

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

APO 470, U. S. Army
26 December 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER - 82)

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named individuals:

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALFRED W. CROLL, O285571, Adjutant General's Department, Headquarters, 103d Infantry Division. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 9 November 1944 to 26 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France. Residence: Arlington, Virginia.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DICK WEGENER, O366663, Ordnance Department, 803d Ordnance Company. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 20 October 1944 to 26 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France. Residence: Tyler, Texas.

MAJOR GEORGE H. SCHAFER, O396946, Quartermaster Corps, 103d Quartermaster Company. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 16 November 1944 to 26 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France. Residence: Chicago, Illinois.

By command of Major General HAFFNER:

26 December 1944.

G. S. MELOY, JR.,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Alfred W. Croll
A. W. CROLL,
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

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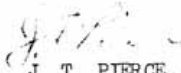
HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

APO 470, U. S. Army
26 December 1944

GENERAL ORDER)
:
NUMBER - 83)

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

Under the provisions of Paragraph 6a, AR 600-20, the undersigned hereby assumes command of the 103d Infantry Division during the temporary absence of Major General CHARLES C. HAFNER, JR., USA.


J. T. PIERCE,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

APO 470, U. S. Army
26 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER - 84)

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL I
AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL II

I -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded following named individuals:

Staff Sergeant Luther Y. Looney, 39170441, Infantry, Company "L", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 2 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Company "L" was being harassed by intermittent enemy fire from a dense woods. Sergeant Looney, on his own initiative, obtained two comrades and proceeded to locate the source of enemy fire. With utter disregard for his life he crossed an open field exposed to heavy small arms and automatic weapon fire to the wooded area where the enemy fire was emanating. He skillfully located the enemy and succeeded in killing three of them, and forced two others to swim across a stream, taking them prisoners. His courageous act permitted the company to advance without suffering casualties. Residence: North Hollywood, California.

Technician Fourth Grade Elwood Shirley, 35623797, Infantry, Company "M", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 16 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Technician Shirley, working as a wireman, kept vital communication lines intact between the attacking forces and the artillery, while under intense enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Many times during the day vital lines were blown out but, with utter disregard for his life, he dashed forth to the area of the break to repair it. Undaunted by the harassing fire that blasted the area around him he continued on courageously and relentlessly, checking, rechecking, and repairing the wires. As a result of Technician Shirley's outstanding valor and untiring efforts, in the face of enemy fire, important communications were maintained, ultimately delivering a crushing blow to the opposing forces. Residence: Lexington, Kentucky.

Private George H. Keene, 17176333, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 27 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Keene was performing his duties at the forward aid station when a comrade in the street, was wounded by a shell fragment. Private Keene, with utter disregard for his life, exposed himself to the intense artillery and mortar barrage as he courageously dashed through the street to the unconscious man

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GO #84, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 26 Dec 44
 AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

and carried him to the aid station. Expeditionously and skillfully administering first aid and plasma, Private Keene revived the wounded man so that he was able to walk within two hours. As a result of his magnificent valor and outstanding skill, Private Keene saved the life of a wounded comrade. Residence: Pratt, Kansas.

Sergeant James R. Pemberton, 16153714, (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company "K", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 3 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sergeant Pemberton and his squad were sent out as a patrol to contact an adjacent regiment. The patrol was going cross-country over the rough terrain when it was fired on by the enemy, as they reached a crest of a hill. On his own initiative, Sergeant Pemberton, with utter disregard for his life, exposed himself to the enemy to give his comrades covering fire as they progressed along a safer route. With courageous determination, he stood his ground, under the withering stream of hostile automatic weapon fire, to return the fire of the attacking enemy. Not until he was assured that his comrades had continued on, undiscovered by the enemy, did he withdraw from his position to rejoin his squad. As a result of his magnificent valor, Sergeant Pemberton relieved his comrades from a precarious position and assured the success of the patrol in its mission. Residence: Bloomington, Illinois.

