

R E S T R I C T E D

T.G. files
[Signature]

HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

AFC 470, U. S. Army
6 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER - 53)

AWARD OF SILVER STAR	I
AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSING IN ACTION	II
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I -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded following named individuals:

Sergeant Darwin K. Kyle, 6987590, (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company "L", 411th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. During the early morning hours of 19 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Kyle, was subjected to intense enemy small arms, mortar, artillery and 20 millimeter automatic weapon fire. Private Kyle, observing that six of our supporting tanks had been disabled by the direct fire of the enemy, quickly grabbed a rocket launcher and crawled toward the enemy emplacement. From an advantageous position he commanded direct observation on the hostile strong-point. He accurately fired three rounds into the enemy emplacement, knocking out the gun and killing the crew. As a result of this action, tanks were able to enter the town and the company was materially assisted in its subsequent withdrawal. Private Kyle's exemplary fortitude and gallant actions were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Dawes, West Virginia.

From AF 411th Inf Reg

Technician Fifth Grade Bernard Snelnick, 31404981, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 411th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. During the daylight hours of 19 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, the strongly entrenched enemy inflicted severe casualties upon our troops as the attack pressed forward. Technician Snelnick, an aid man, with utter disregard for his life, crawled from one wounded man to another administering first aid. As he was dressing the wounds of a comrade, he, himself, received a severe head wound. Against his protests he was carried from the battle field and his wound was dressed. He then attempted to return to the aid of the wounded men, but as he made his way forward his wound caused him to lose consciousness. Revived, he was persuaded to withdraw to the aid station. As he moved across the fire-swept terrain, he saw a wounded soldier directly exposed to the enemy fire. In spite of his own weakened condition, he struggled to his comrade, administered first aid and, summoning a soldier to assist him, evacuated the man to the aid station. Technician Snelnick's ex-

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GO #53, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 6 Feb 45
I - AWARD OF SILVER STAR (Cont'd)

emplary devotion to duty, was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: New Haven, Connecticut.

Private First Class Charles W. Oates, 33926501, Infantry, Company "I", 411th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. During a withdrawal by Company "I", 411th Infantry Regiment from the vicinity of * * *, France, on 19 January 1945, the company's flank was threatened and several casualties were inflicted by an enemy anti-tank gun. Private Oates, an ammunition bearer for a machine gun squad, having located the position of the enemy weapon and realizing the threat it presented, resolved, upon his own initiative, to neutralize it. Seizing a machine gun, he crawled to a position only 150 yards from the anti-tank gun, set up his weapon and unleashed a murderous blast, killing the crew. As the enemy attempted to re-man the gun, or remove it to another position, Private Oates, with utter disregard for his life, remained at his post raking the enemy position with accurate fire, nullifying every enemy attempt to make further use of the weapon. When his comrades had reached safety, he made a successful withdrawal, evacuating his weapon. Private Oates' gallant actions were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Linesville, Pennsylvania.

Private First Class Francis P. Daly, 17069226, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. During the daylight hours of 18 January 1945, Company "C" of the 410th Infantry Regiment was in the attack near * * *, France. The objective of the attack was a railroad line and while one platoon was crossing an open field it was pinned down by intense fire from two enemy machine guns. Private Daly, automatic-rifleman, realizing that the fire of the two machine guns made the position of his platoon a precarious one, heroically moved forward through the withering fire. Gaining an advantageous position, he opened fire and killed the crews of the two enemy machine guns. His gallant action, performed with complete disregard for his life, was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Burlington, Iowa.

Sergeant Ernest Clark, 6871683, Infantry, Company "I", 411th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. During the daylight hours of 19 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sergeant Clark, in the face of withering enemy fire, courageously remained in a forward position to cover his company during a withdrawal. Enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire blasted the area about him, but heedless of the devastating fire, he gallantly parried every enemy thrust. Armed only with an M-1 rifle, he delivered direct and accurate fire into a dangerous enemy machine gun emplacement, completely neutralizing it. Then he was assured that all members of his company had withdrawn to a covered position, then, he, himself, withdrew. While moving to the rear he observed a wounded comrade from his company lying helpless in the exposed and fire-swept terrain. He dashed to the injured man's side, picked him up and carried him for 500 yards to a place of safety. Here his wounded comrade's wounds were dressed and he was speedily evacuated to an aid station. Sergeant Clark's magnificent valor was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: New York, New York.

