

R E S T R I C T E D

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

2 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 53

I. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of AR 600-45 and Circular 6, Third 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 Joseph J. Bride, 31032356, Infantry, United States Army. On 12 June 1944 near * * * France, his company attacked a wooded area and received heavy casualties from enemy fire. Sgt Bride led his squad forward in the face of intense fire. After succeeding in locating two enemy machine gun nests, he placed his squad to cover them and personally assaulted first one machine gun and then the second, knocking them both out by the use of rifle grenades. This action on the part of Sgt Bride resulted in enabling his company to continue to advance and to reach its objective. This gallant act of Sgt Bride was a fine example of leadership, aggressiveness and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military spirit. Entered service from Massachusetts.

S Sgt Lewis D. Huddleston, 38103893, Infantry, United States Army. On 13 June 1944 near * * * France, when his platoon was attacking a strong enemy position and his company was held up by intense enemy fire, Sgt Huddleston placed himself at the head of the squad and courageously led it on an assault on the enemy position. He repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire, maintained control of his men and inspired them to assault the enemy and take the position. His disregard during the action for his own safety, an example set on the field of battle, was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from New Mexico.

II. 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:

S Sgt Albert J. Apple, 38535813, Infantry, United States Army. On 8 August 1944 * * * France, when the column with which he was operating cut a German column, a skirmish started, and the tanks did not move forward. Sgt Apple led his squad with utmost energy and with complete disregard for his own safety under heavy Artillery fire pressed the attack and although wounded by a German Artillery piece he continued to lead his squad and the supporting tanks into action, defeating the enemy and gaining their objective. This gallant act was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military spirit. Entered service from Texas.

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S Sgt Ramon V. Lopez, 38094629, Infantry, United States Army. On 5 August 1944 at * * * France, when an attack on the city of * * * France, had bogged down due to heavy enemy fire and grenades thrown from the buildings, Sgt Lopez gallantly led his squad rapidly against the bridge which was one of the objectives of the attack. The rapidity with which he charged the bridge drove off the German detail, which had been left to complete its demolition, and prevented its destruction. After securing the bridge he again led the advance through the outskirts of the town and assisted materially in consolidating and securing it from attack. His personal leadership and gallant action contributed materially to the success of the operation in securing a vital objective, completing the mission of the force sent to capture the town and secure the bridge. This action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Texas.

S Sgt Anthony J. Modica, 33566736, Infantry, (then Sgt) United States Army. On 6 Aug 1944 on the outskirts of * * * France, while bazooka men in his unit were firing on tanks, Sgt Modica led a squad of his platoon into a flank position, capturing two men and killing a third. Enemy fire was severe and our own tanks were firing into the hedgerow at the time. After completing this act, Sgt Modica saw that his platoon leader was pinned down in the field after covering the return of the group. Sgt Modica hastily organized a firing line and delivered fire in sufficient quantity to enable the platoon leader to return to his lines. Later in the evening, Sgt Modica led a patrol through an area covered by enemy machine gun fire which became so intense that the patrol was forced to seek cover. Seeing that two men were not accounted for he immediately went out alone under enemy fire and located and returned the missing men to our lines. This gallant act was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

Tec 5 Melvin A. Wurm, 20519310, Med Dept, United States Army. On 26 July 1944 near * * * France, the unit in which he was acting as aid man was held up temporarily by heavy enemy fire from the front and flank and casualties became very heavy. Without waiting for the shelling to slacken, Tec 5 Wurm constantly went from place to place giving first aid to the wounded, moving them to a place of safety and administering to their care. During this time he definitely saved the life of one man and possibly the lives of two other who were bleeding badly and treated lesser wounds of several others. His complete disregard for his own safety while the position was still under heavy enemy fire showed his devotion to duty and his gallant act was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Ohio.

