

m. Bluer
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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 70TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 461, U S ARMY

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER.....22)

23 March 1945

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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 individuals:

HAROLD E BUSH, 35 647 184, Staff Sergeant, Armored Force, Company B, 749th Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 19 February 1945, near Styring Wendel, France. While the infantry was reorganizing its positions a strong enemy force occupied a key hill nearby. Arriving ahead of foot troops to repel the enemy, Staff Sergeant Bush, realizing the situation required prompt action, immediately moved his tank platoon into attack. When the other tanks bogged in the mud, Staff Sergeant Bush, at great personal risk, even though slow progress through the mud increased his vulnerability to anti-tank fire, attacked the enemy. With his assault implemented later by the infantry soldiers the hostile troops were driven from the key position. Next of kin: Ann L Bush (wife), 830 Lunice Street, Portsmouth, Ohio.

GOMEZ B CAHOON, O 398 851, Major, Infantry, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 275th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 21 February 1945, in the vicinity of Stiftswald, France. His battalion repeatedly subjected to severe enemy counter-attacks, and despite the imminent peril of bursting artillery and mortar fire, Major Cahoon, Battalion Commander, was tireless through the critical night. He skillfully directed the battalion's defenses, insured measures of security, determined that the men were properly dug in and that their fields of fire were most effectively grouped. Attacked by hostile tanks, he personally directed the battalion's fire, knocking out one, forcing the others to withdraw. Still vigorously in action with daylight, he was killed while probing enemy positions. His vital, valorous and inspirational leadership were the decisive elements which held the troops in a seemingly untenable position, were the backbone of the battalion's resistance, and exemplify the highest qualities of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Maxine B Cahoon (wife), Route 1, Box 299, Arlington, Texas.

II -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the Provisions of Army Regulation 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded, posthumously, to the following individuals:

IRWIN EPSTEIN, 42 135 153, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 6 February 1945, near Brandenbusch, France. Accompanying the advance elements of Company K, 275th Infantry, into attack, Private First Class Epstein promptly went to the aid of a soldier who had been seriously wounded after stepping onto an enemy mine. When an enemy machine gun opened fire upon him, Private First Class Epstein was forced to remain in a prone position but steadfastly continued to administer first aid to his helpless comrade by crawling around him. While thus engaged, he struck another mine concealed in the snow and was mortally wounded. Private First Class Epstein's noble sacrifice reflects the highest standards of devotion to duty. Next of kin: Fannie P Epstein, (mother) 1936 75th Street, Brooklyn, New York.

JAMES G. TILLEY, 35 077 321, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 24 February 1945, near Forbach, France. When an enemy force of about fifty men attacked an adjacent company position, Staff Sergeant Tilley, a platoon guide, led one half of his platoon in a frontal assault on the hostile group, which had penetrated friendly lines. Though he was mortally wounded by enemy machine gun fire as he neared the enemy position, his demonstration of courage and leadership so stirred his men that they continued to press forward and successfully repelled the enemy attack. Next of kin: Juanita R. Tilley (wife), Lookout, West Virginia.

III -- 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:

J W BLACKWELL, 38 667 100, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 274th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 21 and 22 February 1945, near Styring Wendel, France. After he administered aid to a wounded comrade and while waiting for litter bearers, Private First Class Blackwell found it necessary to leave the man in order to attend other casualties, sustained when the enemy counterattacked and overran the OPLR. The following day he voluntarily made his way across no man's land seeking to effect his comrade's evacuation, only to find enemy troops where he had left the wounded soldier. He was subjected to questioning by an enemy officer but steadfastly refused to divulge any information. When the interrogation was concluded, he made an unsuccessful attempt to persuade the officer to surrender his unit. He then evacuated his wounded comrade to friendly lines. His gallantry beyond the call of duty undoubtedly saved the wounded soldier's life. Entered military service from Pocahontas, Arkansas.

CHARLES E. MAYNARD, 35 077 013, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 275th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 19 February 1945, at Spicheren, France. During a fierce counterattack by three enemy companies, his platoon leader wounded, Staff Sergeant Maynard held the unit firmly in position. Upon the final

withdrawal of the hostile forces, he, and a comrade, broke forth from the defensive position and charged after the enemy with submachine-guns firing, killing eight. Staff Sergeant Maynard's vigorous prosecution of the successful operation was further evident in the 28 enemy dead which littered the platoon area. Entered military service from Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

LAMBERT N WEST, 13 097 029, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 276th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 20 February 1945, at Forbach, France. When the advance of attacking rifle troops was suddenly halted by heavy enemy automatic weapons and sniper fire from concealed positions, Private First Class West, with the assistance of a comrade, courageously set up his heavy machine gun in an exposed position and boldly opened fire on the enemy positions. Ordering his comrade back to safety, he so harrassed the enemy with heavy fire that the riflemen were able to take safe cover for a renewed assault upon the enemy. Further endangering his life, he then assisted a wounded riflemen to safety, returning later to recover his weapon. His prompt and gallant action prevented many casualties and permitted the troops to regroup at a moment when disorganization seemed imminent. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