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GO #53, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 6 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

II -- 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:

SECOND LIEUTENANT SIDNEY PIGMON, 01998096, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. During the daylight hours of 18 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, LIEUTENANT PIGMON was leading his platoon in the attack on a railroad line when he encountered fierce enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire. As he dashed forward he was struck in the shoulder and leg by enemy machine gun fire, knocking him to the ground. Momentarily stunned, LIEUTENANT PIGMON struggled to his feet, quickly regained his stability and, despite his painful wounds, relentlessly pushed on rallying the men about him. As a result of LIEUTENANT PIGMON's exemplary fortitude and gallant actions, the men about him were so inspired they pushed forward with renewed vigor, capturing the objective. He was last seen advancing courageously over the fire-swept terrain in the direction of the objective. LIEUTENANT PIGMON has subsequently been reported missing in action. Throughout the entire action, LIEUTENANT PIGMON's outstanding courage was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Neon, Kentucky. Next of kin: Mr. Charlie Tolliver (Brother), Neon, Kentucky.

III -- AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Soldier's Medal is awarded following named individual:

Private First Class Ardell G. Campbell, 33700535, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 409th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in the vicinity of * * *, France, on 2 January 1945. While one of Private Campbell's comrades was cleaning immersion heaters, a bucket of gasoline which the man was carrying became ignited. As the flames reached the soldier's hands, he dropped the bucket which caused the flaming gasoline to splash upon and ignite his clothing. Seeing his comrade's plight, Private Campbell called upon him to roll on the ground, but the man, confused and in great pain, failed to hear the call and began to run. Private Campbell, cognizant of the inherent danger of the situation, ran after his comrade, overtook him, and brought him to the earth with a flying tackle. With great presence of mind, he rolled the man over and over in the snow, using his own body to smother the flames, and pulled off the smoldering clothing. As a result of Private Campbell's quick thinking, his effective actions and his fortitude, a comrade's life was saved. Residence: Richmond, Virginia.

IV -- 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:

Private First Class Alfred L. Corradi, 42143220, Infantry, Company "B", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 20 January 1945, during the action in the woods near * * *, France, a squad of enemy infantry attempted to place a machine gun and other automatic

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IV - AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

weapons in a concealed position in front of Company "B", 410th Infantry Regiment. Private Corradi, being the only one in position to see the attempt, warned his squad and then opened fire with his automatic rifle. Throughout the fire fight that followed, Private Corradi, with complete disregard for his safety, continued his attempt to dislodge the enemy. After expending all his automatic rifle ammunition, he resorted to a carbine and then a machine gun, killing three of the enemy, wounding four and routing the remainder. Private Corradi's heroism was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Cliffside, New Jersey.

Staff Sergeant Walter E. Hitz, 37242291, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the evening hours of 25 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sergeant Hitz, mortar platoon squad leader, went forward in the attack as a rifleman, when the conditions of the movement prevented the use of his mortars. When contact became disrupted with an adjacent platoon, Sergeant Hitz fearlessly led a patrol in search of the beleaguered group as enemy small arms fire raked the area. As he skillfully maneuvered his way across the fire-swept terrain he was wounded by enemy fire. Despite his wounds he relentlessly pushed on, finally reaching his goal and reestablishing contact with the isolated platoon. Sergeant Hitz's outstanding courage and exemplary devotion to duty were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Hudson, Kansas.

Private First Class Michael Vanecko, 36549021, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 409th Infantry Regiment. For heroic achievement in action. During the action in the vicinity of * * *, Germany, on 22 December 1944, several of our men were wounded. Working continuously for more than 36 hours, Private Vanecko, an aid man, made his way repeatedly over more than a mile of mountainous terrain evacuating the wounded. Heedless of the intense enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire which fell on all sides, and of his extreme fatigue, he successfully evacuated six of his wounded comrades. Private Vanecko's fortitude and exemplary devotion to duty were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Barton, Ohio.

