

R E S T R I C T E D

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

6 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 55

1. AWARD OF OAK-LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, in addition to the Bronze Star previously awarded, an Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded the following named officer and enlisted men for bravery in action in northern France:

1ST LT JOHN M. McLEAN, 0422874, Infantry, United States Army. On 7 August 1944 near \* \* \* France, Lt McLean pushed his platoon under enemy fire to a favorable location to an OP in a house which was under fire of enemy tanks and so directed fire on the advancing Infantry that it was driven back and dispersed. On 8 August 1944 Lt McLean's units surprised an enemy motorized column on the road and he showed unusual capacity in speedily placing his platoon in action, placing fire directly on the column, causing the crews to abandon their vehicles, resulting in the killing or capturing of these crews. Entered service from California.

S Sgt Charlie H. Lancaster, 6968024, Infantry, United States Army. On 5 August 1944 near \* \* \* France, Sgt Lancaster's unit was under heavy small arms fire from the opposite bank of the \* \* \* river. A French civilian was caught between the fire of the two forces and severely wounded. Sgt Lancaster left his place of safety and went to the aid of the wounded Frenchman, taking him to a place where medical assistance could be rendered. Entered service from Georgia.

Sgt Richard L. Riley, 38126728, Infantry, (then Tec 5) United States Army. On 6 August 1944 near \* \* \* France, Sgt Riley was a wire crewman laying and maintaining wire in a very critical situation along a street in \* \* \* which was under small arms and mortar fire. Sgt Riley with disregard for his own safety kept the line repaired and extended forward. He has shown similar courage and persistence in laying and maintaining communications by wire, in numerous other situations involving hazardous work and hardships. Entered service from Oklahoma.

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:

CAPT LON K. REDMAN, 01298130, Infantry, (then 1st Lt) United States Army. On 5 July 1944 near \* \* \* France, Capt Redman was serving in the capacity of Battalion S-3 in the attack from \* \* \* to \* \* \*. Capt Redman was on duty without relief at the Battalion OP and under almost constant shell fire, he showed exceptional diligence in moving about among the front line units ascertaining their situation, giving directions, seeking out the stragglers and reorganizing them and returning them to their company. On finding a company in a state of disorganization, he immediately took command and placed it in a suitable position. His



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ingenuity, energy and sound judgment were of great assistance to his Battalion Commander and the success of the operation. Entered service from Florida.

1ST LT VINCENT D. SHEERAN, 01318582, Infantry, United States Army. On 12 June 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, when his unit after fighting heavily all day was very short of ammunition, rations and water, and had their supply cut off by the enemy, Lt Sheeran volunteered to lead a carrying party of 96 men to the rear during the cover of darkness to bring up supplies. Lt Sheeran made a personal reconnaissance of the route to be followed and was able to procure the necessary supplies, thus enabling his Battalion to accomplish their mission. Entered service from New York.

1ST LT RICHARD E. SMITH, 01305662, Infantry, (then 2d Lt) United States Army. During the period 5 - 7 August 1944, when acting as a forward observer for an 81mm mortar platoon, Lt Smith showed exceptional resourcefulness in selecting the OP and courage under enemy fire while on duty. During the attack on \* \* , he found a rifle squad stopped in its advance and personally led it forward in the face of heavy enemy small arms fire to seize its objective. Near \* \* , Lt Smith was called on to fire on a bridge across which the enemy was moving. As his mortars were engaged with other targets, he climbed aboard a friendly tank, directed its fire on the bridge, killing enemy personnel and forcing them from the bridge. Entered service from Texas.

S Sgt Armin W. Weseloh, 37153407, Infantry, United States Army. On 8 August 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, when a vehicle towing a trailer full of ammunition, demolitions, explosives and gasoline, was hit by an enemy shell and caught fire, the squad leader who was riding in the vehicle was wounded. Sgt Weseloh summoned an aid man and disregarding his own personal safety rescued the wounded man and evacuated him to a place of safety. Entered service from Kansas.

Sgt Luther S. Balog, 33457910, Infantry, United States Army. On 21 July 1944 south of \* \* France, Sgt Balog manned a machine gun supporting an advance of his unit. The enemy retaliated with heavy Artillery and small arms fire against his position. In spite of the fact that a shell cut a tree very near his position causing it to fall against his machine gun, Sgt Balog quickly extricated himself, readjusted his machine gun and resumed fire against the enemy greatly assisting the Infantry to continue on their mission. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

Cpl John W. Gay, 38126618, Infantry, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 in \* \* France, while acting with the point of advance guard into the town, Cpl Gay observed an enemy vehicle in the streets. He concealed his own vehicle and then attacked the enemy vehicle, knocking it out and killing the occupants. During the entire advance from \* \* to \* \* , he was aggressive and courageous in all actions. Entered service from Oklahoma.



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Pfc Johnnie R. Butler, 34784167, Infantry, United States Army. On 9 August 1944 near \* \* France, Pfc Butler, while acting as ammunition bearer for his company, continually showed aggressiveness and courage. When moving forward in a personnel carrier the rear end of the column in which he was riding was brought under enemy fire. Members of the crew immediately dispersed and took cover. Pfc Butler, disregarding his own safety, climbed back into the truck, unloaded ammunition, enabling a mortar to go rapidly into action neutralizing the enemy. Entered service from Florida.