Pfc Joseph S. Bonsall, 13175156, Infantry, United States Army. On 7 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * * France, his company moved out to attack a village from which friendly troops had been driven out twice before. After heavy fighting the town was again occupied. During the attack, Pfc Bonsall, a runner, fighting with the leading elements, displayed heroic courage. When his platoon was cut in two by a machine gun section of

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Germans, and were unable to advance, Pfc Bonsall on his own initiative worked his way through enemy machine gun fire to within grenade throwing range of the machine gun nest and succeeded in knocking it out, killing the crew. During the operation, he was seriously wounded by shell fire and was evacuated but not until after he had fully accomplished his mission. This gallant act was a fine example of courage, determination and aggressiveness, and in keeping with the highest traditions of the military spirit. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

Pfc George W. Scott, Jr, 36584304, Infantry, United States Army. On 7 August 1944 near * * * France, a part of a motorized patrol came under enemy machine gun and automatic rifle fire and the four lead vehicles took cover behind a crest of a hill. Pfc Scott jumped off the lead vehicle, ran forward and urged the men to follow him firing as he advanced. Although the enemy continued to fire automatic weapons at the patrol and the machine guns in the vehicles delivered overhead fire, Pfc Scott led the advance full into the enemy position, firing his BAR from the hip and moved across the road where the enemy were taking cover. Several of the enemy came out to surrender but one made a rush for one of Pfc Scott's men coming up from the rear. Pfc Scott killed the onrushing enemy and in the resulting action ten men were killed and four captured, permitting the uninterrupted advance of the column. Pfc Scott's gallant action was a fine example of determination and of courage and in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered service from Michigan.

Pvt Ervin N. Johnson, 35896040, Infantry, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 at * * * France, Pvt Johnson's company was attacking a German force, that was moving in to recapture * * * and were delivering heavy machine gun fire on the position from five different points. Pvt Johnson worked himself to the flank of his company position in order to knock out the machine guns. During this operation he encountered ten enemy riflemen who were attempting to flank the company. Pvt Johnson personally accounted for at least four of the enemy and his action was successful, enabling the company to hold its position. The gallant act on the part of Pvt Johnson was in keeping with the highest standards of the military spirit. Entered service from Indiana.

III. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, and Circular 6, Third U. S. Army, cs, the Soldier's Medal is awarded to the following named enlisted men for heroism, not involving actual conflict with an enemy, in northern France:

Cpl William Sergi, 33439926, Infantry, United States Army. On 9 August 1944 in * * * France, a comrade of Cpl Sergi accidentally spilled a quantity of gasoline on his clothes. The gasoline ignited and the soldier became panic stricken and started to run, Cpl Sergi and a companion tackled him in spite of his burning clothes, threw him to the ground and smothered out the flames with a shelter-half and towel, thereby saving the soldier's life. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

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Pfc Peter P. Foulkrod, 33355422, Infantry, United States Army. On 9 August 1944 in * * * France, a comrade of Pfc Foulkrod accidentally spilled a quantity of gasoline on his clothes. The gasoline ignited and the soldier became panic stricken and started to run. Pfc Foulkrod and a companion tackled him in spite of his burning clothes, threw him to the ground and smothered out the flames with a shelter-half and towel, thereby saving the soldier's life. Entered service from Pennsylvania.

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 the following named officers and enlisted men for bravery in action in northern France:

CAPTAIN B. F. ADAMS, O-325642, Inf, United States Army. During the period 6 - 7 August 1944 from * * to * * , Capt Adams diligently and persistently led his unit in attacks on the enemy. His company and a platoon of tanks comprised the advance guard for the Task Force moving on the above mission. On one occasion, Capt Adams ordered his men to dismount from the tanks and to advance on foot in an effort to contact and knock out the enemy. After a short forward movement the leading elements called for tank support immediately. Capt Adams promptly went to the lead tank, mounted it and personally directed the tank forward. Upon arriving among the front elements, he directed the tank to attack aggressively, repelled the enemy and continued the advance of the Task Force. Entered Service from Arkansas.

