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

GENERAL ORDERS

5 September 1944

No. 54

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:

1ST LT BURROWES G. STEVENS, JR, 025950, Infantry, United States Army. On 5 August 1944 at * * France, the troops had the mission of securing a bridge. This bridge had been prepared for demolition by the Germans and a detail left to complete the demolition. Lt Stevens worked his platoon to a position to which it could be carried by assault and at the proper time gave the signal and personally led the assault on the bridge, which at the time was covered by small arms fire. He reduced the effectiveness of the enemy fire and charging it at a run prevented the enemy from completing the demolition, secured the bridgehead intact enabling tanks and heavy material to cross. Entered service from Georgia.

2D LT RICHMOND M. HAGGARD, 0887520, Infantry, (then T Sgt) United States Army. On 9 July 1944 at * * France, Lt Haggard commanded a machine gun platoon in an attack. The platoon suddenly came under intense small arms fire and received severe casualties, wiping out one gun crew. Lt Haggard courageously ran across the field still covered by hostile fire, recovered the gun and manned it himself. He kept the German position under fire, permitting his platoon to move to a more favorable position. It was not until the platoon was well in its new position that Lt Haggard rejoined his unit. This gallant action on the part of Lt Haggard was a fine example of devotion to duty, courage and determination and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Texas.

Sgt Raymond L. Nelson, 37171358, Infantry, United States Army. On 7 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * France, Sgt Nelson was in command of a heavy machine gun squad when all the men were either killed or wounded by enemy mortar, Artillery and small arms fire. Sgt Nelson manned the machine gun alone although still under fire and gave effective support to the attacking forces. Not until he was ordered by his platoon commander, would he abandon his mission or move his location. This gallantry in action is a fine example of courage and devotion to duty and is in keeping with the highest military traditions. Entered service from Minnesota.

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 men for bravery in action in northern France:

CHAPLAIN (CAPT) DONALD J. MURPHY, 0510928, United States Army. On 27 July 1944 near * * France, when his Battalion was moving across the * * river against an enemy position under fire, two companies suffered approximately ten per cent casualties. Some of the casualties were trapped in a field behind the line which remained under machine gun and mortar fire. Litter bearers were unable to reach the wounded men but Chaplain Murphy led

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two litter squads on to the field and successfully evacuated five seriously wounded men. Entered service from New York.

1ST LT ALEX J. GALLA, 01310093, Infantry, United States Army. On 26 July 1944 near * * France, when Lt Galla's Battalion was occupying a defensive position and under heavy Artillery fire, a noncommissioned officer of his platoon lost control of himself and was about to stampede his platoon, Lt Galla, sensing the situation, left his position and relative place of safety, grabbed the frantic man and ushered him out of the platoon area, reassuring his men and maintaining the position. Entered service from New York.

1ST LT WILLIAM J. KLEIN, JR, 01310262, Infantry, United States Army. During the period 6 - 7 August 1944 between * * and * * France, Lt Klein led his I & R platoon on reconnaissance ahead of the column and repeatedly ran into small enemy units which he attacked or by-passed. On the approach to * * he engaged his unit and captured thirteen prisoners gaining the praise of the leading units by his daring, initiative and aggressiveness. Entered service from New Jersey.

1ST LT REGINALD P. RYERSON, 01316927, Infantry, United States Army. On 8 August 1944 near * * France, Lt Ryerson showed exceptional courage and leadership by riding a tank and leading the accompanying Infantry in local actions against pockets of enemy resistance. His diligence resulted in the tank which he was accompanying knocking out one enemy gasoline truck, two command cars and an enemy AT gun. Entered service from Massachusetts.

1ST LT ARCHIE L. TODD, JR, 0460009, Infantry, United States Army. On 8 August 1944 in the vicinity of * * France, Lt Todd personally lead a small party against a small enemy force and captured a German Major and Lieutenant and caused the surrender of a larger group of Germans. Entered service from South Carolina.

2D LT EIMER A. LINDGREN, 01318683, Infantry, United States Army. On 7 August 1944 near * * France, Lt Lindgren moved forward under very heavy enemy fire and in an exposed position directed 81mm mortar fire against the enemy causing heavy casualties. This fire drove the enemy back causing them to abandon their equipment, which was later captured by friendly troops. This action on the part of Lt Lindgren aided the Infantry materially in carrying out their mission. Entered service from Iowa.

