

R E S T R I C T E D

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

31 July 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 51

I. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 66, First U. S. Army, cs, the Silver Star is awarded posthumously to the following named enlisted men for gallantry in action in northern France:

S Sgt Arthur F. Kueker, 18070999, Inf, United States Army. On 15 June 1944, Sgt Kueker and one man advanced against a mortar and a machine gun position that were holding up their unit with intense fire. Sgt Kueker and his companion, without thought of personal safety, worked their way to a point from which they knocked out the mortars with hand grenades. Then, having no more grenades, they turned upon the machine gun position and assaulted it with their bayonets. In the ensuing action Sgt Kueker was killed. By his gallantry and aggressiveness, Sgt Kueker made possible the continued success of his unit. Entered service from Virginia.

Pvt John M. Horvatin, 33683947, Inf, United States Army. On 13 June 1944, Pvt Horvatin and his Sergeant advanced against a mortar and a machine gun position that were holding up their unit with intense fire. Pvt Horvatin and his companion, without thought of personal safety, worked their way to a point from which they knocked out the mortar position with hand grenades. Then, having no more grenades, they turned upon the machine gun and assaulted it with bayonets. In the ensuing action, Pvt Horvatin was killed. By his gallantry and aggressiveness Pvt Horvatin made possible the continued success of his unit. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 66, First U. S. Army, cs, the Silver Star is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men for gallantry in action in northern France:

CAPT RALPH B. MERRICK, 0391391, Inf (then 1st Lt) United States Army. On 5 July 1944, Capt Merrick led his company in an assault which overran a town and netted 40 prisoners. The town was soon counterattacked from three sides while the fourth side was cut off by mortar fire. Although twice wounded, Capt Merrick, with utter disregard for his wounds or personal safety, directed the withdrawal from the exposed position and succeeded in extricating his company, his wounded and the prisoners from the precarious position. The gallantry and fortitude of Capt Merrick clearly upheld the high traditions of the military service. Entered service from Ohio.

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

(Sec II GO 31 Hq 90th Inf Div 31 Jul 44, contd)

2D LT EDGAR R. MILLER, 01320473, Inf, United States Army. On 15 June 1944, while questioning French civilians regarding German defenses, Lt Miller learned that an ex-French officer who was taking refuge in a house some distance beyond the American lines had valuable information. Without regard for his personal safety, Lt Miller, with two men, went forward, found the civilian and obtained important information from him. During the interrogation a fire fight developed nearby and Lt Miller found himself 200 yards behind German positions. Realizing the importance of the information he had obtained if received in time, he worked his way back through the enemy lines and through intense small arms fire to his own lines. The meritorious achievement and foresight of Lt Miller furnished higher headquarters with information that materially aided in the subsequent capture of Valognes and Cherbourg. Entered service from Texas.

Sgt Herman H. Ludwig, 37120745, Inf, United States Army. In the vicinity of \* \* \*, France on 12 June 1944 when his platoon withdrew from an untenable position, Sgt Ludwig, an acting squad leader, without regard for his personal safety, remained alone in an exposed position to cover its withdrawal by throwing grenades. After arrival upon the new position, Sgt Ludwig discovered that one of his men was missing. He returned in the face of the enemy fire to the position just given up to find the man wounded and succeeded in bringing him back to the new position. Sgt Ludwig's courage and loyalty to his men were in accordance with highest military tradition and of great inspirational value to his platoon. Entered service from Nebraska.

Cpl Raymond W. Lustig, 36556163, CIC, United States Army. On 15 June 1944, Cpl Lustig volunteered to accompany his lieutenant in an attempt to gain information from a civilian who was taking refuge in a house some distance beyond the American lines. During the interrogation of this civilian, a fire fight developed in the vicinity of the house and Cpl Lustig found that they were 200 yards behind German positions. Realizing the importance of the information obtained if received in time, Cpl Lustig left his place of comparative safety and worked his way back through the enemy positions and through 400 yards of intense small arms fire to his own lines. The meritorious achievement and devotion to duty of Cpl Lustig aided materially in the subsequent successes at Valognes and Cherbourg. Entered service from Michigan.

Pfc Frank J. Tamaska, 15338363, Med Dept, United States Army. On 8 July 1944, Pfc Tamaska was wounded in the knee, ankle and arm. Despite his own wounds and the intense fire, he immediately gave aid to three men and took them to safety. Still refusing aid for himself he returned to the hazardous area in search of other wounded comrades. It was not until he had assisted in moving the aid station that he permitted himself to be treated and evacuated. The disregard of self and devotion to duty exhibited by Pfc Tamaska reflects great credit upon himself and upon the military service. Entered service from West Virginia.

