

Sgt Wheeler

R E S T R I C T E D

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

30 August 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 49

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 for gallantry in action in northern France:

✓ MAJ LEROY R. POND, 0370275, Inf, (then Capt) United States Army. On 8 July 1944 the enemy attacked in great force with tanks and Infantry completely cutting off Major Pond's Battalion. He quickly organized his Battalion for defense, climbed a tree and directed Artillery fire until the Artillery liaison officer could take over this function. Although under heavy enemy fire he moved from place to place checking the position of his units and encouraging the men to hold until relief arrived. His courage and coolness so inspired the men that although isolated for 38 hours he held the position and repulsed each counterattack. His gallantry, courage and determination under extremely difficult circumstances were outstanding and in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Arkansas.

✓ CAPT CLIFFORD E. THOMPSON, 0385363, CE, United States Army. On 17 August 1944 near * * * France, when elements of his Company were engaged in combat with the enemy defending a road block they came under a heavy enemy mortar and Artillery fire with excellent enemy observation. Two enemy tanks had succeeded in getting into the position by a flanking movement and brought heavy fire on the road block. When some of the supporting troops began to fall back, Capt Thompson immediately and with disregard to his own personal safety moved from position to position under fire encouraging the men to remain and placing them in a favorable position to defend. He then directed anti-tank fire at the enemy tanks putting two of them out of action. His devotion to duty and disregard of his own safety was an inspiration to those who saw his action and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Illinois.

II. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6 Third U. S. Army, cs, the Soldier's Medal is awarded to the following named enlisted men for heroism, not involving actual conflict with an enemy, in northern France:

M Sgt Clarence L. Wheeler, 6211493, FA, United States Army. On 22 July 1944 an enemy shell set fire to two trucks containing 105mm ammunition. Sgt Wheeler with disregard for his own personal safety procured a fire extinguisher, rushed to the burning trucks in which ammunition was then exploding and succeeded in bringing the fire under control. By his cool and courageous act he prevented the total amount of ammunition in the trucks from exploding, thereby

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saving the lives of members of his unit who were nearby. Entered
service from Oklahoma.

T Sgt Weldon F. Jones, 38024570, Inf, United States Army.
On 7 June 1944, the ship in which he was being transported to
France was hit in Compartment 5, containing his Company. The ex-
plosion caused heavy timber to become dislodged, blocking the
hatch and injuring several men. While others were abandoning the
ship, Sgt Jones on his own initiative and in disregard for his own
personal safety, remained in the hold and assisted three injured
companions by removing the beams which were pinning them down and
assisted them on deck thereby saving their lives. Entered service
from Oklahoma.

Pfc Marvin N. Jansen, 38155054, Inf, (then Pvt) United States
Army. On 7 June 1944, the ship in which he was being transported to
France was hit in Compartment 5, containing his Company. The ex-
plosion caused heavy timber to become dislodged, blocking the
hatch and injuring several men. While others were abandoning the
ship, Pfc Jansen on his own initiative and in disregard for his own
personal safety, remained in the hold and assisted three injured
companions by removing the beams which were pinning them down and
assisted them on deck thereby saving their lives. Entered service
from Texas.

Pvt Coleman C. Howell, 38178478, FA, United States Army. On
5 July 1944 near * * * France, a trailer towed by a truck in
which six cannoneers were riding, caught fire due to a short circuit
in an electric wire. The trailer was loaded with high explosives
and the fire threatened to spread rapidly. Pvt Howell with complete
disregard for his own personal safety leaped into the flames, dis-
connected the trailer enabling the truck to pull away to a place of
safety and saving the lives of the six enlisted men. Entered service
from Arkansas.

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
to the following named officers and enlisted men for bravery in
action in northern France:

✓ CAPT DONALD J. HUCKABY, 0305726, FA, United States Army.
During the period 6 - 9 August 1944, Capt Huckaby, a Battalion
S-2, coordinated forward and air observation of supporting units.
He consistently worked with forward elements, exposing himself
under fire to obtain observation and the thorough and precise
information he presented was of great assistance in completing
the operation. Entered service from Oklahoma.

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CAPT ROY E. SMITH, 0378466, FA, United States Army. On 8 July 1944 as liaison officer with a supported Infantry Battalion he repeatedly and consistently exerted great dilligence in bringing support to hard pressed Infantry troops. In numerous cases he disregarded his own safety going forward in spite of heavy enemy fire to obtain OP's and adjust Artillery fire. By his aggressive action the Battalion was able to repulse the enemy counterattack and coordinate its position on its objective. Entered service from Texas.

1ST LT WILLIAM R. MATHEWS, 0500490, FA, United States Army. On 2 August 1944 as an observer pilot in an advance into enemy territory, with very little or no screen of reconnaissance troops preceding the column, he quickly located enemy Artillery and mortar positions which held up the column enabling them to quickly reduce this resistance. He persisted in his mission despite the danger from enemy aircraft which were active in the area and the information he noted and transmitted to our troops greatly facilitated their advance. Entered service from Texas.