2D LT LAWRENCE C. OLSEN, 01317660, Infantry, United States Army. On 7 August 1944 near * * France, Lt Olsen by his aggressive action in directing fire against an enemy position which had driven a friendly AT gun from its position, enabled our troops to return and recover their weapon. Lt Olsen later guided a tank attack against the enemy position and took it. Entered service from Minnesota.

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1st Sgt Byron C. Simmerman, 37059440, Infantry, United States Army. On 12 June 1944 near * * France, Sgt Simmerman's Battalion launched an attack against an enemy position which was heavily supported by enemy Artillery and mortars. The communications Sergeant of his company was mortally wounded in the action. Although the position of the wounded man continued to be covered with fire, Sgt Simmerman thinking his life could be saved, exposed himself to fire from the enemy in order to reach and give assistance to the wounded man and although wounded himself in the action continued at his duty until evacuated. Entered service from Missouri.

T Sgt Evey G. Asher, 6663223, Infantry, United States Army. On 21 July 1944 near * * France, Sgt Asher's Battalion was occupying a defensive position with his platoon well forward as an out guard. Under heavy enemy fire Sgt Asher repaired eight breaks in the wire keeping communications open and allowing the action to succeed. Entered service from Ohio.

T Sgt Leonard J. Szczepkowski, 35009181, Infantry, United States Army. When Sgt Szczepkowski's Regiment was counterattacked by a strong enemy force, his mortar section was called on for an exceptionally heavy expenditure of ammunition. After firing steadily for one hour, the ammunition was very low. Sgt Szczepkowski organized carrying parties and diligently and persistently pushed ammunition supplies forward to the mortars. Enemy counterbattery brought the area under fire. Without regard for his personal safety, Sgt Szczepkowski personally led the parties into the shelled area and helped to prepare the ammunition for use. His coolness and leadership was vital to the success of the operation and assisted materially in backing up the counter-attack. Entered service from Ohio.

S Sgt James P. Blankenship, 38099424, Infantry, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 near * * France, when Sgt Blankenship was leading his squad in an attack, he found that the ammunition supply was nearly exhausted. The squad was also pinned down by enemy machine gun fire from five separate locations. Leaving his men in a firing position, Sgt Blankenship crawled to the rear, secured additional ammunition, brought it back enabling the squad to continue in action stopping the enemy advance. Entered service from Texas.

S Sgt Jim H. Kolos, 38155528, Infantry, United States Army. On 5 August 1944 near * * France, Sgt Kolos was in command of a heavy machine gun section engaged in an attack on the town. When the riflemen which he was supporting drew heavy fire, Sgt Kolos moved into the fire swept zone and led his men forward without support to a position from which he could deliver heavy fire on the enemy, and covered the reorganization of the rifle unit which under his continued support regrouped and resumed the attack, successfully crossing the river. Entered service from Texas.

S Sgt Chesterman C. Linley, 37722132, Infantry, United States Army. On 7 August 1944 in the vicinity of * * France, Sgt Linley was acting as platoon guide of a small force that came under a determined enemy counterattack. Sgt Linley held his force in position under heavy automatic weapon and mortar fire and kept the enemy from overrunning the Battalion CP. His force knocked out one machine gun, killed two officers and one enlisted man. Entered service

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S Sgt Raymond R. Ritz, 33457984, Infantry, United States Army. On 27 June 1944 near * * France, Sgt Ritz located an enemy motor pool out of range of his 81mm mortars. Sgt Ritz worked himself forward to a place of observation and relayed adjustments to the Artillery who destroyed the target. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

S Sgt Chester M. Shellhammer, 38128384, Infantry, United States Army. On 8 July 1944 near * * France, when Sgt Shellhammer's Battalion received a heavy counterattack, his mortar came under heavy enemy shelling. Notwithstanding which he continued to man his mortar and directed fire at the enemy position. When his section Sergeant was fatally wounded, he took charge of the section and maintained its position. He exhibited excellent leadership in a critical situation. Entered service from Oklahoma.

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 S Sgt Charlie H. Lancaster, 6968024, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious service in action against an enemy of the United States during the period 18 - 24 June 1944 in France. Entered service from Georgia.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded S Sgt Albert Van Cort, 37189005, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious service during the period 10 June to 10 August 1944 in action against an enemy of the United States in France. Entered service from Iowa.

By command of Brigadier General McLAIN:

JOHN C. WHITCOMB,
Col, GSC,
CofS.

OFFICIAL:

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

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CG, Third US Army, Attn: G-1 Misc Sec - - 1
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