CAPTAIN ROBERT I. PROEBSTEL, O-311502, Infantry, United States Army. During 11 - 12 June 1944 southwest of * * * France, Capt Proebstel's company was given the mission of maneuvering against a strongly held position. In the initial advance, his company suffered heavy casualties. When the advance was effectively stopped, he persistently held on to ground gained until armored replacements arrived the following morning. He launched the attack the following morning with the Infantry following the tanks closely, and protecting the tank crews. His company gained the battalion objective and by personal example and determination secured it against strong opposition. Entered Service from Oregon.

1ST LT RAY H. HATLESTAD, O-1320455, Infantry, (then 2d Lt), United States Army. On 7 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * * France, Lt Hatlestad's battalion was occupying a position south of the town. The enemy launched a vigorous counterattack supported by artillery and mortar fire. Lt Hatlestad, commanding a mortar section, was ordered to move up his position. As soon as the mortars began firing they came under a heavy enemy counter battery fire. Notwithstanding this fire, Lt Hatlestad kept his position and section firing and in two days fired over 6,000 rounds of ammunition. Due to the inspiring leadership of Lt Hatlestad, coordinated fire from all weapons was carried out until the mission was completed and the counterattack stopped. Entered Service from North Dakota.

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T Sgt Herman B. Brenno, 37172523, Infantry, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 near * * France, when his platoon was advancing through an open field, accompanied by friendly tanks, the platoon leader became a casualty and due to heavy fire the troops were pinned down and the accompanying tanks withdrew. Sgt Brenno took command of the platoon, moved them to a favorable position where he covered the flank of his company and thus succeeded in protecting the company from a flanking attack. Entered service from North Dakota.

T Sgt George W. Hairl, Jr, 37179834, Infantry (then S Sgt) United States Army. During the period 7 - 9 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * France, Sgt Hairl's company had been under heavy fire and suffered many casualties. Sgt Hairl assisted in the evacuation of the wounded during the night in addition to his other duties in daylight hours. When his company was surrounded and needed reinforcements badly he fought his way with two companions out of the position to secure help. Finding a group of about 30 men from different organizations, he organized them, secured abandoned arms and fought his way back to the relief of his company. This action was a big factor in enabling his company to maintain its position against repeated enemy counterattacks. Entered service from Missouri.

T Sgt Major A. McLaughlin, 18062712, Infantry, (then S Sgt) United States Army. On 14 June 1944 near * * France, Sgt McLaughlin's squad became the base squad for the movement of his Battalion on that town. Near the town he came under very heavy cross fire from enemy machine guns. Notwithstanding which he exhibited fine traits of courage and leadership and worked his squad forward, brought up a base of fire and permitted his company to advance. Entered service from Texas.

T Sgt Robert M. Bentz, 35045744, Infantry (then S Sgt) United States Army. On 7 August 1944 in the vicinity of * * France, Sgt Bentz's platoon suffered heavy casualties from machine gun fire including his platoon leader and platoon Sergeant. Sgt Bentz assumed command of the platoon, placed them in a defensive position where he was able to defend the flank of the company until Artillery could be placed on the enemy and drive them from their position. Entered service from Ohio.

S Sgt Stephen A. Husak, 37171930, Infantry (then Pfc) United States Army. On 13 June 1944 near * * * France, when his squad leader became a casualty and his squad was under heavy enemy Artillery fire, Sgt Husak took command, reorganized it and repelled an enemy counterattack. Entered service from Minnesota.

S Sgt Floyd R. Vickery, 38003535, Infantry, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 at * * France, Sgt Vickery's company was moving on the town of * * France when it was stopped by enemy machine gun fire from approximately five weapons. Without regard for his own safety Sgt Vickery moved to a position from which he directed mortar fire on the enemy guns and knocked out four of the five guns. This caused the other to retreat. Entered service from California.