Private First Class Ernest D. McIntyre, 34572321, Infantry, Company "M", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 16 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private McIntyre observed a rifle company in a forward area pinned to the ground by intense enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Sensing the impending danger and cognizant of the fact his own company would need more ammunition, he valiantly crawled over almost impassable terrain in order to procure the vitally needed ammunition. With utter disregard for his life he deliberately entered an area under direct and concentrated enemy fire. Private McIntyre skillfully maneuvered his way to the rear, obtained the necessary ammunition, and then recrossed the fire-swept terrain safely. As a result of Private McIntyre's magnificent valor an enemy strongpoint was neutralized and the rifle company was able to proceed to its objective satisfactorily. Residence: Gainesville, Georgia.

Staff Sergeant Charles F. Foster, 17175542, Infantry, Company "L", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 23 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sergeant Foster, with his company, was pinned to the ground by intense enemy small arms fire. Observing the company in direct line of fire and unable to move, he courageously went forward, with utter disregard for his life, in the face of point blank fire, to lead his squad against the hostile strongpoint. This valiant act so inspired the men about him that they jumped from their places of cover and assaulted the enemy with renewed vigor. As a result of Sergeant Foster's outstanding valor the company objective was taken and many of the enemy were killed or captured. Residence: Burbank, California.

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 AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

Private First Class Mike M. Shkatula, (then Private), 15010620, Infantry, Company "F", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 17 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Shkatula, with his company, was pinned down by heavy mortar and artillery fire. This barrage severed the communication line between his platoon and the company command post. Headless of the warnings of his company commander and platoon leader, he courageously left the safety of his dugout and went forward to repair the line. He located the break in an open field, which was under constant enemy observation, and began repairing the line. Although enemy machine guns and small arms began firing, he fearlessly remained at his work, returning to safety only after the vital line was repaired. Because of his devotion to duty while under enemy fire, important communications were restored. Residence: Clarksburg, West Virginia.

Private First Class John M. Holden, 16088686, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 409th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 4 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Holden, with the aid of one man, courageously ventured forth over bullet swept streets to clear the area of mines for attacking troops and an attached tank destroyer unit approaching from the rear. With utter disregard for his life he continued to expose himself to the harassing fire while he skillfully removed the mines. In the process of removing one mine he was painfully wounded in the right leg by an enemy mortar shell. Oblivious of his injury he continued on to his objective, clearing the area. Not until he was assured that the last mine in his vicinity had been removed would he submit to medical attention. As a result of Private Holden's display of magnificent valor, troops and tank destroyers were able to proceed successfully, without a single loss due to mines, to their objective. Residence: Augusta, Michigan.

Private First Class Gordon B. Roget, 17131032, Infantry, Company "B", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. On 20 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Roget and his squad were pinned to the ground by intense machine gun and sniper fire. Private Roget, with utter disregard for his life, left his covered position with several hand grenades and crawled through the rain and mud to locate the enemy emplacements. Oblivious to the hail of machine gun fire striking only inches from him, he courageously crawled over the rough and exposed terrain to personally neutralize the hostile positions by grenades. Later in the day, his squad was again pinned to the muddy ground by sniper fire. Unswerved by the previous risks he had taken, he, for the second time, crawled forward in the face of hostile sniper fire to locate and clean out the enemy sniper nests. As a result of his magnificent valor and perseverance, Private Roget materially assisted his company in the success of its mission without a single casualty. Residence: Ordway, South Dakota.

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GO #84, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 26 Dec 44
AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

Technician Fifth Grade Kenneth H. Grabowski, 16151868, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 22 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Technician Grabowski, a medical aid man attached to Company "F", although slightly wounded, repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to evacuate his injured comrades. Each evacuation involved crossing the swollen * * * River on a foot bridge which was under intense enemy fire. It was also necessary to cross fire-swept open terrain and to expose himself directly to enemy fire by climbing over a wire fence. With great devotion to duty he treated the wounded and succeeded in taking them over the extremely difficult and dangerous route to safety. Only after all his wounded comrades were evacuated would he submit to medical attention himself. Residence: Detroit, Michigan.