✓ 2D LT CHARLES L. CRABTREE, 01178746, FA, United States Army. On 8 August 1944, during an advance of his unit from * * France, to * * France, as forward observer for his Battalion, Lt Crabtree coordinated the activity of the tank platoon which had lost its commander during a critical phase of the operation. He proceeded under heavy mortar and small arms fire to an OP on which he could observe enemy action and direct fire on the enemy position and on their columns which were trying to escape from the pocket. His action contributed in large measure to their stopping and their eventual capture. Entered service from Illinois.

✓ 2D LT EDWARD R. EFAW, 01176946, FA, United States Army. On 8 August 1944, during an advance of a unit which his Battalion supported from * * to * * France, Lt Efav was a forward observer who consistently under enemy Artillery fire worked his way to positions of advantage for observation where he could quickly bring fire on enemy weapons. This reduced enemy road blocks and also knocked out one armored tank and two armored vehicles, enabling the column which his Artillery was supporting to advance rapidly and cut off the retreat of the enemy resulting in their eventual capture. Entered service from Wisconsin.

Sgt Kenneth L. Aune, 37172741, FA, United States Army. On 10 July 1944, Sgt Aune, as a liaison Sergeant with his Battalion under very critical situations, voluntarily maintained wire communications for his section. Although the wire was cut many times he under all conditions went out under heavy enemy fire to mend the breaks and inspired his men to the same determined effort. During this period he personally went back three times through mortar and Artillery fire, to repair breaks and restore communication. His diligence permitted communications at critical times when it was necessary to beat back enemy counterattacks in great strength. Entered service from Minnesota.

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Tec 4 Rupert E. Mansell, 19078314, FA, United States Army. From 6 to 9 August 1944 in the vicinity of * * France, during a rapid advance the communications became critical when the two columns which were moving on * * became separated because of a counterattack on the flank of one of the forces. At times it was necessary that his detail expose themselves and their post was not protected by friendly troops. On one such occasion they successfully blocked a route on which the enemy was trying to escape, killing the driver of an enemy vehicle and capturing an enemy officer who was attempting to break through the lines with valuable information of our dispositions. Entered service from California.

Cpl Walter S. Cagle, 6270761, FA, (then Pvt) United States Army. During the period 6 - 9 August 1944 in the vicinity of * * France, during a rapid advance the communications became critical when the two columns which were moving on * * became separated due to a counterattack. At times it was necessary that his detail expose themselves and their post was not protected by friendly troops. On one such occasion they successfully blocked a route on which the enemy was trying to escape, killing the driver of an enemy vehicle and capturing an enemy officer who was attempting to break through the lines with valuable information of our dispositions. Entered service from Texas.

Cpl Sebirn P. Rutherford, 38089521, FA, United States Army. On 10 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * * France, two soldiers in an Artillery OP, located in the attic of a house were hit and severely wounded. While the position was still under fire and disregarding his own personal safety Cpl Rutherford climbed into the attic and carried them from the position to a place of safety. Entered service from Texas.

Tec 5 Ray L. Ingham, 37678085, FA, (then Pvt) United States Army. On 7 August 1944 the liaison section adjusting fire on enemy tanks was hit by an enemy shell which killed one and wounded another officer of the section and wounded an enlisted man. Although the position was still under heavy fire, Tec 5 Ingham ran to the aid of the wounded man and succeeded in moving him from the place of danger. Entered service from Iowa.

Pvt Ralph E. Elliott, 38088101, FA, United States Army. On 10 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * * France, Pvt Elliott stayed at his OP, which was under fire, attempting to knock out an enemy field piece which was shelling our lines. During this mission his determination to remain at his post despite shelling of the position resulted in Pvt Elliott being severely wounded. His tenacity in staying at his position during this heavy fire to direct fire at enemy positions in spite of his wounds contributed materially to the success of the mission. Entered service from Oklahoma.

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IV. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR.

345 Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded to S Sgt Clement J. Knoll, 37171742, FA, United States Army, for extraordinary meritorious service from 6 August to 9 August 1944 against an enemy of the United States, in France. Entered service from North Dakota.

By command of Brigadier General McLAIN:

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

OFFICIAL:

F. W. Jones, Jr.
F. W. JONES, JR.,
Maj, AGD,
Asst Adj Gen.

- Distribution: "B"
- TAG, Attn Dec & Awards Br
 - Munitions Bldg, Wash D C - - - - 3
 - CG, ETOUSA - - - - 2
 - CG, Third US Army - - - - 1
 - Ea Orgn concerned - - - - 2
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 - Div PRO - - - - 2
 - G-1 Sec & Sgt Manchester - - - - 1