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GENERAL ORDERS)

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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:

ADRIAN S BIEKER, O1 313 506, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, Company G, 276th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 7 March 1945, near Forbach, France. After adjusting artillery fire on enemy positions across a deep anti-tank ditch, Lieutenant Bieker led his company successfully across the ditch and seized the high ground on the other side. He and several of his men were wounded by artillery fire during this crossing. Refusing to leave the battlefield, he remained in command, organizing his position, caring for the wounded, and directing artillery fire. Although he was killed shortly afterwards by the explosion of an enemy shell, the company was so thoroughly prepared for the counterattack which followed that the enemy was unable to dislodge it from its position. His gallant actions, culminating with the sacrifice of his life, exemplify the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mary Bieker (mother), 231 Cleveland Avenue, Hamilton, Ohio.

VIRGIL W ELDER, 37 696 794, Private First Class, Company G, 274th Infantry. Next of kin: Gertrude Elder (mother), Conrad, Iowa.

CARL W SHIELDS, 37 742 915, Private First Class, Company G, 274th Infantry. Next of kin: Carl B Shields, Sr., (Father), Route 1, Pineville, Missouri.

For gallantry in action on 20 February 1945, near Styring Wendel, France. When the attack of the first platoon was stopped by intense enemy machine gun fire from the front and right flank, these men, disregarding their own safety, crept from the extreme right of their unit to a position from which they could fire upon the machine gun in front of their platoon. Firing their rifles at close range, they engaged the hostile gun, and, although killed during the engagement, their heroic efforts enabled their unit to withdraw and later out-flank the enemy positions with a minimum of casualties. The gallant sacrifice and devotion to duty of these men exemplify the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

VINCENT D ROBEL, 19 112 135, Sergeant, Company F, 274th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 25 February 1945. When his company withdrew under pressure of a strong night counterattack on Spicheren Heights, France, Sergeant Robel, with his first gunner, remained with his LMG to cover the withdrawal. Although he was killed during the action, Sergeant Robel's effective handling of the gun was the

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deciding factor in repelling the enemy attack and enabling his company to regain its position. His gallant sacrifice exemplifies the highest standards of courage in the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Martha Rebel (mother), Snoqualmie, Washington.

II --- 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:

PAUL CONNELL, O 498 228, 1st Lieutenant, Field Artillery, Battery A, 884th Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action from 17 February to 6 March 1945, near Oetingen and Forbach, France. When the assault of Company B, 276th Infantry, was seriously threatened by attacking enemy tanks, Lieutenant Connell, disregarding the heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire, moved to the open crest of a hill from where he adjusted the fire of three artillery battalions. The barrage thus laid upon the enemy stopped the attack and knocked out the tank. Despite wounds sustained on 3 March, Lieutenant Connell continued on duty and, on 6 March, when the company had moved up to fill a gap in the front lines, he made his way through hostile mortar, artillery and small arms fire to a forward observation post, from which he directed an effective artillery barrage against the enemy until he was seriously wounded. His gallant action through the entire period was an inspiration to all and was a substantial contribution to the company's success. Entered military service from Trenton, New Jersey.

WILLIAM E SIMON, 36 982 859, Private First Class, Company D, 275th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 24 February 1945. During a strong counterattack by enemy infantry, armor, and heavy weapons in the wooded hills facing Saarbrücken, Germany, Private Simon remained at his HMG position after the riflemen had withdrawn. He continued to fire upon the hostile forces until the attack was stopped. By remaining at his post, he not only inspired the men behind him to hold their positions, but he also assisted in killing 25 of the enemy. His courageous action materially aided in repelling the attack. Entered military service from Hart, Michigan.

III --- AWARD OF THE FIRST OAK-LEAF CLUSTER TO THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under 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:

IRA C HATCH, 6 152 591, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company 2d Battalion, 274th Infantry. Entered military service from Northfield, Vermont.

REN P RYBICKI, 32 993 356, Sergeant, Headquarters Company 2d Battalion, 274th Infantry. Entered military service from Jamaica, Long Island, New York.

For meritorious service in action on 19 February 1945, at Spicheren Heights, France.

IV --- 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.

KENNETH G CLARK, 37 621 709, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 20 February and 8 March 1945.

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On 20 February 1945, near Forbach, France, Private First Class Clark ran across an open field, under heavy sniper fire, gave medical attention to three wounded soldiers and carried them to safety. On 8 March, at Imbruch, France, an enemy mortar shell struck a foxhole, wounding a soldier inside and igniting a white phosphorous grenade. Disregarding the burning grenade, Private First Class Clark immediately entered the shelter and, although severely burned about the hands and face, continued rendering first aid to his wounded comrade. His total disregard for his personal safety under fire was an inspiration to the troops about him. Entered military service from Hillsboro, Missouri.