Technical Sergeant Francis N. Wright, 36545853, Infantry, Company "I", 409th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 16 November 1944, in the village of * * *, France, Sergeant Wright's platoon was engaging the enemy in a house to house fight when he was seriously wounded by enemy fire. Despite the severity of his injuries, he kept the fact a secret from his comrades and continued directing his platoon forward, resulting in the successful capture of the village. Not until he was called by his platoon leader did he make it known that he was wounded and unable to move. This courageous act, accomplished when suffering from serious wounds was an inspiration to the officers and men of the company. Residence: Detroit, Michigan.

Staff Sergeant Bernard T. Pacholski, 36548982, Infantry, Company "B", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 3 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sergeant Pacholski and his squad were pinned down for eight hours by heavy enemy small arms, machine gun and mortar fire. Every attempt to move was greeted by a blast of enemy machine gun fire. Realizing the precarious position of his men, Sergeant Pacholski, with utter disregard for his life, courageously dashed over the fire-swept terrain to a machine gun, picked up the gun and ran with his heavy burden to find his company. He informed his company commander the location of the enemy positions and skillfully pointed out their locations on a map which enabled the artillery to fire on the hostile positions. As a result of Sergeant Pacholski's magnificent valor his machine gun was saved, and the enemy installations were neutralized permitting his squad to withdraw from its perilous positions without suffering casualties. Residence: Detroit, Michigan.

Private First Class John R. Purdy, 36572408, Infantry, Company "H", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the twilight hours of 12 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Purdy and a comrade were on their way from their company to the battalion command post when they discovered an enemy communication line laying on the hilly terrain. With utter disregard for his life, Private Purdy courageously followed the enemy line through the rain over the unknown terrain. Peering through the rain and

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REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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 AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

dusk as he cautiously advanced, he saw a hostile artillery observation post manned by three of the enemy. Although outnumbered, Private Purdy and his comrade advanced unseen to the hostile position and captured the unsuspecting enemy. As a result of his magnificent valor, Private Purdy aided in silencing an enemy artillery observation post which had been directing artillery on his company's position throughout the day. Residence: Detroit, Michigan.

Private Thomas M. Burns, Jr., 36553900, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 25 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Burns, litter bearer attached to Company "A", accompanied his organization during a forced march over difficult and hazardous terrain. With two other comrades he diligently searched the area for wounded. In the process of their search, they were subjected to intense enemy machine gun fire resulting in his two companions being seriously wounded. He braved the harassing fire completely oblivious of the fact it was the same fire that had just struck his comrades. He administered first aid brilliantly and efficiently, with utter disregard for his life, as bullets raked the area where he worked. Unable to evacuate them without assistance he skillfully maneuvered his way to the rear and guided help back with him. As a result of Private Burn's outstanding courage in the face of enemy fire the lives of two of his comrades were saved. Residence: Saginaw, Michigan.

Private First Class Gerard H. Spaeth, 37568170, Infantry, Company "B", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 18 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Spaeth was pinned to the ground by severe enemy machine gun and small arms fire. Observing that his company was unable to move due to the fire, he fully realized immediate action was imperative. Crawling from his covered position he skillfully maneuvered his way across fire-swept terrain to secure a more advantageous position for firing. Keenly sighting an enemy machine gun, he jumped from his new position, exposed himself to observation and fired directly into it, completely neutralizing the strong point. He sighted another enemy gun but being unable to fire on it he maneuvered his way to the company command post and led a platoon to the location of the hostile weapon. Assured that the situation was efficiently controlled he again resumed his original position of fire to cover the advance of attacking troops. As a result of Private Spaeth's outstanding courage and utter disregard for his life, threatening enemy positions were neutralized and the attacking troops were able to advance successfully to their objective. Residence: Ada, Minnesota.

