

HEADQUARTERS 70TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
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I -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF THE SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded, posthumously, to the following individual:

LEE ROY G FULCHER, 33 731 054, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 275th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 19 February 1945, near Spicheren, France. Following preparation artillery fire by fifty yards, Company I, 275th Infantry, crossed 300 yards of open terrain and was closing with the enemy when hostile machine guns opened up on the flank. Without hesitation, Staff Sergeant Fulcher with three comrades, charged the enemy position, firing as they ran. Their bullets spent, they continued on and completed the attack with bayonets, killing three and capturing six enemy. In the action Staff Sergeant Fulcher sustained wounds which later proved fatal. His gallantry exemplifies the highest standards of courage in the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Naomi Fulcher (mother), 303 E Street, Sparrow Point, Baltimore, Maryland.

II -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, 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, posthumously, to the following individuals:

LOUIS M AMBROSE, 31 467 259, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 21 January 1945, at Lixing, France. Accompanying a combat patrol Private First Class Ambrose volunteered to lead a five man squad in a house to house search for the enemy. In pursuing his mission he was seriously wounded by enemy machine gun fire and rather than further endanger his comrades, he ordered them to abandon their efforts to evacuate him and to take cover. Subsequently, several attempts were made to reach Private First Class Ambrose, but observed enemy fire denied the efforts. His gallant action and concern for his comrades exemplifies the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Celia Ambrose, (mother), 433 Winthrop Street, Winthrop, Massachusetts.

JOHN W GRUN, 36 682 005, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 10 January 1945, in the vicinity of Philippsbourg, France. Given the task of clearing enemy forces from a position in front of his company, Technical Sergeant Grun valiantly led a combat patrol in a frontal assault. Although exposed to murderous artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, he pressed forward unflinchingly until the overwhelming enemy fire

power forced him to withdraw. Ignoring the curtain of shell fragments which surrounded him, Sergeant Grun displayed outstanding courage and unselfishness in skillfully herding his patrol to safety. Just prior to reaching the safe confines of his company, he fell to the ground mortally wounded by an enemy mortar shell burst. His gallantry exemplifies the highest standards of courage in the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Mildred J Grun, (wife), 185 South Dennis Street, Decatur, Illinois.

WILLIAM T LINDENZWEIG, 34 657 464, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action from 8 to 14 January 1945, near Philippsbourg, France. For eight days of intensive engagements with the enemy, Private First Class Lindenzweig successfully protected the left flank of his company with BAR fire. To accomplish this hazardous job he frequently had to expose himself to hostile rifle and machine gun fire, to bring fire on the enemy. Private First Class Lindenzweig killed at least five of the enemy before he fell mortally wounded by opposing fire. His heroic devotion to duty exemplifies the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Carl R Lindenzweig, (father), Kershaw, South Carolina.

GERALD G LUTHER, 19 095 159, Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, at Philippsbourg, France. Assigned the hazardous task of clearing enemy from several houses, Sergeant Luther, utterly disregarding the hazard of exposing himself to heavy enemy 88mm and small arms fire, skillfully led his squad from house to house, pushing forward until his mission was successfully completed. His excellent leadership under fire was largely responsible for the success of an important attack made by Company A, 274th Infantry. His gallantry exemplifies the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Mrs Madeline H Luther, (mother), 3824 34th Street SW, Seattle, Washington.

JOHN A THEOBALD, 36 982 802, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 23 February 1945, near Forbach, France. While covering the advance of riflemen with his machine gun, Private First Class Theobald saw a soldier fall wounded by surprise fire from enemy snipers and automatic weapons. Abandoning concern for his own safety, he left his covered position, and in successfully dragging the wounded comrade to safety was mortally wounded. His heroic action and noble sacrifice for a fellow soldier exemplifies the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Helen I Theobald, (wife); 15144 Breast Road, Lincoln Park, Michigan.

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the Provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded to the following individuals:

GEORGE H BARRITT, 20 720 982, Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 274th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 20 February 1945, near Styring Wendel, France. Despite heavy enemy artillery fire and intensive automatic and small arms fire, Sergeant Barritt, with great daring, led his squad toward a proposed location for the battalion outpost. While he was crossing a field, a close burst threw him to the

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ground and wounded him internally. Disregarding his painful wounds, Sergeant Barritt rallied his squad, advanced, and completed the mission. His gallant action was a great inspiration to all the men. Entered military service from Omaha, Nebraska.

