

HEADQUARTERS 70TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 461 U S ARMY

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 103)

20 August 1945.

Award of the Bronze Star Medal I
Award of the Soldier's Medal II

I --- AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded the following named individuals for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on dates indicated.

HAROLD BLACK, 38 671 041, Sergeant, Company A, 270th Engineers Combat Battalion, on 14 and 15 February 1945 near Styring Wendel, France. In preparation for an infantry attack, Sergeant Black made a successful night reconnaissance 400 yards beyond the front lines to locate a suitable site for the construction of a bridge across a large enemy tank trap. The following morning under observed artillery and mortar fire, he led his two unarmed engineer squads 100 yards in advance of the attacking troops and installed the important bridge. His gallant action made it possible for the infantrymen to advance and gain their objective. Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.

JAMES W DENHAM, 37 574 423, Technician Fifth Grade, Company A, 270th Engineer Combat Battalion, on 25 February 1945. When it became necessary to lay defensive mines forward of the front lines, Technician Denham and three other enlisted men were assigned the task. The positions were such that the minefield had to be laid under hostile observation and the enemy immediately concentrated direct artillery and mortar fire upon the mine-laying section. In spite of the extremely hazardous conditions, Technician Denham successfully and courageously completed the mission, protected a section of our front lines against surprise enemy attack and materially aided our forces to secure an important objective. Entered military service from Minnesota.

CHARLES E ELDRIDGE, 37 533 694, Private First Class, 70th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop on 20 February 1945. A four man reconnaissance patrol, of which the soldier was a member, was ambushed by superior enemy forces and set up defense in a house in Marienau, France. The enemy immediately encircled the spot and poured machine gun fire upon the defenders from all sides. When one of his comrades was mortally wounded, Private First Class Eldridge volunteered to make a break, leaping through a window, throwing hand grenades as he ran, crawling under the German fire, he made his way of escapt and ran to his platoon for aid

Private First Class Eldridge's vigorous and fearless execution of his voluntary mission not only made possible the success of his patrol's assigned work and saved his comrades from possible death or capture, but was an inspiration to all the members of his platoon. Entered military service from Kansas City, Missouri.

JOHN D PEARSON, O1 114 254, First Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, Company C, 270th Engineer Battalion, near Forbach, France on 25 February 1945. With the mission to clear a barricade from an underpass, Lieutenant Pearson, upon making a personal reconnaissance of the area, discovered it to be subject to enemy artillery and mortar fire as well as automatic weapons and rifle fire. Deciding to use a tank dozer, he led it to the site and continued to direct it in its work for 45 minutes while in an exposed position and under intensive enemy fire. His courageous action enabled tanks to be used in passing through the underpass and knock out enemy resistance. Entered military service from La Porte, Indiana.

KERMIT A SIEGRIST, O 375 002, Captain, Corps of Engineers, Company C, 270th Engineer Battalion, near Forbach France, on 19 February 1945. When intense cross fire from enemy automatic weapons and machine guns was holding up the advance of a rifle battalion, Captain Siegrist made a personal reconnaissance of the area under heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. Discovering that a wall was further hindering the advance, he decided that it would be necessary to tunnel 15 feet so charges could be placed to blow the wall. Feverishly his men worked for an hour and a half under hostile machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire using hand tools and explosives in the operation. The courage displayed by Captain Siegrist and his men enabled the battalion to continue its mission and accomplish its objective. Entered military service from Meadville, Missouri.

II --- AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL. By direction of the President under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Soldier's Medal is awarded to the following individuals:

HENRY A PIECZONKA, 32 211 303, Technician Fifth Grade, 17th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, for heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy near Aumenau, Germany, on 4 August 1945. When a comrade suffered a severe cramp and sank in mid-stream of a river, Technician Pieczonka without hesitation, boldly dived from a height of ten feet into shallow water, and despite a strong, cold current, swam swiftly, at the risk of his own life, to the drowning man. With the aid of a companion he pulled the unconscious victim ashore. Expeditiously and effectively he administered artificial respiration and restored the man to consciousness. Technician Pieczonka's courageous plunge into the swift river and his heroic rescue of his comrade reflect great credit

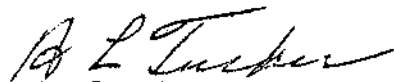
credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from New York.

LAWRENCE D BROWN, 33 411 203, Technician Fourth Grade, 17th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, for heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy near Aumenau, Germany, on 4 August 1945. When a comrade suffered a severe cramp and sank in mid-stream of a river, Technician Brown, without hesitation, boldly dived from a height of ten feet into shallow water, and despite a strong, cold current, swam swiftly, at the risk of his own life, to the drowning man. With the aid of a companion he pulled the unconscious victim ashore. Expeditionously and effectively he administered artificial respiration and restored the man to consciousness. Technician Brown's courageous plunge into the swift river and his heroic rescue of his comrade reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

BY ORDER OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HERREN:

LEO A BESSETTE
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


A. L. TUCKER
Major, AGD
Adj General