Sergeant Henry F. Szepelak, 36713461, Infantry, Company "H", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the twilight hours of 12 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sergeant Szepelak and a comrade were on their way from their company to the battalion command post when they discovered an enemy communication line laying on the hilly terrain. With utter disregard for his life, Sergeant Szepelak courageously followed the

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GO #84, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 26 Dec 44
 AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

enemy line through the rain over the unknown terrain. Peering through the rain and dusk as he cautiously advanced, he saw a hostile artillery observation post manned by three of the enemy. Although outnumbered, Sergeant Szepelak and his comrade advanced unseen to the hostile position and captured the unsuspecting enemy. As a result of his magnificent valor, Sergeant Szepelak aided in silencing an enemy artillery observation post which had been directing artillery on his company's position throughout the day. Residence; Joliet, Illinois.

Technical Sergeant Pascual O. Elizondo, 38065044, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. On 21 November 1944 in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sergeant Elizondo as ammunition and pioneer platoon sergeant, observed a group attempting to construct a bridge over the * * * River, being constantly driven back by heavy enemy fire. Ultimately they were pinned down and unable to move. Realizing the extreme importance of having the bridge constructed before dawn so it would be accessible for a dawn attack by our troops, he leaped from his place of cover, seized an axe and waded into the swift river. As he drove supports into the river bed, enemy bullets harassed him constantly, but he continued on with undaunted courage and utter disregard for his life. As a result of Sergeant Elizondo's display of magnificent valor his men were so inspired they jumped into the turbulent water and completed the bridge in time for the dawn attack to be successfully launched. Residence: Carlsbad, New Mexico.

II -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded, posthumously, to following named individuals:

Staff Sergeant Russel Fuccy, 36549266, Infantry, Company "A", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 24 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sergeant Fuccy, with his squad in the attack, was pinned to the ground by intense enemy mortar and small arms fire. Observing the perilous position of his entire company and fully cognizant that severe casualties would ensue if the impending danger was not alleviated, maneuvered his way to the hostile strong point. Reaching a position where he knew any slight movement would draw enemy fire, he, with utter disregard for his life, single-handedly assaulted the enemy emplacement. Bullets raked his path as he courageously crawled forward. When only a few yards from the strong point enemy machine guns blasted the spot where he lay, mortally wounding him. His magnificent valor in the face of possible self-destruction so inspired his men that they moved forward with overwhelming lust for revenge, completely wiping out the enemy position. Throughout this entire action Sergeant Fuccy's display of outstanding valor was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence; Detroit, Michigan. Next of kin: Mrs. Florence Fuccy (Wife), 18844 Carrie Street, Detroit, Michigan.

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GO #84, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 26 Dec 44.
 AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

Private First Class Rosendo Cardenas, 38057866, Infantry, Company "A", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 22 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Cardenas observed one platoon of his company pinned down by severe enemy mortar and machine gun fire. On his own initiative and with utter disregard for his life, he pressed into service two other comrades and skillfully crawled to a point of observation. Completely oblivious of the withering fire that swept his vicinity, he exposed himself to enemy fire and direct observation in order to efficiently direct covering automatic weapon fire for our machine gun emplacements. In the process of strategically placing his weapons in position Private Cardenas was hit by a hail of enemy fire, falling mortally wounded. Throughout this entire action Private Cardenas' display of magnificent courage was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service and a source of inspiration to all. Residence: Simonton, Texas. Next of kin: Mr. Gaspar Cardenas (father) Simonton, Texas.

By command of Brigadier General PIERCE:

G. S. MELOY, JR.,
 Colonel, G.S.C.,
 Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

A. W. Croll
 A. W. CROLL,
 Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
 Adjutant General.

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HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

APO 470, U. S. Army,
26 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER - 85)

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART I
AWARD OF PURPLE HEART, REVOCATION. II

I -- AWARD OF PURPLE HEART. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded to the following named individuals for wounds received in action against the enemy:

Technician Fifth Grade Allyn N. Amundson, 36288825, Field Artillery, Battery "B", 928th Field Artillery Battalion, Germany, 20 December 1944. Residence: Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Private Joseph M. Cusimano, 34230176, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 928th Field Artillery Battalion, Germany, 20 December 1944. Residence: New Orleans, Louisiana.