IVAN J BURKET, G2 006 351, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, Company H, 274th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 25 February 1945, near Styring Wendel, France. While at an 81mm mortar OP, Lieutenant Burket, observing an enemy counter attack, attempted to fight it off with hand grenades. When the enemy closed in, making his position untenable, he grabbed an arm load of hand grenades and ran to a pillbox twenty yards away. During this action an enemy rifle shot pierced both forearms, forcing him to drop the grenades. Inside the pillbox, he directed the bracketing in of approximately 400 rounds of mortar shells on the enemy all around the pillbox. Directly as a result of his gallant actions, the counter attack was stopped. Entered military service from Topeka, Kansas.

OLLIE DAVIS, 38 656 201, Staff Sergeant, (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company A, 276th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 22 February 1945, in the vicinity of Forbach, France. Advancing elements of two companies were held up by machine gun fire from an enemy pillbox. Staff Sergeant Davis and two others volunteered to assault the occupants of the pillbox. Exposed to enemy mortar, artillery, sniper and machine gun fire, he skillfully led his two men to a position where they effectively wiped out the enemy resistance by accurate rifle fire and the use of hand grenades. His courageous action made it possible for the two elements to advance and gain their objective with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Istrouma, Louisiana.

JOHN A FERRERA, 32 811 351, Sergeant, Infantry, Company D, 275th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 24 February 1945, near Alsting, France. Sergeant Ferrera was in charge of a heavy machine gun section during a strong enemy counter attack. Continuously exposing himself to enemy fire, he moved from one gun position to another, keeping his machine guns in action even after supporting riflemen had withdrawn. Though he was wounded in the action, his section killed twenty-five of the enemy and, against overwhelming odds, prevented a breakthrough. His gallant behaviour throughout the engagement was a source of great inspiration and encouragement to his men. Entered military service from Brooklyn, New York.

MARION G McDOWELL, 36 049 932, Sergeant, Infantry, Company L, 275th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 22 February 1945, in the Pfaffen Wald Forest, France. After he had courageously moved his bazooka team into position to attack approaching enemy tanks, a direct hit from an enemy tank instantly killed the two bazooka men and shattered Sergeant McDowell's left arm. He had withdrawn to cover and was working his way to the rear when he observed a wounded comrade who lay still exposed to the murderous tank fire. Hampered by his wounds, which had rendered his left arm completely useless, he braved direct fire from the tanks to move to the wounded man and drag him to safety. Later, his shattered arm still unattended, he assisted a group of walking wounded to the aid station. Entered military service from Barnhill, Illinois.

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ROY L VAUGHT, O1 307 889, Captain, (then 1st Lieutenant), Infantry, Company A, 274th Infantry, for gallantry in action during the period 5 to 6 February 1945, in the vicinity of Philippsbourg, France. Upon receiving instructions to take high ground in a heavily wooded sector, Captain Vaught rallied his company and moved to clear the enemy from the hill. Continuously exposing himself to intensive enemy small arms fire, he moved about his platoons, superbly controlling the attack and successfully accomplishing the mission with a minimum of casualties. After dark, Captain Vaught fell, fracturing two ribs, but knowing the enemy was preparing a counter attack, he refused evacuation. The next day the enemy's counter attack was met and repulsed, owing largely to Captain Vaught's skillful preparation of defensive positions. Entered military service from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

IV -- AWARD OF THE FIRST OAK-LEAF CLUSTER TO THE SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the First Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star is awarded to the following individual:

ROY L VAUGHT, O1 307 889, Captain, (then 1st Lieutenant), Infantry, Company A, 274th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 21 February 1945, in the vicinity of Spicheren, France. Ordered to take heavily fortified bunkers in which the enemy was firmly entrenched on the strategic Spicheren Heights, Captain Vaught skillfully and courageously led his company through a blistering hail of enemy small arms, machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire to accomplish the hazardous mission. Despite three determined enemy counter attacks, the company, under Captain Vaught's superb leadership, held the heights and repelled the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties. The victory, which secured territory commanding important approaches to the Saar Basin, was a severe psychological as well as military blow to the enemy. Entered military service from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

V -- 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 to the following individuals:

JOHN L BAILEY, 13 108 313, Corporal, Corps of Engineers, Company B, 270th Engineer (c) Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 18 February 1945, near Grosbliederstroff, France. While on a bridge and road reconnaissance near an enemy held town, Corporal Bailey and a comrade were fired upon from a house at the edge of the town. Ducking into a ditch and then courageously moving up to the enemy position, they effected the capture of sixteen prisoners without another shot being fired. Turning the prisoners over to the stockade, Corporal Bailey then resumed and successfully accomplished his assigned mission. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

MILO BOWEN, 39 175 755, Corporal, Infantry, Headquarters Company 1st Battalion, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action from 17 to 23 February 1945 near Saarbrücken, Germany. For seven days, Corporal Bowen, with courageous determination, installed and kept in constant repair vital interbattalion communication under enemy mortar and artillery fire varying from sporadic rounds to concentrated barrages. Although seriously wounded on 23 February, Corporal Bowen refused evacuation, and despite his pain, continued operations until all communications were satisfactorily installed. Entered military service from Kootenai County, Idaho.

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OLIVER A BROWN, 37 535 516, Technician Fourth Grade, Corps of Engineers, Company B, 270th Engineer (c) Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 18 February 1945, near Grosbliederstroff, France. While on a bridge and road reconnaissance near an enemy held village, Technician Brown and a comrade were fired upon from a house at the edge of the village. Ducking into a ditch, and then courageously moving up to the enemy position, they effected the capture of sixteen prisoners without another shot being fired. Turning the prisoners over to the stockade, Technician Brown then resumed and successfully completed his assigned mission. Entered military service from Independence, Missouri.

FRANCIS J CUFFARO, 33 514 027, Private First Class, Armored Force, Company B, 749th Tank Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 18 February 1945. Encountering entrenched enemy resistance, an infantry attack was stopped in the woods north of Etzling, France, and in moving up for support, a tank platoon was practically stopped by heavy mud. Sensing the situation, Private First Class Cuffaro and his tank commander dismounted, and by strenuous effort freed their tank, and then skillfully moved it into an effective position. Courageously firing a 75mm cannon and a 30mm machine gun, Private First Class Cuffaro broke the enemy resistance and rescued the Infantry from a difficult position, enabling it to advance and gain its objective. In the action twenty-one prisoners were captured. Entered military service from York, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM W GEIER, 32 925 161, Technician Fifth Grade, (then Private First Class) Infantry, Company I, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action during the period 1 to 6 January 1945, at Philippsbourg, France. Third Battalion, 275th Infantry, experienced great difficulty in maintaining wire communications owing to the effectiveness of enemy fire. Technician Geier, (company messenger), volunteering as battalion runner, exhibited outstanding courage in successfully delivering vital communications, despite concentrations of mortar and artillery fire and the hazard of running under observation of enemy snipers. On one occasion he daringly delivered a message up a street covered by an active 88mm gun. Entered military service from Paterson, New Jersey.

SHELDON L HARRIMAN, 36 468 411, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 12 January 1945, near Philippsbourg, France. When an enemy mortar shell hit a company listening post, Private First Class Harriman, dazed but uninjured, found two of his comrades wounded and one dead. Realizing that the wounded men needed prompt medical attention, he courageously half-carried, half walked them under a hail of enemy fire to another listening post from which they were evacuated. Again, disregarding the hostile fire, he returned to his post and remained there until relieved. Entered military service from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

DAVID L HELM, JR, 36 867 701, Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 22 February 1945. During the attack on Forbach France, Sergeant Helm, turning his gun squad over to his assistant, voluntarily cut his way through barbed wire to reach a wounded comrade, and under observed enemy fire, dragged him thirty yards to safety. His daring action enabled the wounded man to receive prompt medical attention. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

R E S T R I C T E D

JACK J HUNTLEY, O1 180 553, 1st Lieutenant, Field Artillery, Battery C, 883d Field Artillery Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 20 February 1945, near Etzling, France. Courageously disregarding heavy enemy small arms and artillery fire, Lieutenant Huntley successfully repaired 1000 yards of wire communication, and then observed and adjusted friendly artillery on the enemy with such deadly effect that the counter attack was repelled. Entered military service from Summer, Oregon.

