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

18 August 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 40

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:

712
1ST LT MARSHALL T. WARFIELD, JR, 01015240, Inf, ** Tank Bn, United States Army. On 8 August 1944 in the vicinity of ***, France, Lt Warfield was leading a reconnaissance platoon riding in a $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton truck, advancing in the rear of a light tank platoon which was leading a task force. Upon reaching a turn in the road, an enemy anti-tank weapon fired on and hit the leading tank which the crew immediately abandoned. Unable to bring fire from other sources, Lt Warfield worked himself forward to the disabled tank, founds its gun unimpaired and used it to knock out the enemy gun and ammunition truck. This gallant action permitted the column of the task force to advance rapidly and facilitated the mission of the whole force and was in keeping with the best traditions of the military spirit. Entered service from Maryland.

712
1ST LT HARRY E. COE, 01287481, Inf, **, Tank Bn, United States Army. On 8 August 1944 when leading the advance in the column of a task force marching on ***, France, Lt Coe's tank was hit and disabled by an enemy anti-tank gun. He led the attack by a flanking movement against the anti-tank gun and forced it to retire and took over another tank of his platoon and continued to lead the column. Upon reaching ***, this tank was also knocked out by a high velocity gun whereupon Lt Coe, with the remaining member of his crew who was not a casualty, on his own initiative, joined the other troops and continued to lead the attack until the resistance was cleared. His gallant action was a fine example of determination and resistance and was in keeping with the high traditions of the military spirit. Entered service from Nebraska.

712
2D LT JAMES R. GIBSON, 01015643, Cav, ** Tank Bn, United States Army. On 3 July 1944 when his company was supporting an attack against enemy mortar and machine gun fire, Lt Gibson reached a point which was under heavy fire and his companion dismounted to reconnoiter the area. Lt Gibson's companion was severely wounded, resulting in the loss of his arm. The area was covered by such intense fire that aid men were unable to reach the wounded soldier. Lt Gibson, disregarding the danger to himself, dismounted in the face of heavy enemy fire and from the relative security of his tank but at a great personal risk, administered first aid to the wounded soldier and then carried him back to a place of safety in the rear. His gallant action saved the life of the soldier. Entered service from South Carolina.

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(Sec I Award of Silver Star GO 40 Hq 90th Inf Div 18 Aug 44 contd)

712
Sgt Herman Pacione, 36004617, Inf, ** Tank Bn, United States Army. On 23 July 1944 when his battalion was in position, Sgt Pacione was sent out on a reconnaissance mission with his Major and two Lieutenants and the party came under heavy mortar fire. All four members of the party were wounded including Sgt Pacione. After his aid men took care of the three officers, Sgt Pacione noticed a soldier lying in a foxhole nearby badly wounded. Enemy machine gun fire was so intense that aid men were unable to reach the wounded soldier. Although wounded himself, Sgt Pacione crawled to the foxhole and pulled the injured man to cover where first aid was administered. After receiving first aid for his own wounds, Sgt Pacione returned to his tank and continued his job, refusing to be evacuated. This gallant action of Sgt Pacione was an inspiration to his companions and contributed materially to the success of the operation. Entered service from Illinois.

358
Sgt George W. Nelson, 37438461, Inf, (then Pfc) United States Army. On 8 July 1944 in the darkness of an early morning action, Sgt Nelson and a companion heard what they believed to be two tanks approaching their lines. Knowing that no anti-tank guns were in the vicinity, they voluntarily left their protected positions and worked their way to where they had a clear field of fire covering the unprotected approach to their lines. Withholding their fire, they waited until the enemy armored vehicles approached within thirty-five feet when they opened fire, knocking out both armored vehicles. During the entire action the enemy was sweeping the zone with small arms and mortar fire. This gallant action on the part of Sgt Nelson is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and prevented the enemy armored vehicles from penetrating our lines. Entered service from Minnesota.

344
Cpl Jack A. Fitzwater, 18086824, FA, United States Army. On 4 July 1944 when his battalion was supporting the advance of the Infantry south of ***, France, it came under heavy and continuous enemy mortar fire. The forward observer established an observation post at a favorable position. This position was immediately taken under heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire and as a result, the communication wire was cut in many places. Cpl Fitzwater, realizing the importance of the situation, left his foxhole and rather than undertake to repair the numerous breaks, rapidly established a new line in a zone under continuous enemy fire and while other troops were in their dug-in positions and receiving casualties. After the wire was laid, it was again cut and Cpl Fitzwater again proceeded to make repairs. A companion with him was killed. Fragments tore holes in his field jacket and his fatigue trousers but he continued on his mission until the repair was made and the communications restored thereby greatly assisting the resumption of fire on the areas from which the mortar fire was coming until the Infantry accomplished their mission. Entered service from Oklahoma.

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Tec 5 William Rumick, 38070650, FA (then Pvt) United States Army. On 14 June 1944 near * * *, France, when the regiment which his FA battalion was supporting, was attacking the town under heavy machine gun and mortar fire, the forward observer for the artillery who had occupied an observation post, was unable to use his radio because of interference and at a critical time the wire line was cut. Although the route back along the wire line was under heavy small arms and mortar fire, Tec 5 Rumick, disregarding his own personal safety, left his foxhole near the OP, moved along the line in the area covered by the mortar fire where other troops were dug in, located and repaired the break and thereby restored communication and contributed materially to the resumption of the advance by the Infantry. Entered service from Oklahoma.

