was in "no man's land" with a mortar. Lt Spadavecchia crawled seventy-five yards into "no man's land" under enemy machine gun fire. Finding his wounded companion had died, he retrieved the mortar, crawled back to his position and set up the mortar in time to repel a counterattack and maintain the position. Lt Spadavecchia was killed in a later action. Entered service from California.

III. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6 Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded the following named officers and enlisted men for bravery in action in northern France:

359
CAPTAIN ORWIN C. TALBOTT, 024617, Inf, United States Army. On 5 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * *, France, when his company, after heavy fighting, was greatly reduced in strength, Capt Talbott rallied the men, frequently exposing himself to the continuous machine gun and mortar fire. He reassured his men of the situation and personally conducted artillery fire in the absence of an artillery officer so that his depleted organization was able to effectively break up an enemy attack and continue to hold the position. Entered service from California.

359
CAPTAIN JOHN L. GASKINS, 0384173, Inf, United States Army. On 7 July 1944 while occupying a defensive position then under heavy attack of the enemy and receiving artillery and mortar fire, troops on his flank began falling back. Capt Gaskins left his foxhole and moved along the line, reassuring the men and ordering them to stay in position. He then rallied members of an adjacent unit, placing them back on the line and stabilizing the position so that it was able to repel counterattacks. Entered service from South Carolina.

359
CAPTAIN JOHN S. FISK, 0413891, Inf, United States Army. On 7 July 1944 when units which he was supporting with his machine gun and heavy weapons were attacked and driven back, Capt Fisk voluntarily left his foxhole and rallied the retreating troops while under artillery and machine gun fire. He continued to move from position to position reassuring the men and rallying members of adjacent units and thereby was able to maintain the position. Entered service from Oregon.

359
1ST LT DANIEL H. HOWELL, 0503301, Inf, United States Army. On 15 July 1944 when a truck of his regiment loaded with ammunition received a direct hit from an enemy shell igniting the ammunition, Lt Howell fought the fire until it was extinguished notwithstanding the great threat to his personal safety and the continued shelling of the enemy on the position, thereby preventing destruction of other ammunition in the vicinity and damage to materiel. Entered service from Texas.

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359
1ST LT ROBERT C. DuFUIS, 01310176, Inf, United States Army. On 7 July 1944, Lt DuFuis was given the mission of reconnoitering enemy positions which were holding up his unit. To determine enemy dispositions, he led a patrol and, although it became somewhat dispersed, he continued the mission and located three different groups of enemy machine guns, bringing back information that was necessary to the successful capture of the hill which was under attack. Entered service from Oregon.

359
2D LT EMANUEL M. STRAUSS, 0460005, Inf, United States Army. On 5 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * *, France, while his unit was holding a position, it received a heavy counterattack which somewhat disorganized his platoon. He quickly rallied to the situation and organized the platoon and was able to repel three more counterattacks. Lt Strauss not only retained control under difficult circumstances but directed fire of mortar units in his vicinity and furnished information to the artillery, pulling it at times so within fifty yards of his position, thus assisting in breaking up the counterattacks and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Entered service from South Carolina.

359
T Sgt Gaines E. Staggs, 34280518, Inf (then Pvt) United States Army. During the period 14 to 21 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * *, France, when his platoon leader had become a casualty, Sgt Staggs took command of the platoon when senior leaders failed to do so. During this period he continued to act in the capacity of leadership until heavy casualties necessitated the combining of his platoon with another platoon at which time he assumed the duties of platoon sergeant of the combined platoons. His acceptance of these responsibilities beyond his grade at a critical time greatly contributed to the successful defense of the position by his unit. Entered service from Tennessee.

359
T Sgt William A. Ray, 17013316, Inf, United States Army. On 6 July 1944 Sgt Ray was commanding a machine gun platoon when his company was strongly counterattacked. In addition to his own platoon, he immediately took command of the riflemen in that vicinity and successfully repulsed the counterattack and personally used hand grenades against eight enemy soldier who tried to reach his position, killing two, injuring one and taking one prisoner. Sgt Ray's individual heroism so encouraged the riflemen in his vicinity that he was able to effect reorganization and hold the position against another counterattack in greater strength. Entered service from Arkansas.

309
T Sgt Orlington A. Brechtel, 37155074, Inf (then S Sgt) United States Army. On 5 July 1944 when his company was ordered to withdraw to a new position due to heavy enemy fire, the withdrawal became somewhat disorganized due to a platoon leader being wounded. Sgt Brechtel, seeing the threatened disorder, on his own initiative, took command of the troops in his vicinity, conducted them to a new position and assembled other troops in the area where he organized and successfully defended the new position. Entered service from South Dakota.

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357
Sgt James R. Thomson, 37169551, Inf, United States Army. When Sgt Thomson's unit touched the beach on "D" day, it grounded a considerable distance out in the water and the first vehicles which attempted to land stalled and blocked the ramp of the landing craft. Sgt Thomson waded ashore in very deep water, secured assistance and returned in the water to the craft. There, on his own initiative and while the beach and the craft were under fire from enemy artillery, took the responsibility and assisted vehicles ashore and directed the landing of equipment and ammunition. Entered service from North Dakota.