IV --- AWARD OF THE FIRST-OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. 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 Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following individuals:

JOHN W CATHEY, 20 832 098, Sergeant, Infantry, Company L, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 24 February 1945, at Spicheren, France. On a voluntary mission to silence a hostile tank which had been firing on his company, Sergeant Cathey, with his bazooka team, firing and moving from tree to tree, skillfully eluded intensive small arms fire to gain a firing position. Almost simultaneously, the enemy tank crew and the attacking bazooka men spotted each other, and only one bazooka shell could be fired before machine gun and cannon fire forced the trio to withdraw. Although failing to knockout the tank, Sergeant Cathey aided in the capture of two prisoners while retracing the hazardous return route to friendly lines. Entered military service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

So much of General Order Number 20, this headquarters, dated 20 March 1945, as pertains to Sergeant Charles F Stender, 35 087 355, Infantry, Company I, 275th Infantry, which reads "the Bronze Star Medal", is amended to read "the First Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal."

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:

EVERETT W ARNDT, 39 472 471, Private, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 270th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered military service from Latah County, Idaho.

OWEN C PIKE, 35 224 350, Sergeant, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 270th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered military service from Bucyrus, Ohio.

ALBERT C HUTTON, 37 743 801, Private, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 270th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered military service from Albany, Missouri.

WILLIAM E POWELL, JR, 15 312 609, Private First Class, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 270th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered military service from West Lafayette, Indiana.

For heroic achievement in action on 25 February 1945 near Spicheren, France. Under direct enemy observation, these soldiers courageously moved forward of the front lines to lay necessary defensive mines and succeeded despite concentrated enemy artillery and mortar fire directed at them. Displaying outstanding devotion to duty under hazardous conditions, these men materially aided the securing of an important objective.

ROBERT C BARKER, 33 408 878, Private First Class (then Private), Infantry, Company L, 274th Infantry. Entered military service from Emporium, Pennsylvania.

EARL H KING, 38 571 974, Private, Infantry, Company L, 274th Infantry. Entered military service from Chester, Oklahoma.

For heroic achievement in action on 24 February 1945, at Spicheren, France. On a voluntary mission to silence a hostile tank which had been firing on their company, these men, firing and moving from tree to tree, skillfully eluded intensive small arms fire to gain a firing position. Almost simultaneously, the enemy tank crew and the attacking bazooka men spotted each other, and only one bazooka shell could be fired before machine gun and cannon fire forced them to withdraw. Although failing to knockout the tank, they succeeded in the capture of two prisoners while retracing the hazardous return route to friendly lines.

ADEN H BRADY, 34 363 685, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, in the vicinity of Philipsbourg, France. With aid men unavailable because of heavy casualties, Private First Class Brady voluntarily braved heavy enemy fire to administer first aid to several of his wounded comrades. His prompt action made possible their subsequent evacuation without loss of life. Entered military service from Morristown, Tennessee.

PASQUALE CESINO, 31 383 701, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 3 January 1945, near Baerenthal, France. During an engagement with heavy enemy forces a soldier was seriously wounded and could not be evacuated because of the intense enemy fire. Courageously disregarding his own safety, Sergeant Cesino crawled forward 40 yards from his foxhole, under hostile machine gun and mortar fire, and administered first aid. Later he again made the hazardous trip to take water to his wounded comrade. His great concern for his fellow soldier probably saved the man's life and was a profound inspiration to all the men. Entered military service from Providence, Rhode Island.

WILLIAM C DODD, O1 312 523, Captain, Infantry, Company K, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action from 17 to 23 February 1945, near Forbach, France. During six days of intensive attack, Captain Dodd displayed outstanding leadership by frequently covering his company area, by making daring reconnaissances, and by competently directing the company toward its mission. His courageous actions inspired confidence in his men and markedly contributed to the successes of his company, battalion, and regiment. Entered military service from Carrington, North Dakota.

ROBERT M FEHRMAN, 29 550 670, Technician Grade 5, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 3 January 1945 in the vicinity of Baerenthal, France. While assaulting enemy positions in the Baerenthal area, an infantry battalion was subjected to an enemy aerial bombardment which inflicted several casualties. Courageously disregarding warnings to take cover, Technician Fifth Grade Fehrman exposed himself to flying fragments of bursting bombs to safely evacuate five wounded comrades. Entered military service from Mohrovia, California.

WILLIAM E FOGG, 19 187 077, Private First Class, Medical Department, Company C, 370th Medical Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 17 February 1945, near Forbach, France. While acting as a litter bearer, Private First Class Fogg repeatedly volunteered to aid in the evacuation of casualties from wounded hills one and a half miles from his battalion aid station, under heavy artillery fire. Disregarding enemy sniper fire, he delivered supplies to a hospital where many wounded men were temporarily confined. When these casualties were later evacuated, Private First Class Fogg, exposing himself to enemy fire, acted as road guide for the vehicles, contributing greatly to the successful evacuation of 30 wounded men. Entered military service from San Francisco, California.