344

Pfc Sylvester T. Snaza, 37171654, FA, United States Army. On 6 July 1944, Pfc Snaza, a lineman of the * * FA Bn, was with a group which had established an observation post on a hill in the vicinity of * * *, France and was getting observation important to the operation. The position received very heavy mortar fire and the line back to the batteries was cut about 100 yards east of the OP. Realizing the importance of communication, Pfc Snaza and one companion made their way rapidly to the zone swept by mortar fire, located the breach in the line and repaired it thereby restoring communication at a critical time. Pfc Snaza's gallant action enabled the artillery to silence enemy mortars and permitted the Infantry in that zone to resume the advance. Entered service from North Dakota.

358

Pfc John F. Welborn, 34515897, Inf, United States Army. On 23 July 1944, after his battalion had a serious engagement and had been forced back to a new position leaving many wounded on the battle field, Pfc Welborn initiated an effort to recover the wounded in full view of the enemy. Disregarding the threat of enemy fire, he voluntarily went into "no man's land" to remove the wounded to a place of safety. His example was an inspiration to his companions and four others followed him. They successfully removed several of the wounded men before they were driven from the field by enemy fire. Pfc Welborn's initiative, courage and gallant action was an inspiration not only to those who followed his example but to those who witnessed his actions. Entered service from South Carolina.

344

Pfc Raymond D. Brown, 38080109, FA, United States Army. On 6 July 1944, Pfc Brown, a lineman of the * * FA Bn, was with a group which had established an observation post on a hill in the vicinity of * * *, France and was getting observation important to the operation. The position received very heavy mortar fire and the line back to the batteries was cut about 100 yards east of the OP. Realizing the importance of communication, Pfc Brown and one companion made their way rapidly to a zone swept by mortar fire, located the breach in the line and repaired it thereby restoring communication at a critical time. Pfc Brown's gallant action enabled the artillery to silence enemy mortars and permitted the Infantry in that zone to resume the advance. Entered service

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315
Eng
Pvt Roy R. Brakebill, 39397588, CE, United States Army. On 12 July 1944 when his company came under heavy enemy artillery fire and an ammunition truck was hit and set on fire causing numerous explosions, several casualties were sustained from the enemy fire and exploding shells. One casualty near the burning ammunition truck had an arm almost completely torn from his body by a shell fragment and was losing blood rapidly. The aid men were unable to cross the hedgerow and go to the assistance of the wounded man due to the heavy barrage and the exploding shells on the ammunition truck. Pvt Brakebill, disregarding his own personal safety, jumped the hedgerow and ran rapidly to the injured man, pulled him to a place of safety and stayed with him until the barrage ceased and he could be evacuated. His gallant action saved the life of his companion and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Missouri.

315
Eng
Pvt Boris Krestoff, 19084985, CE, United States Army. On 9 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * *, France, Pvt Krestoff was acting as an assistant observer for the mortar section. Although his position was under constant shelling by enemy mortars and artillery, Pvt Krestoff made eight trips to the CP located 200 yards north and to the rear of his outpost, locating and repairing breaks in the telephone wire over a route which was exposed to small arms fire as well as enemy mortars. By keeping his line in operation, his action materially aided in repulsing a strong enemy counterattack. On his ninth trip to repair the wire, Pvt Krestoff was seriously wounded and later evacuated. Pvt's Krestoff's gallant action was a fine example to his companions and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from California.

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

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1ST LT JOSEPH P. GODFREY, 01169534, FA (then 2d Lt) United States Army. On 7-8 July 1944, Lt Godfrey showed exceptional ability, diligence and perseverance as a forward observer for an artillery battalion in pushing his observation post well forward, personally staying well up with the Infantry, encouraging their efforts and setting an example of courage and aggressiveness. Although exhausted from continuous efforts during the night and day to keep up artillery support with the Infantry, he declined advice to return to the rear for a short rest and continued until the Infantry had successfully accomplished its mission. His aggressive leadership and professional skill contributed highly to this end. Entered service from New Hampshire.

R E S T R I C T E D

(Sec II Award of Bronze Star GO 40 Hq 90th Inf Div 18 Aug 44 contd)

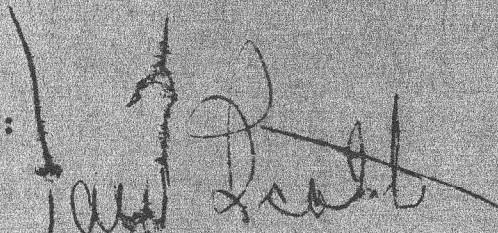
312
1ST LT PAUL P. FLYNN, O1175115, FA (then 2d Lt) United States Army. On 5 July 1944 Lt Flynn was acting as forward observer for his battalion near * * *, France, reporting Infantry advances. A flank movement was attempted and Lt Flynn volunteered to accompany the Infantry in order that it might receive very close artillery support. When the Infantry received a counterattack from enemy infantry and tanks, Lt Flynn pushed himself well forward with the leading elements of the enveloping company and was able to bring effective fire on the enemy counterattack, covering the withdrawal of our troops to a position which they were able to hold until the attack could be reorganized and again push forward. Entered service from Illinois.

315
Tec 5 Ruben E. Cook, 37492072, CE, (then Pvt) United States Army. Near the enemy held town of * * *, France, on 16 June 1944, Tec 5 Cook, in company with members of a platoon of Engineers, was caught in a field by enemy mortar and machine gun fire. Tec 5 Cook, seeing his companion wounded by mortar fire and paralyzed from the waist down, stopped and bandaged the soldier's wounds, stopping the blood flow. Being unable to remove him, Tec 5 Cook improvised a tourniquet from the sling of his rifle. Slowly he dragged the wounded man under intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire to the safety of a hedgerow some thirty-five yards away. Entered service from Missouri.

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 FM concerned - - - - - 2
- Div PRO - - - - - 2
- G-1 Sec - - - - - 1