~~RESTRICTED~~

(Sec II GO 31 Hq 90th Inf Div 31 Jul 44, contd)

Pfc Hosea Chastain, 34885203, Inf, United States Army. On 17 June 1944, a patrol of which Pfc Chastain was a member had been ambushed and pinned down by machine gun fire and ordered to withdraw. Pfc Chastain, despite wounds in his abdomen and arm and without regard for his own safety, remained alone in an exposed position and threw grenades at the advancing enemy to cover the withdrawal of his squad before seeking to escape himself. His courage, initiative and spirit of self sacrifice were exemplary and in accordance with the highest military traditions. Entered service from Tennessee.

Pvt Lloyd P. La Vaux, 13218456, MI, United States Army. On 15 June 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* \*, France, Pvt La Vaux volunteered to accompany his lieutenant in an attempt to gain information from a civilian who was taking refuge in a house some distance beyond the American lines. During the interrogation of this civilian, a fire fight developed in the vicinity of the house and Pvt La Vaux found that they were 200 yards behind German positions. Realizing the importance of the information obtained if received in time, Pvt La Vaux left his place of comparative safety and worked his way back through the enemy positions and through 400 yards of intense small arms fire to his own lines. The meritorious achievement and devotion to duty of Pvt La Vaux aided materially in the subsequent successes at Valognes and Cherbourg. Entered service from New York.

III. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF BRONZE STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and circular 66, First U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded posthumously to the following named officer and enlisted man for bravery in action in northern France:

CAPT WOODROW R. ALLEN, 0365316, Inf, United States Army. On 10 July 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* \*, France, when his company was ordered to attack, Capt Allen personally in the face of heavy enemy fire and with total disregard for his own safety, did, due to the losses of company officers and non-commissioned officer, lead the advance elements of his company forward. Under intense fire Capt Allen constantly exposed himself in directing dispositions and consolidating ground gained. Upon gaining his objective, Capt Allen took over two additional rifle companies and organized the position for defense. In addition to leading his own company and two others, Capt Allen directed artillery and mortar fire in the defense of his position until mortally wounded by enemy fire. Entered service from Texas.

Sgt Robert C. Levec, 15322430, Inf, (the [redacted] ) U.S. Army. On 12 June 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* \*, France, when his company was pinned down by intense small arms fire and had been out of water since the preceding day, Sgt Levec, on his own initiative and with complete disregard for his own safety, crossed 100 yards of open ground in full view of the enemy and under heavy fire to obtain a supply of water which he brought back and distributed to his comrades. By his unselfish loyalty and devotion, Sgt Levec upheld the high standards of the military service. Entered service from Ohio.

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~  
(GO 31 Hq 90th Inf Div 31 July 44, contd)

IV. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-48 and circular 66, First U. S. Army, cs, the Bronze Star is awarded the following named officers and enlisted men for bravery in action in northern France:

1ST LT GROVER C. KING, 0449492, Inf, United States Army. On 10 June 1944, Lt King, a platoon leader of a mortar team, upon learning that the rifle units he was supporting were falling back, went forward in the face of intense enemy fire to an exposed and unprotected observation post from which he directed mortar fire with such effectiveness that a successful disengagement with the enemy was made possible. Entered service from Mississippi.

1ST LT GEORGE F. SPATH, 01322726, Inf (then 2d Lt) United States Army. On 7 July 1944 when his company had received heavy casualties during an attack upon a strongly defended position, Lt Spath, who himself was wounded and in great pain, refused to be evacuated and spent the night reorganizing his company. As a result of the determination and courage of Lt Spath, his unit was firmly in control of the sector by morning. Entered service from Oklahoma.

Cpl Paul E. Taylor, 31219188, FA, United States Army. On 8 July 1944, an enemy group was cutting the wire to an artillery forward observer's O.P. and covering the break with small arms fire. Cpl Taylor and his wire team went three times to this point and repaired the breaks despite the enemy fire and artillery shells bursting in that vicinity. Cpl Taylor's determination to maintain communication despite the ambushing tactics of the enemy enabled the artillery to give continuous support to the Infantry and inspired other wire teams of the section to keep the entire network in repair. Entered service from Maine.