ALBERT N CRUM, O2 010 760, 2d Lieutenant, (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company M, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 20 February 1945. During the attack on Forbach, France, Lieutenant Crum (then a squad leader) established his 81mm mortar OP approximately 150 yards in front of a rifle company occupying a castle on the crest of a hill. When, during darkness, about 50 enemy troops infiltrated behind his OP, he accurately adjusted fire upon them by sound, thus breaking up an enemy counterattack, and probably saving the lives of many of his comrades. Entered military service from Berkeley, California.

WILLIAM C DYE, 35 891 788, Staff Sergeant, Company K, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 22 February 1945. When his company was forced to withdraw under cover in a nearby woods after an unsuccessful attempt to cross a clearing near Spicheren, France, Staff Sergeant Dye noticed that a comrade had fallen under direct fire from enemy pillboxes on the side of the clearing towards the enemy. Disregarding enemy machine gun and shellfire, he ran into the open and carried the seriously wounded men back to safety. His courageous act beyond the call of duty was responsible for saving his comrade's life. Entered military service from Richmond, Indiana.

LESTER R GAMRADT, O1 166 268, 1st Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 882d Field Artillery Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on the night of 18 February 1945, near Etzling, France. During an enemy counterattack on the important high ground held by Company G, 274th Infantry, Lieutenant Gamradt, although exposed to night enemy small arms fire and endangered by air bursts from his own close barrage, coolly remained at his forward observation post and adjusted fire on the approaching enemy. His efficient and courageous action was instrumental in repelling the enemy counterattack. Entered military service from Princeton, Minnesota.

FRANK A MC CLENAGHAN JR, 33 810 591, Technician Fourth Grade, Company M, 276th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 26 February 1945, at Forbach, France. When an enemy shell struck a 250 gallon trailer, setting it and an adjacent garage on fire, Technician Mc Clenaghan unhesitatingly dashed into the burning building to save his own truck which had been parked inside. Despite enemy shelling and the danger that the gasoline trailer might momentarily explode, he drove his vehicle through the flames to safety. Entered military service from Chester, Pennsylvania.

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JOHN D Mc LEES, 36 842 620, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company K 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 22 February 1945, near Spicheren, France. When his platoon, pinned down by machine gun and small arms fire, was unable to move, an enemy tank, surrounded by riflemen, suddenly appeared. Sergeant Mc Lees, then a messenger, unhesitatingly crept fifty yards across open ground, under hostile fire, to locate a friendly rocket-launcher team. Returning, he guided the team to a position from which it disabled the tank. Sergeant Mc Lees then joined in the action with the enemy riflemen around the tank. As a result of his courageous action, his platoon repelled the attack, thereby securing the company's right flank. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

EUGENE E OVERMYER, 36 982 904, Private First Class, Company K, 275th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 21 February 1945, near Alsting, France. At the height of a fierce encounter with the enemy, the company's one remaining radio went dead just as hostile tanks were seen approaching. Immediately responding to the critical situation, Private First Class Overmyer, assistant radio operator, voluntarily left cover and proceeded through a heavy concentration of artillery fire to obtain the extra batteries which he had previously cached in a rear position. Returning with these, he began operation of his radio by which effective artillery fire was adjusted on enemy armor and pillboxes, enabling his company to maneuver into a more favorable position and establish a defense for the night. Entered military service from Ewart, Michigan.

KERMIT A SIEGRIST, O 375 002, Captain, Corps of Engineers, Company C, 270th Engineer (C) Battalion. Entered military service from Meadville, Missouri.

JOHN D PEARSON, O1 114 254, 1st Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, Company C, 270th Engineer (C) Battalion. Entered military service from La Porte, Indiana.

For heroic achievement in action on 19 February 1945. While attacking the city of Forbach, France, the advance of an infantry battalion was halted by heavy automatic weapons fire from a blockhouse and supporting stone buildings. Since swampy ground and a ten foot wall, two feet thick, prevented the use of tanks, the combat engineers were directed to breach a path through the wall for the tanks. Tunneling fifteen feet to the base of the wall under direct fire from 88mm, 75mm, mortar and heavy machine guns, Captain Siegrist and Lieutenant Pearson personally supervised the blasting of an entrance in this obstacle in less than 90 minutes. This courageous achievement in the face of the enemy enabled tanks and infantry to advance, reduce the hostile strong point, and, subsequently, to capture the city of Forbach.

CALVIN P POND, 37 567 277, Private First Class, Headquarters Company 2d Battalion, 274th Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 5 and 6 March 1945, near Styring Wendel, France. After evacuating three wounded soldiers in his jeep through heavy artillery fire on the night of 5 March, Private First Class Pond volunteered, on the following night, to take two more casualties through a heavy concentration of mortar fire to a point where they could receive

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medical attention. Although the heavy shelling prevented him on his first two attempts from getting through, he was successful on his third try, and despite aimed hostile small arms fire along the route, he completed his mission. Entered military service from Mankato, Minnesota.

By command of Major General BARNETT:

LEO A BESSETTE
Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


E V MERRICK
Lt Col AGD
Adj General

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