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

12 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 59

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:

C
ok
BRIG GEN WILLIAM G. WEAVER, O3413, United States Army. On 1 August 1944 near * * * France, when the advance of the leading elements of "Task Force Weaver" spear-headed the drive to cut through the German defensive near * * * and were stopped in front of the city by small arms and Artillery fire, General Weaver personally went forward in the column, directed the rapid development of the situation under fire and quickly took the town by the rapid movements which he directed from his advanced position under Artillery and small arms fire. Again on 6 August 1944, he showed aggressive leadership in the capture of * * * leading the same supporting forces in the same aggressive manner. Later, in the attack on * * *, he showed gallantry in action in directing and leading an attack on a force defending the road to * * * while a part of his force encircled a bridge which was strongly held by a force and had numerous Antitank guns in depth along the road for 20 to 25 miles. This action resulted in the capture of some five hundred prisoners, destruction of much materiel and the capture of the Northern half of the city of * * *, France. General Weaver's action and aggressive leadership was an inspiration to those under him and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Kentucky.

C
90-77
COL GEORGE B. BARTH, O11241, Inf, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 at * * *, France, when a special force led by Colonel Barth arrived at * * *, he was heavily attacked by enemy Infantry and Artillery. He personally directed a rapid attack, driving the enemy Infantry back, and disregarding the threat to his flank, he personally remained at a position under fire, directing his column in a rapid advance past the threatening enemy forces completing their encirclement and resulting in the capture of several hundred prisoners. Later, in order to advance on * * *, when his column was stopped by enemy Infantry and Antitank weapons Colonel Barth personally went forward and observed the reduction of a road block, under fire from enemy Antitank guns and small arms. This gallant action was a fine example to his soldiers and in keeping with the highest military traditions. Also, on August 6, Colonel Barth was ordered to cross the * * * River south of the city and to outflank the defense of the city from the south.

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(Sec I Award of Silver Star GO 59 Hq 90th Inf Div 12 Sept 44 contd)

All crossings over the river were destroyed. Colonel Barth placed himself at the head of the Battalion designated to make the crossing and realizing that speed was essential he collected all available small boats and personally, in the face of possible enemy resistance, crossed with the first squad so that he could personally reconnoiter and direct the rapid movement of the Battalion in executing the flank envelopment. His rapid movement and personal leadership brushed aside enemy defenses and the city was quickly occupied and secured. Entered service from Kansas.

ok

LT COL MERTON E. MUNSON, 0260520, FA, United States Army. On 3 July 1944 near * * *, France, when his Battalion was supporting Infantry in the vicinity of * * *, France, wire communications to an important O.P. observing for his Battalion were cut. The route between the OP and the fire direction center was under heavy enemy Artillery and mortar fire at the time. Feeling the importance of quickly finding the break in the line, he quickly organized a small wire crew and went forward with them down the wire line under the enemy fire to hasten to the breach in the line. He proceeded on forward to the OP, which was also under fire, in order to discuss with the forward observer the best means of getting it neutralized. While doing so he was severely wounded and had to be evacuated. Against medical advice he left the hospital and voluntarily went back to his organization for duty. Again at * * *, France, on 2 August 1944, Lt Col Munson's Battalion was supporting the Infantry, having the mission of capturing that town and the bridges over the * * * River. It was important to seize the bridges quickly before they could be blown. Lt Col Munson anxious to quickly get the Artillery support to the troops moving up to seize the bridge, went forward to an OP well up with the leading elements of the Infantry where he came under enemy Artillery fire. He remained at the post, however, and when the assault was launched, and he was asked for Artillery support, he delivered the fire that quickly silenced the enemy and drove them from the town so that all objectives were seized in the quickest possible time. The gallant act of assuming responsibility of checking a wire line because of its urgent importance was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. His persistence in returning to the military service before his wounds were healed and his gallantry at * * *, France, was a fine example of devotion to duty. Entered service from Oklahoma.

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:

No letter

S Sgt Clarence W. Rice, 37154832, Inf, United States Army. On 13 June 1944 in the vicinity of * * *, France, when his squad leader became a casualty, S Sgt Rice took command of the squad, which had been somewhat dispersed by enemy action, and bravely set about the task of reorganizing the squad to meet the new threat. In order to accomplish his mission in as short a time as possible

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(Sec II Posthumous Award of Bronze Star, GO 59 Hq 90th Inf Div
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he exposed himself to enemy fire several times and displayed exceptional courage and presence of mind resulting in repelling the enemy attack and holding the position. Entered service from Kansas.

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 enlisted men for bravery in action in northern France:

of

S Sgt John W. Jackson, 37391195, Inf, United States Army. On 19 June 1944 near * * *, France, when his platoon was located in the village, cut off from the rear of the company by German tanks and Infantry and under heavy enemy fire, he reorganized his squad and gained a better position and maintained it until other forces were able to reinforce him. He exhibited throughout the action diligence, courage, and leadership. Entered service from Missouri.

of

Cpl John F. Otruba, 38094244, FA, United States Army. During the period from 10 - 24 July 1944 near * * *, France, Cpl Otruba's Battalion forward observer was pinned down by heavy enemy fire. Disregarding the enemy fire, which was cutting limbs from the tree over his head Cpl Otruba worked himself forward, took over the observer's duties and delivered fire on the enemy. They destroyed two houses, an enemy pill box and silenced small arms fire in the area. Again on 10 July at about 1400, Cpl Otruba in disregard of his own safety worked to a position of advantage under enemy fire and successfully adjusted Artillery fire on the enemy position until it was silenced. Entered service from Texas.

of

Cpl Arnold H. Standeford, 38147019, FA, United States Army. On 10 July 1944 near * * *, France, for laying and maintaining an important wire line from his unit to a supported unit and on his own initiative, laying a duplicate line when he realized it would be difficult to maintain the original line due to heavy enemy fire in the area. This was of material assistance in maintaining the position. Entered service from Oklahoma.

of

Tec 5 Calvin G. Reed, 38098540, FA, United States Army. Tec 5 Calvin G. Reed on the 12th and 13th August 1944 was a member of a wire team that completed and maintained wire between one of the Battalions and Division Artillery under constant enemy bombardment. Entered service from Texas.

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 to BRIG GEN JOHN M. DEVINE, 05232, United States Army. For meritorious service during the period 31 June to 8 Aug 1944 in action against an enemy of the United States in France, Entered service from Rhode Island.

Amended 90-61