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Sgt Anthony R. Bochenko, 31025322, Infantry, United States Army. On 11 June 1944 near * * France, Sgt Bochenko, although slightly wounded by shell fragments, concealed these wounds from his officers and comrades, took over the duties of squad leader of a squad which had been filled with green replacements and continued to lead it until his wounds became infected. This resulted in his having to be evacuated to the rear on orders of his officers. His wilfull determination to fight and destroy the enemy, even though wounded, was a fine example of courage, fortitude and endurance. Entered service from Massachusetts.

Tec 4 Virgil R. Gage, 38155112, Med Dept, United States Army. On 11 June 1944 near * * France, Tec 4 Gage was attached as aid man to a company of Infantry which was attacking a wooded area. In spite of heavy enemy fire, Tec 4 Gage stayed in the area giving aid to the wounded men. The platoon was subject to heavy Artillery, machine gun and rifle fire and casualties were heavy and because of the heavy concentration the platoon was forced to withdraw. During the withdrawal, Tec 4 Gage stayed behind to care for two wounded men who had not been evacuated and was cut off from friendly troops by enemy action. He later made contact with a squad from a friendly company which also had been cut of. He remained all night with the wounded men caring for them and was able to have them evacuated into our lines. Entered service from Texas.

Cpl George A. Lewis, Jr, 31152997, Med Dept, United States Army. On 26 July 1944 in the vicinity of * * France, when two of his companions were seriously wounded he crawled from a place of safety to render first aid to the wounded men and while so doing was himself wounded. Entered service from Maine.

Tec 5 Stanley E. Shedlock, 31039420, Med Dept, United States Army. On 6 August 1944 near * * France, Tec 5 Shedlock as a medical aid man attached to an Infantry company, hearing the call for aid men, volunteered to leave his position with his mortar platoon and went forward to the rifle units. Tec 5 Shedlock went into an area covered by small arms fire to give aid to two men who had been hit by 20mm fire and to other men of another Infantry company. Entered service from Massachusetts.

Pfc Robert O. Blevins, 35446478, Infantry, United States Army. On 13 June 1944 near * * France, Pfc Blevins was an ammunition bearer for a machine gun squad. In spite of heavy fire he continued to maintain the ammunition supply until severely wounded. Before he would be evacuated, he crawled back to the other members of his squad and informed them of his condition in order that they might keep on with his work. Entered service from West Virginia.

Pfc Harvey W. Merritt, 34038039, Med Dept, United States Army. On 8 August 1944 at * * France, Pfc Harvey W. Merritt was a member of a medical detachment supporting an Infantry Battalion when the town came under heavy enemy Artillery fire, resulting in many casualties among the soldiers and citizens. Although shells were still falling in the area, he continued to pick up the wounded men with his litter, removing them to an aid station. His devotion to duty in an area while still under heavy enemy fire was an outstanding example of courage and of great value to the morale of his unit. Entered service from South Carolina.

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Pvt Paul Bauman, 12132649, Infantry, United States Army. On 9 August 1944 when Pvt Bauman was a member of a special task force he showed exceptional diligence in locating enemy positions. Finding a rifle squad without a leader, he assumed leadership of the squad, worked it forward to a favorable position and knocked out an enemy tank. While on this mission, he was severely wounded in the leg. He at all times showed exceptional courage, diligence and devotion to duty. Entered Service from New Jersey.

Pvt Phillip Le Shay, 33024440, Infantry, United States Army. On 8 August 1944 near * * * France, the position from which Pvt Le Shay was operating was hit by an enemy shell wounding him. Although suffering from shrapnel lacerations, he continued to operate his radio directing mortar fire on the enemy until they were driven out of their position. Pvt Le Shay refused to be evacuated from the area until he could be replaced by a competent operator. Entered Service from Pennsylvania.

V. 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 S Sgt Gleason R. Swanson, 38126646, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious service in action on 8 July 1944, against an enemy of the United States, in France, Entered service from Oklahoma.

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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