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R E S T R I C T E D

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

7 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 56

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 enlisted men for gallantry in action in northern France:

*ok*  
S Sgt John J. Czekovsky, 31039230, Infantry, United States Army. On 20 August 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, while in position waiting for friendly AT weapons to emplace in his vicinity he heard a track vehicle approaching. After it passed his position, he identified it and found it to be a German Mark V tank. Sgt Czekovsky seized his bazooka, ran to the side of the tank, fired into it and destroyed the tank. This gallant action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Massachusetts.

*ok*  
Cpl John J. Smrtnik, 35135490, \* \* TD Battalion, U. S. Army. On 17 August 1944 as a gunner on a Tank Destroyer he obtained information of two enemy tanks in position in the town. In order to fire at the tanks it was necessary that he expose the Tank Destroyer. Nevertheless Cpl Smrtnik decided to pull into the street and attempt to destroy the tanks. The enemy opened fire immediately and at point-blank range. Two rounds struck the Tank Destroyer and set the ammunition on fire. Notwithstanding the exploding ammunition, Cpl Smrtnik fired at one of the enemy tanks and destroyed it when his gun jammed. During this action, Cpl Smrtnik was severely wounded but continued on his duties until the disabled Tank Destroyer was in a place of safety. This gallant action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Ohio.

*ok*  
Cpl Bertram S. Washabaugh, 39079075, \* \* TD Battalion, U. S. Army. On 16 August 1944 in \* \* France, friendly troops had been forced back into the town by shelling and small arms fire. When an enemy tank appeared from the wood and approached the town, Cpl Washabaugh and one companion, upon their own initiative manned a three inch gun, exchanged direct fire with the tank and succeeded in knocking it out of action; this despite continuous withering fire which had caused the gun crew and other troops in the vicinity to seek shelter. Entered service from California.

*ok*  
Pfc Francis L. Hunsicker, 35527425, (then Pvt) \* \* TD Battalion, U.S. Army. On 16 August 1944 in \* \* France, friendly troops had been forced back into the town by shelling and small arms fire. When an enemy tank appeared from the wood and approached the town, Pfc Hunsicker and one companion, upon their own initiative manned a three inch gun, exchanged direct fire with the tank and succeeded in knocking it out of action; this despite continuous withering fire which had caused the gun crew and other troops in the vicinity to seek shelter. Entered service from Ohio.

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(Sec I Award of Silver Star GO 56 Hq 90th Inf Div 7 Sep 44 contd)

*ok*

Pvt Walter M. Griggs, 33903475, Infantry, United States Army. On 20 August 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, while his Company was in position, assisting in holding the encircled enemy forces, the enemy attempted to break through with two armored cars and three other vehicles. Pvt Griggs, armed with a bazooka and a carbine, left his post of safety and under enemy fire moved out into the open. Using his bazooka he knocked out the two armored cars forcing the other three vehicles to withdraw. This gallant action on the part of Pvt Griggs was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the service from Maryland.

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 enlisted man for bravery in action in northern France:

*C*

~~Pfc James R. Griffin, 38089978, Infantry, United States Army. During the period 6 - 7 July 1944, when as radio man during a heavy German counter-attack all the wire lines were cut by enemy fire, he maintained his radio and kept communications, despite heavy opposing fire. This enabled the supporting troops to break up the counterattack and hold their position. 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 to the following named ~~of~~ enlisted man for bravery in action in northern France:

*ok*

T Sgt Lawrence G. Speed, 37155121, Infantry, United States Army. On 17 August 1944 near \* \* France, Sgt Speed's platoon had been given the mission of supporting tanks to break through enemy lines to an encircled unit. When the detachment came under heavy enemy mortar fire, Sgt Speed in the absence of the platoon commander rallied his men, who had started to retreat, pushed them forward and supported the tanks which succeeded in accomplishing their mission and reestablishing communications with the isolated company. Entered service from South Dakota.

*ok*

T Sgt Joseph S. Stich, 35002705, Infantry, United States Army. On 20 August 1944 near ~~Cham~~ \* \* France, when his platoon leader became a casualty the enemy launched a strong counterattack using tanks supported by Artillery. Sgt Stich maintained his guns in position although supporting Infantry fell back and by his courage and determination succeeded in knocking out 2 enemy tanks. Entered service from Ohio.

*ok*

S Sgt Harold W. Dalby, 37171890, CE, (then Sgt) United States Army. On 9 July 1944 near \* \* France, when Sgt Dalby was acting as observer for the mortar section at a position which was being constantly shelled by Artillery and mortar fire, he was twice rendered unconscious by the concussion of near hits of enemy shells. So effected and dazed Sgt Dalby continued his observation which resulted in the Engineer mortar section knocking out 7 enemy machine guns and one section of three enemy mortars, repulsing a strong enemy counterattack. Entered service from North Dakota.



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(Sec III Award of Bronze Star GO 56 Hq 90th Inf Div 7 Sep 44 contd)

*ok*  
Sgt Frank H. Eimer, 37138425, Infantry, United States Army. On 17 August 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, he lead his squad under heavy enemy fire on an important patrol resulting in the capture of 14 prisoners and mopping up of the area assigned. Entered service from Missouri.

*ok*  
*W50*  
Sgt George R. Lambert, 11030995, \* \* Tank Destroyer Bn, United States Army, On 17 August 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, as a member of a tank destroyer gun crew, he moved the tank destroyer into a dangerous position. Although his vehicle was immediately struck twice by enemy fire, Sgt Lambert continued to direct the operation of his gun until one enemy tank was destroyed and the other withdrew. He then had the destroyer backed to a place of safety, where he assisted in extinguishing the fire and prevented its destruction. Entered service from Massachusetts.