ROBERT S JENNESS, 16 126 951, Technician Fourth Grade, Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery, 883d Field Artillery Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 20 February 1945, near Spichenen, France. After braving a terrific enemy preparation shelling, Technician Jenness, with his damaged radio, coolly maintained communications with friendly artillery, until the counter attack came within thirty yards of his position. Then, serving as a rifleman, he helped repulse the enemy. His courage and efficiency were largely responsible for turning back the counter-attack. Entered military service from Chrisman, Illinois.

ALFRED M MEJIA, 39 577 709, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 275th Infantry for heroic achievement in action on 17 February 1945, near Lixing, France. His company being held down by enemy machine gun fire and facing a probable failure to take important high ground on schedule, Private First Class Mejia jumped to his feet and firing his Browning Automatic Rifle from his hip valiantly walked into the enemy fire, forcing the machine gun crew to surrender. As a result of his heroism the rest of the men were inspired to advance and the company's objective was reached on schedule with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Tucson, Arizona.

DELFINO S MERAZ, 39 291 729, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company I, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 19 February 1945, near Spichenen, France. In the darkness of night, Staff Sergeant Meraz noticed that an enemy machine gun nest had been established off the flank of friendly defensive positions. Carefully stalking for two hours, he worked around to the rear of the enemy and by surprise forced five men and one officer to surrender. Full value of his skillful and courageous work was appreciated the following day, when a strong enemy counter-attack was repelled owing primarily to the enemy's lack of support from the captured machine gun position. Entered military service from San Pedro, California.

ROBERT W MYERS, 39 464 594, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company Third Battalion, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action from 21 to 24 February 1945, in the vicinity of Alsting and Gifert Wald, France. For three days of aggressive engagement with the enemy, Technician Myers, despite heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, maintained communication lines between the assault units and the battalion command post, through rough and heavily wooded terrain. When it was imperative to set up an OP for registering defensive fire, he unhesitatingly laid wire into hazardous territory, under heavy enemy fire. Technician Myers refused to be relieved of his constant duties until two secondary wire routes had been established on the fourth day. Entered military service from Spokane, Washington.

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HAROLD E SAMUEL, 17 142 346, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 19 February 1945 in the vicinity of Forbach, France. During the intensive attack on Forbach, when it became impracticable to run communications wire from battalion headquarters to the company command posts, Technician Samuel was assigned the task of setting up a battalion switchboard inside the city. Courageously moving through a heavy artillery and mortar barrage, he gained his objective and manned the switchboard for a three day period, coordinating all wire communications. His actions were instrumental in the success of the attack. Entered military service from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

MARTIN J SCHWERTHOEFFER, Jr., 35 913 199, Technician Fifth Grade, Corps of Engineers, Company E, 270th Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 17 February 1945 near Lixing, France. Given the mission of clearing a path through an enemy anti-tank mine field, Technician Schwerthoeffer braved murderous enemy machine gun and small arms fire to blast out the mines with TNT. By his courageous action friendly tanks advanced and neutralized the hazardous enemy fire that was being put on the infantry. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

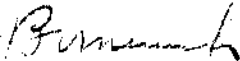
HARVEY SHIRLEY, 36 763 968, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 20 February 1945, near Spichenen, France. During a strong attack by a superior enemy force, Technical Sergeant Shirley took charge of his platoon when the platoon leader was wounded. Repeatedly exposing himself to the intense enemy fire, he vigorously moved among his men, distributing ammunition and grenades and giving his men encouragement. As the enemy began to withdraw, Technical Sergeant Shirley, with a comrade, left the trench and killed eight enemy soldiers who had been isolated in a draw. His inspiring leadership and courageous action were instrumental in breaking the enemy attack. Entered military service from Seymour, Illinois.

TRUDEAU J VILLARS, Jr., O 557 862, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 21 February 1945, at Forbach, France. When the advance of two companies was held up by several enemy strong-points in a group of houses, Lieutenant Villars' platoon was assigned the mission of clearing the houses. Alone, he made a detailed reconnaissance of the territory through intense enemy mortar and artillery fire. Returning to his unit, he rapidly consolidated his plans for attack and without regard for his own safety led his men through the concentrated enemy fire in a house to house assault on the hostile positions. Inspired by his daring leadership, his platoon drove the enemy from their strong-points and enabled the companies to advance toward their objectives. Entered military service from New Orleans, Louisiana.

By command of Major General BARNETT:

LEO A BESSETTE  
Colonel, GSC  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

  
B V MERRICK  
Lt Col AGD  
Adj General

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