Private Dale B. Ride, 19131650, Field Artillery, Battery "B", 928th Field Artillery Battalion, Germany, 18 December 1944. Residence: Santa Monica, California.

Technician Fourth Grade John H. Mock, 34496430, Corps of Engineers, Company "C", 328th Engineer Combat Battalion, France, 12 December 1944. Residence: Tucson, Arizona.

Staff Sergeant John A. Baker, 17045908, Infantry, Company "F", 411th Infantry Regiment, France, 17 December 1944. Residence: Kansas City, Missouri.

Private Johnny O. Watson, 39929141, Infantry, Company "G", 411th Infantry Regiment, Germany, 17 December 1944. Residence: Pocatello, Idaho.

Private Carl W. Fordyce, Jr., 37739517, Infantry, Company "E", 411th Infantry Regiment, Germany, 17 December 1944. Residence: Kansas City, Missouri.

Staff Sergeant Ralph T. McManus, 34465857, Infantry, Company "E", 411th Infantry Regiment, Germany, 17 December 1944. Residence: Sanford, North Carolina.

Private First Class Harley Crane, 15045103, Infantry, Company "E", 411th Infantry Regiment, Germany, 17 December 1944. Residence: Bedford, Indiana.

Private First Class John R. Purdy, 36572408, Infantry, Company "H", 411th Infantry Regiment, Germany, 17 December 1944. Residence: Detroit, Michigan.

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R E S T R I C T E D

GO #85, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 26 Dec 44
 AWARD OF PURPLE HEART (Cont'd)

Private First Class Lee W. Albert, 6975636, Infantry, Company "B", 411th Infantry Regiment, Germany, 17 December 1944. Residence: New York, New York.

Private Jerry Srow, 36421220, Infantry, Company "G", 411th Infantry Regiment, Germany, 17 December 1944. Residence: Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

First Sergeant Ralph F. Doran, 6666480, Infantry, Company "E", 411th Infantry Regiment, Germany, 18 December 1944. Residence: Charleston, West Virginia.

Private Manuel R. Rincon, 38359004, Infantry, Company "E", 411th Infantry Regiment, Germany, 17 December 1944. Residence: San Antonio, Texas.

Technician Fifth Grade Charles W. Griffey, 36643139, Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery, 928th Field Artillery Battalion, Germany, 20 December 1944. Residence: Forest Park, Illinois.

II -- AWARD OF PURPLE HEART; REVOCATION. So much of General Orders Number 63, this Headquarters, dated 14 December 1944, as pertains to Private Hugh P. Prior, Jr., 33156700, Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery, 384th Field Artillery Battalion, is revoked.

By command of Brigadier General PIERCE:

G. S. MELOY, JR.,
 Colonel, G.S.C.,
 Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

A. W. Croll
 A. W. CROLL,
 Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
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HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

APO 470, U. S. Army
26 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER - 86)

AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSING IN ACTION

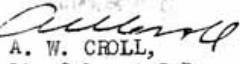
Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded following named individual:

Private Charles G. Johnston Jr., 37621011, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 409th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. During the daylight hours of 5 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Johnston, medical aid man attached to Company "F", observed two civilians step on enemy mines apparently injuring them seriously. With utter disregard for his life and displaying magnificent courage he dashed into the mine-infested field to administer first aid. As he approached the wounded persons he observed that they had already succumbed to their injuries. He gallantly went forward to evacuate them, but in the process stepped on a mine, inflicting serious wounds. Private Johnston was last seen courageously advancing, despite his own excruciating pain, to the scene of the accident. Private Johnston has subsequently been reported as missing in action. Residence: St. Louis, Missouri. Next of kin: Mr. Charles G. Johnston Sr., (Father) St. Louis, Missouri.

By command of Brigadier General FIERCE:

G. S. MELOY, JR.,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:


A. W. CROLL,
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

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CG, ETOUSA -----		5

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