PAUL C GUILLORY, 24 006 123, Technician Third Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 12 January 1945, in the vicinity of Dambach, France. When the company to which he was attached suffered casualties from enemy sniper fire, Technician Third Grade Guillory left the comparative safety of his position at the rear of the company and, in the face of the heavy enemy fire moved up to give first aid to the wounded, who otherwise would have been unattended. His brave action resulted in the saving of life. Entered military service from Marou, Louisiana.

JOHN F HAMMOND, 37 537 684, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company A, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945. After an infantry company had successfully taken important high ground outside Alsting, France, it was attacked by a strong force of enemy tanks before contact could be established with adjacent companies. Surrounded by the enemy, the beleaguered company began to suffer heavy casualties. Technical Sergeant Hammond, aware that the commanding officer himself was wounded and that disorganization was imminent, aggressively took command and with sound tactical judgement organized the remaining men and effected a successful withdrawal through enemy lines and joined friendly troops. His courageous leadership prevented the highly possible annihilation of his unit. Entered military service from Wichita, Kansas.

EDWARD W. KELSEY, 39 337 447, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, at Philippebourg, France. Displaying sound tactical judgement and cool determination, Technical Sergeant Kelsey led his platoon through a hail of lead and fragments from hostile artillery and mortar shelling, to clear the enemy from several houses in Philippebourg. His successful mission inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy, contributed toward the swift clearing of the village, and permitted the attack of another company to proceed unhampered. Entered military service from Chester, South Carolina.

JAMES J. OWENS, 38 479 604, Technician Grade Five, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 13 January 1945, near Niederbronn, France. During the heavy enemy artillery barrage which preceded an enemy attack, Technician Owens left his covered position to administer first aid to a wounded comrade. During the attack which followed, although repeatedly fired upon by the enemy and twice knocked down by nearby artillery bursts, he continued at great personal hazard to administer to the wounded until the attack was repulsed and all casualties had been treated.

KURT P. H. PFORTNER, 32 713 354, Sergeant, Armored Force, Company B, 749th Tank Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 19 February 1945, at Etzling, France. Encountering entrenched enemy resistance, an infantry attack was stopped in the woods north of Etzling and, in moving up for support, a tank platoon was practically stopped by heavy mud. Sensing the situation, Sergeant Pfortner, tank commander, and a comrade, dismounted, and by strenuous effort freed their tank. By skillful and shrewd maneuvering, he brought his tank into a position from which an effective fire broke the enemy resistance and rescued the Infantry from a difficult position, enabling it to advance and gain its objective. In the action 21 prisoners were taken. Entered military service from York, Pennsylvania.

AMERICO D. C. RIBEIRO, 33 935 314, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company 2d Battalion, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 6 and 17 February 1945, in the vicinity of Grosbliederstroff, France. Private First Class Ribeiro, a radio operator, disregarding his personal safety in the face of enemy fire, performed his duties faithfully and unflinchingly, frequently covering fifteen miles per day over hilly, difficult terrain. On 17 February 1945, after being wounded by fire from an enemy 88mm gun, he displayed outstanding valor and tenacity in remaining actively on duty the full day amidst the hazard of enemy fire. Entered military service from Chester, Pennsylvania.

DONALD L. SHIRK, 33 802 527, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company 3d Battalion, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 23 February 1945, near Forbach, France. During an attack the communication line between battalion headquarters and a rifle company was broken by enemy action. Fully aware of the hazards involved, Private First Class Shirk, volunteering to cross an open draw under a constant spray of enemy machine gun fire, successfully repaired the wire and reestablished vital communications. Entered military service from Schoeneck, Pennsylvania.

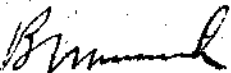
GEORGE A SIKES, 38 225 434, Private First Class, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 20 February 1945, at Forbach, France. During an attack the 2d platoon of an infantry company was pinned down by hostile machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. One man was wounded by an enemy sniper and received additional wounds each time he attempted to move to cover. Realizing his wounded comrade's precarious situation, Private First Class Sikes, the company aid man, moved to the soldier at great personal risk, under merciless enemy fire. He treated his wounds, and effected his safe evacuation. Entered military service from Winnsboro, Louisiana.

MICHAEL VIGLIONE, 33 682 568, Corporal (then Private First Class), Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 3 January 1945 and 19 February 1945, in the vicinities of Baerenthal and Zinzigen, France. As a result of an enemy aerial attack on 3 January 1945, the aid station of the 2d battalion, 275th Infantry was destroyed. Corporal Viglione, injured by fragments of a bomb burst, refused medical attention until after he treated and assisted in the evacuation of several wounded comrades. In an attack by the battalion in Zinzigen on 19 February, seven men from an infantry company suffered wounds from enemy fire. Calmly Corporal Viglione moved about the casualties administering first aid, defiantly risking the hazard of enemy fire. Entered military service from Ridgway, Pennsylvania.

By command of Major General BARNETT:

LEO A BESSETTE
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


B V MERRICK
Lt Col, AGD
Adj General