*ok*  
Sgt Robert C. Latimer, 35135579, \* \* Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. On 18 August 1944 near \* \* France, when his tank destroyer came under fire from three enemy Mark IV tanks, his calmness and deliberation in directing fire on the 3 enemy tanks caused their destruction. Entered service from Ohio.

*ok*  
Sgt Oliver G. Lydick, 33017515, \* \* Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. On 18 August 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, while serving as a member of the pioneer platoon of his company, Sgt Lydick's aggressiveness and initiative in attacking an enemy force of approximately 100 troops defending the town of \* \* France, contributed greatly toward routing an enemy force. Although a companion car was almost immediately disabled, Sgt Lydick ordered it by-passed and advanced toward the enemy and while subjected to small arms fire stood up in the ring mount unprotected and manned the sub-machine gun. By his courageous act, Sgt Lydick assisted in killing 3 of the enemy, wounding 7, capturing 30 and expelling the remainder of the enemy force from the town. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

Amended by

Sec III 6092

*ok*  
~~Sgt Harold W. Scott, 36039675, \* \* Tank Destroyer Battalion, U. S. Army. On 16 August 1944, Sgt Scott was gun commander in a tank destroyer section supporting an attack on \* \* France. When a strong counterattack by the enemy drove our forces from the town, he maintained his gun in position enabling the retiring troops to form and rally around his position. Although enemy tanks were delivering a heavy volume of fire on his position and other members of his crew had sought safety in fox holes, Sgt Scott and one other companion kept up fire from the gun knocking out an enemy tank. His example of devotion to duty stopped the advance of the enemy and permitted our troops to form for counter-attack. Entered service from Illinois.~~

*ok*  
Sgt William Wallace, 35570952, Infantry, (then Cpl) United States Army. On 9 August 1944, Sgt Wallace was a mortar squad leader in a rapidly moving column on the way to \* \* \* France. On one occasion when the flank was hit suddenly and the column came under heavy small arms fire, Sgt Wallace remained with his truck, unloaded the mortar and brought it quickly into action. All other members of the squad had taken cover. This courageous action quickly neutralized the enemy fire and permitted the column to proceed. Entered service from Indiana.



R E S T R I C T E D

(Sec III Award of Bronze Star GO 56 Hq 90th Inf Div 7 Sep 44 contd)

*ok*  
Tec 4 Perry L. Pollert, 37138505, Infantry, United States Army. On 17 August 1944, in the vicinity of \* \* France, as a radio operator, he maintained radio communications although he was frequently under fire from enemy tanks and artillery. Enemy fire completely severed all other means of communications over a long period of time. Tec 4 Pollert's devotion to duty and courage was instrumental in the troops maintaining their position and beating off the counterattack. Entered service from Missouri.

*ok*  
Cpl Arthur J. Babineau, 31187300, Infantry, United States Army. On 17 August 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, he voluntarily drove his vehicle across a zone swept by fire from friendly and enemy tanks firing at each other in order to deliver an important message. Entered service from Massachusetts.

*ok*  
Cpl Earl W. Keenum, 18097136, CMP, United States Army. On 2 August 1944, in \* \* France, while directing traffic at a control post the column which he was directing came under enemy strafing. An ammunition truck was struck and caught fire threatening to explode and block the traffic. Cpl Keenum, without regard for his own safety, rushed to the truck secured the fire extinguisher and extinguished the flames, this permitted the resumption of traffic in a very short time. Entered service from Arizona.

*ok*  
Cpl Joe Logan, 35133410, \* \* Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. On 18 August 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, while serving as a gunner on a tank destroyer it came under fire from 3 German Mark IV tanks. Quickly locating one of the tanks, Cpl Logan destroyed it with one round. Unable to locate the other two tanks, he made contact with an Artillery observer and fired upon them by unobserved fire until they were reported destroyed. Entered service from Kentucky.

Amended by

*ok*  
Sec III GO 72 amended  
Cpl Orin L. Shirley, 39093882 \* \* Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. On 16 August 1944, near \* \* France, Cpl Shirley, a gunner in a tank destroyer section supporting an attack on \* \* France, a strong counterattack by the enemy drove our forces from the town. Cpl Shirley maintained his gun in position enabling the retiring troops to form and rally around his position. Although enemy tanks were delivering a heavy volume of fire on his position and other members of the crew had sought safety in fox holes, Cpl Shirley and one other companion kept up fire from the gun knocking out an enemy tank. His example of devotion to duty stopped the enemy advance and permitted our troops to form for a counterattack. Entered service from Oregon.

*ok*  
Tec 5 Berne Davis, 39385295, \* \* Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. On 18 August 1944, in the vicinity of \* \* France, while serving as a driver of a tank destroyer, Tec 5 Davis drove his vehicle into an exposed position while under fire from enemy tanks and remained until the enemy had been destroyed. Entered service from Washington.

*ok*  
Pfc Edward P. Cornell, 35619114, \* \* Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. On 18 August 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* France, Pfc Cornell was serving as a cannoneer on a tank destroyer which came under fire from 3 German Mark IV tanks. Pfc Cornell remained at his post courageously while subjected to heavy enemy fire and assisted in the destruction of the three enemy tanks. Entered service from Ohio.