Pfc Gilford E. Clark, 38146525, Infantry, United States Army. On 12 June 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, when Pfc Clark's company launched an attack against a strong position, he was first gunner of a machine gun crew moving forward under enemy fire. He was painfully wounded. Despite his wounds, he courageously persisted in continuing with the company until it gained its position where he assisted in setting up the gun under enemy fire and remained at his post during the remainder of the day and night. Entered service from Oklahoma.

Pfc Edward J. Cyr, 31066235, Infantry, United States Army. On 7 August 1944, Pfc Cyr was acting as driver and interpreter for his Company Commander. The Company was moving forward on medium tanks. Pfc Cyr, by moving ahead of the column was able to give information of a large group of enemy in a wood on the route of travel. On one occasion he encountered and helped knock out an enemy command car, capturing two German officers who gave vital information as to their troop dispositions. Entered service from Massachusetts.

Pfc Lester A. Olson, 37173501, Infantry, United States Army. During the period 8 - 9 August 1944 near \* \* France, Pfc Olson went on numerous reconnaissance missions, encountered two groups of enemy with whom he was obliged to fight. On numerous occasions during this advance of the Division from \* \* to \* \*, he drove through areas in which enemy Artillery and mortar fire was being received. to deliver messages or haul troops, thereby rendering unusually meritorious service with never failing courage. Entered service from Minnesota.

Pfc Benjamin F. Patton, 37155399, Infantry, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 near \* \* France, when the Infantry unit of which he was a part came under heavy enemy fire it suffered many casualties. While the town was still under fire, Pfc Patton went about the town locating injured men, giving them first aid and assisting in their evacuation. His courage and devotion to duty greatly relieved the tense situation. Entered service from Kansas.

Pfc Kermit V. Smith, 37190351, Infantry, United States Army. On 6 July 1944 near \* \* France, Pfc Smith consistently lead his squad in the advance and attack notwithstanding that on one occasion his rifle was shot from his hands and he was wounded. He bravely moved back from the spot, warned the Commanding Officer of the enemy and continued to the company CP acquainting them of the fact that enemy were in the right rear. Entered service from Iowa.



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Pvt Fedric C. Johnson, 38542818, Infantry, United States Army. On 2 August 1944 near \* \* France, when acting as point of advance guard of his company, Pvt Johnson's squad came in contact with the enemy and was pinned down. The squad leader was killed in the action and the unit suffered many casualties. Pvt Johnson assumed leadership of his squad and when relieved directed the remainder of his squad to the assembly position. He remained in position himself to ascertain an objective and adjust Artillery fire after the regular observer was pinned down. His observation resulted in the withdrawal of the enemy. Entered service from Texas.

Pvt Gerald D. Kamp, 35897929, Infantry, United States Army. On 21 July 1944 south of \* \* France, when manning a machine gun supporting an advance of his unit, the enemy retaliated with heavy Artillery and small arms fire against Pvt Kamp's position. In spite of the fact that a shell cut a tree very near his position causing it to fall against his machine gun, Pvt Kamp quickly extricated himself, readjusted his machine gun and resumed fire against the enemy greatly assisting the Infantry to continue on their mission. Entered service from Indiana.

Pvt Christopher K. Monahan, 12059116, Infantry, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 near \* \* France, when the Infantry unit of which Pvt Monahan was a part came under heavy enemy fire, it suffered many casualties. While the town was still under fire, Pvt Monahan went about the town locating injured men, giving them first aid and assisting in their evacuation. His courage and devotion to duty greatly relieved the tense situation. Entered service from New York.

Pvt Charles H. Penn, 37539804, Med Dept, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 near \* \* France, Pvt Penn was acting as aid man attached to an Infantry Battalion which was the advance guard of a larger force. The advance guard came under heavy fire near \* \* France, and an enemy counterattack caused many casualties. Pvt Penn on four different occasions and while the area was still under heavy small arms fire, went into the area and administered first aid to four wounded men and assisted in their evacuation. Entered service from Kansas.

III. AMENDMENT OF GO 54. So much of Sec II GO 54 this Hq, cs, as awards the Bronze Star to T Sgt Leonard J. Szczepkowski, 35009181, Infantry, United States Army, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

T Sgt Leonard J. Szczepkowski, 35009181, Infantry, United States Army. On 8 July 1944 near \* \* France, 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 counterattack. Entered service from Ohio.



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IV. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded MAJ WILLIAM E. DePUY, 0410595, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious service 5 August to 9 August 1944 in action against an enemy of the United States in France. Entered service from South Dakota.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded CAPT ALAN T. CALHOUN, 01284099, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious service 7 - 10 August 1944 in action against an enemy of the United States in France. Entered service from North Carolina.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded 1ST LT JOHN E. BLACKWOOD, 01298020, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious service on 5 August 1944 in action against an enemy of the United States in France. Entered service from California.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded 2D LT WILLIAM F. CASLER, 0532486, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious service during the period 7 - 9 August 1944 in action against an enemy of the United States in France. Entered service from Florida.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded WOJG JAMES M. KNOWLES, JR, W2108584, 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 Texas.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded Tec 4 Jesse L. Hughes, 37118854, 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.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded Tec 4 Raymond W. Steinbach, 38155684, Inf, 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 Texas.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded Tec 5 Vergil A. G. Johnson, 38099738, Infantry, (then Pfc) United States Army. For meritorious service on 10 August 1944 in action against an enemy of the United States in France. Entered service from Texas.



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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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