9
Tec 4 Troy L. Kuykendall, 38147235, Med Dept, United States Army. On 9 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * *, France, when informed that three wounded men were trapped in a tank, Tec 4 Kuykendall went forward with two companions to aid the wounded men. The area at this time was under very heavy enemy artillery fire. Tec 4 Kuykendall succeeded in giving first aid to two of the men and directed them to walk to the rear. It took a considerably longer time to remove the third man who was fastened in the forward compartment and badly wounded but they successfully removed him and completed the evacuation although the position was under fire. Entered service from Texas.

9
Tec 4 Austin E. Preble, 37155434, Med Dept, United States Army. During the period 13-14 June 1944 in the vicinity of * * *, France, when his platoon had been pinned down by heavy artillery fire and three of his comrades had been seriously wounded, Tec 4 Preble ran 150 yards under heavy artillery fire and rendered first aid to his wounded comrades. When this was completed, he found fourteen wounded in the same field and immediately proceeded to aid and dress the wounds and administer to the dying and stayed with them under continuous fire until they were evacuated to safety. Entered service from Nebraska.

9
Tec 4 Michael Chedrik, 33829857, Med Dept (then Tec 5) United States Army. On 3 July 1944 when his company had halted and come under concentrated fire from enemy artillery, they sustained heavy casualties. A member of his unit was wounded seriously in "no man's land" and Tec 4 Chedrik crawled 90 yards, placed him on his shelter-half and dragged him to the rear. Thereafter, Tec 4 Chedrik made five other trips, each time returning with a wounded man. All of these trips were made in an area swept by machine gun fire. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

9
Tec 4 Orville R. Steele, 37172466, Inf (then Pfc) United States Army. When Tec 4 Steele's unit touched the beach on "D" day, it grounded a considerable distance out in the water and the first vehicles which attempted to land stalled and blocked the ramp of the landing craft. Tec 4 Steele waded ashore in very deep water, secured assistance and returned in the water to the craft. There, on his own initiative and while the beach and the craft were under fire from enemy artillery, took the responsibility and assisted vehicles equipment and ammunition ashore. Entered service from North Dakota.

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9 Tec 4 Russell D. Smith, 37190291, Inf, (then Pfc) United States Army. When Tec 4 Smith's unit touched the beach on "D" day, it grounded a considerable distance out in the water and the first vehicles which attempted to land stalled and blocked the ramp of the landing craft. Tec 4 Smith waded ashore in very deep water, secured assistance and returned in the water to the craft. There, on his own initiative and while the beach and the craft were under fire from enemy artillery, took the responsibility and assisted vehicles, equipment and ammunition ashore. Entered service from Iowa.

9 Tec 5 Alfred C. Wood, 34442522, Med Dept, United States Army. On 4 July 1944 in * * *, France, Tec 5 Wood, while with his platoon under heavy artillery and machine gun fire, was pinned down. With complete disregard for his own safety, he crawled 125 yards to reach five wounded men of his company to whom he rendered first aid and attempted to carry them to the rear. Additional fire further injured the men he was attempting to evacuate. Notwithstanding this, Tec 5 Wood continued his efforts and with another man evacuated eight men from the area to a place of safety approximately 800 yards to the rear. Entered service from Georgia.

9 Pfc George Lee, 36703440, Inf, United States Army. On 5 July 1944 when his unit was subjected to intermittent artillery fire and his company was pinned down by machine gun fire, his sergeant was hit by fragments from an artillery shell. Pfc Lee, without regard for his own safety and disregarding the artillery fire, left his foxhole and crawled about 150 yards and dragged his sergeant back to a place of safety where he administered first aid and stopped the bleeding. Entered service from Illinois.

315-Mul
9 Pfc James F. Kimmel, 34624432, Med Dept, United States Army. On 9 July 1944 when informed that three wounded men were trapped in a tank, Pfc Kimmel went forward with two companions to aid the wounded men. The area at this time was under very heavy enemy artillery fire. Pfc Kimmel succeeded in giving first aid to two of the men and directed them to walk to the rear. It took a considerably longer time to remove the third man who was fastened in the forward compartment and badly wounded, but they successfully removed him and completed the evacuation although the position was under fire. Entered service from Mississippi.

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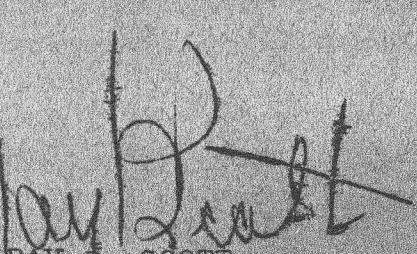
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Pfc Todd McIntyre, 38125611, Inf, United States Army. On 12 July 1944 when two of his companions were seriously wounded and their position was subject to enemy shelling, Pfc McIntyre, disregarding his own safety, made two trips to lead the wounded men 125 yards to the rear. There he sought out aid men and personally assisted in recovering supplies in order to complete the treatment of the wounded men. Entered service from Texas.

By command of Brigadier General McLAIN:

JOHN C. WHITCOMB,
Col, Inf,
Actg CofS.

OFFICIAL:



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

- Distribution: "B"
- TAG, Attn: Decorations and Awards
 - Br, Munitions Bldg, Wash, D C - - - 3
 - CG ETOUSA - - - - - 2
 - CG TUSA - - - - - 1
 - Ea Orgn concerned - - - - - 2
 - Ea O and EM concerned - - - - - 2
 - Div PRO - - - - - 2
 - G-1 Sec - - - - - 1