Tec 5 James E. Curtis, 36864234, Med Dept (then Pfc), United States Army. On 22 June 1944, during an exceptionally heavy engagement, Tec 5 Curtis, without regard for his own safety administered first aid to approximately 30 men in an area swept by heavy fire. This valorous conduct and devotion to duty displayed by Pvt Curtis in the face of great danger was an inspiration to the men and no doubt saved the lives of many of the wounded. Entered service from Michigan.

Pfc George A. Gowen, 33442446, FA, United States Army. On 8 July 1944, when an enemy group was cutting the wire to an artillery forward observer's O. P. and covering the break with small arms fire, Pfc Gowen went with members of his wire team to this point three times and repaired the breaks despite the enemy fire. Pfc Gowen's courage and determination to maintain communications despite the ambush set by the enemy enabled the artillery to give continuous support to the infantry and helped inspire other members of the section to keep the entire network in repair. Entered service from Virginia.

R E S T R I C T E D

(GO 31 Hq 90th Inf Div 31 July 44 contd)(Sec IV contd)

Pvt Orival E. Dick, 20535839, FA, United States Army. On 8 July 1944, when an enemy patrol was cutting the wire to an artillery forward observer's O. P. and covering the break with small arms fire, Pvt Dick went with members of his wire team to this point three times and repaired the breaks despite the enemy fire. Pvt Dick's courage and determination to maintain communications despite the ambush set by the enemy enabled the artillery to give continuous support to the infantry and helped inspire other members of the section to keep the entire network in repair. Entered service from Kentucky.

Pvt Clarence Hollandsworth, 35876545, FA, United States Army. On 8 July 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* \* France, an enemy patrol was cutting the wire to an artillery forward observer's O. P. and covering the break with small arms fire. Pvt Hollandsworth went with members of his wire team to this point three times and repaired the breaks despite the enemy fire. Pvt Hollandsworth's courage and determination to maintain communication despite the ambushing tactics of the enemy enabled the artillery to give continuous support to the infantry and inspired other members of his section to keep the entire network in repair. Entered service from Ohio.

Pvt Melvin E. Ward, 35116702, Inf, United States Army. On 5 July 1944, Pvt Ward was wounded while performing his duties as company runner in a highly meritorious manner under most hazardous conditions. Despite the handicap and pain of his wounds, he refused to be evacuated and continued to perform his duties until his company was able to occupy a more favorable position. Entered service from Ohio.

Pvt A. C. Doebler, 36879047, Med Dept, United States Army. On 8 July 1944, Pvt Doebler, a company aid man, made two trips under intense enemy fire to carry wounded men to safety. The last man to be rescued was located in an area where the intensity of the enemy fire prevented a litter squad from reaching him. Pvt Doebler placed this man on his back and with complete disregard for his own personal safety carried the man at least one-half mile to a point where he could be evacuated by litter. Entered service from Michigan.

V. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, the Soldier's Medal is awarded the following named enlisted man for heroism in northern France not involving actual conflict with an enemy.

Tec 5 Fredrick J. Boerger, 35677090, Ord Dept, United States Army. On 11 June 1944, when a gasoline fire enveloped another soldier, Tec 5 Boerger without regard for his personal safety caught the panic stricken man, threw him to the ground and smothered the flames with a raincoat. Tec 5 Boerger's heroic action prevented the possible death of the soldier, who suffered severe third degree burns. Entered service from Ohio.

R E S T R I C T E D

(GO 31 Hq 90th Inf Div 31 July 44, contd)

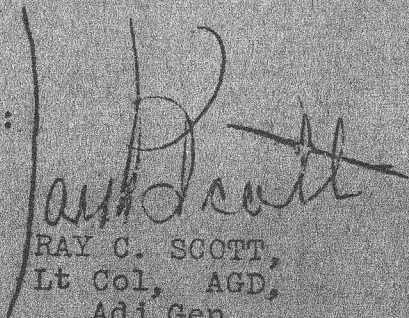
VI. AWARD OF PURPLE HEART. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 dated 22 September 1943, the Purple Heart is awarded the following named enlisted man:

Pvt Andrew A. Bocka, Jr, 33309796, MP, United States Army. For wounds received in action against the enemy on 6 July 1944 in France. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

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 DC- 3
  - CG ETOUSA- - - - - 2
  - CG FUSA, Attn: G-1 Misc Sec, APO 230-1
  - Ea Officer concerned - - - - - 2
  - Ea EM concerned- - - - - 2
  - Ea Orgn concerned- - - - - 2
  - Div PRO- - - - - 2
  - G-1 Sec- - - - - 1