Private First Class Ira T. McClure, 35813078, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 18 January 1945, during the action near * * *, France, Private McClure was an automatic-rifleman with a platoon on the left flank of Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. When an enemy machine gun opened fire on the advancing company, Private McClure, with complete disregard for his safety, worked his way forward and covered his platoon with automatic rifle fire so that the platoon could neutralize the enemy gun threatening the company. When, on the following day, it became necessary to withdraw before a counterattack by a superior force, Private McClure remained behind to cover the withdrawal, directing effective fire at the enemy while his company withdrew. His heroic action was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Leitchfield, Kentucky.

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CO #53, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 6 Feb 45
 IV - AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

* CAPTAIN CURTIS C. NEELY, O1296408, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 25 January 1945, in * * *, France, CAPTAIN NEELY, leading his company in the attack, encountered ferocious enemy machine gun fire coming from well concealed emplacements. Quickly discovering the source of the enemy fire, CAPTAIN NEELY deployed a bazooka grenadier into a strategic position for firing on the enemy strongpoints. As CAPTAIN NEELY dashed to the gun position in order to direct the accuracy of its fire, a hitherto undisclosed enemy machine gun opened fire painfully wounding him in the leg. Despite his wound, he courageously continued to direct fire on the enemy, neutralizing several machine gun nests, killing or capturing the crews. He constantly exposed himself to enemy fire, spurning cover, in order to maintain a more advantageous position for observation. CAPTAIN NEELY's outstanding courage and brilliant leadership were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: New Tazewell, Tennessee.

SECOND LIEUTENANT RALPH D. MCCORQUODALE, O1319302, Infantry, Company "A", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the early morning hours of 19 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, LIEUTENANT MCCORQUODALE, during an attack, was ordered to assist another company, which at the time was engaged in a vicious fire fight with the enemy. Without hesitation, LIEUTENANT MCCORQUODALE, heroically led his men to the aid of the battle engaged company. Upon the successful completion of this mission he found that, in the heat of battle, his company had been surrounded. With great skill, and utter disregard for his life, he courageously directed the successful withdrawal of his company from their precarious position. This move necessitated traversing over 1000 yards of enemy observed territory, carrying the wounded, and engaging the enemy the entire distance. The heroic actions and brilliant leadership of LIEUTENANT MCCORQUODALE were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: San Diego, California.

Private First Class Charles F. Newman, 36538237, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 409th Infantry Regiment. For heroic achievement in action. During the period 2 December to 4 December 1944, while his battalion was attacking in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Newman evacuated wounded from an advanced aid station which came under the artillery fire of the enemy. Working tirelessly night and day, oblivious to physical exhaustion, Private Newman carried out his duties as a medical aid man with exemplary courage and fortitude. He repeatedly drove over an area which was under enemy shellfire and, undeterred by shrapnel hits on his vehicle, evacuated many of the wounded to safety. Private Newman's heroic efforts and devotion to duty were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Saginaw, Michigan.

V -- AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal is awarded following named individual:

SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM C. HOLLIMAY, O2000696, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of

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GO #53, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 6 Feb 45
 V - AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

26 January 1945, in the attack on * * *, France, LIEUTENANT HOLLOWAY and his platoon encountered severe and intense enemy small arms and machine gun fire. In the process of this activity the company commander was wounded and, without hesitation, LIEUTENANT HOLLOWAY took command of the company. In addition to his own company, he took command of an adjacent platoon of tanks and brilliantly led both groups into the town, capturing the objective. He then fearlessly directed the clearing of the town, constantly exposing himself to enemy machine gun and sniper fire. LIEUTENANT HOLLOWAY's magnificent valor and outstanding leadership were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Corsicana, Texas.

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

SECOND LIEUTENANT RALPH D. McCORQUODALE, 01319302, Infantry, Company "A", 410th Infantry Regiment, France, 25 January 1945. Residence: San Diego, California.

SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. RYERSON, 01308382, Infantry, Company "G", 410th Infantry Regiment, France, 22 January 1945. Residence: Paterson, New Jersey.

Corporal Raymond J. Fountain, 36410381, Corps of Engineers, Company "B", 328th Engineer Combat Battalion, France, 4 February 1945. Residence: Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Private First Class Clarence H. Zissler, 36553839, Corps of Engineers, Company "B", 328th Engineer Combat Battalion, France, 4 February 1945. Residence: Birch Run, Michigan.

Private First Class Edward Kendra, 36288892, Infantry, Company "H", 411th Infantry Regiment, France, 12 January 1945. Residence: Gilman, Wisconsin.

Private First Class Earl L. Sorensen, 36713837, Infantry, Company "H", 411th Infantry Regiment, France, 14 December 1944. Residence: Bellwood, Illinois.

Private First Class William G. Harrison, 38137394, Infantry, Company "H", 411th Infantry Regiment, France, 20 January 1945. Residence: Kennard, Texas.

Technical Sergeant Merle E. Marshall, 37400231, Infantry, Company "H", 411th Infantry Regiment, France, 14 December 1944. Residence: Bakersfield, Missouri.

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GO #53, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 6 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

By command of Brigadier General McAULIFFE:

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

OFFICIAL:

A. T. Groll

A. T. GROLL,
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

AFO 470, U. S. Army
7 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER - 54)

MAJOR ERNEST J. GILMAN, O456217, CSC (Inf), having been detailed as a member of the General Staff Corps with Troops, is assigned to General Staff duties as Assistant to Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3.

By command of Brigadier General McAULIFFE:

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

OFFICIAL:

A. V. Choll

A. V. CHOLL,
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

AG 300.4 AG, M-27

DISTRIBUTION: "B", "D" & "F"

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HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

APO 470, U. S. Army
8 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER - 55)

- AWARD OF SILVER STAR I
- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF SILVER STAR II
- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL III
- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR MEDAL IV
- AWARD OF PURPLE HEART V

I -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded following named individual:

Private First Class Anthony G. Hillerman, 38563801, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. During the early morning hours of 19 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Hillerman, mortar gunner, was with his company in the attack when a severe enemy counter-attack was launched on the company's right flank. The concentration of enemy small arms and mortar fire was so severe Private Hillerman's mortar was knocked out of action in the initial phase of the hostile attack. Realizing the imminent danger confronting his company if the enemy broke through his position, he, with utter disregard for his life, gallantly remained at his post, armed only with a pistol and hand grenades. He fearlessly stood up in the face of enemy fire, simultaneously shooting his pistol and throwing hand grenades into the midst of the onrushing foe. His gallantry and accuracy of fire resulted in four enemy dead and the complete disorganization of the hostile attack. Private Hillerman's magnificent courage was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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

Corporal Walter A. Scholl, 33674151, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. During the daylight hours of 25 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Corporal Scholl, bazooka grenadier, was pinned to the ground by intense enemy machine gun fire. Realizing that immediate action was imperative, he dashed forward to an advantageous position for firing. In the process of the move, he was wounded in the chest by enemy fire but, despite his wound, relentlessly pushed on to his new position. He fired directly into the enemy strongpoint, wounding one of the crew. The fire from his weapon exposed his position and immediately attracted a vicious barrage of enemy machine gun fire, mortally wounding him. His courageous action so diverted the attention of the enemy machine gunner that the remainder of his

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GO #55, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 8 Feb 45
 II - AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF SILVER STAR (Cont'd)

company was able to rush forth and neutralize the hostile strongpoint. Throughout the entire action, Corporal Scholl's display of magnificent valor was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Tarentum, Pennsylvania. Next of kin: Mrs. Irene Scholl (Mother), 400 Ross Street, Tarentum, Pennsylvania.

Technical Sergeant Edgar L. Plunk, 34496061, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. On 25 January 1945, during an attack on * * *, France, the heavily entrenched enemy directed intense fire upon our troops. Sergeant Plunk's platoon was pinned down by an enemy machine gun, which barred the further progress of the platoon toward the town. Realizing the importance of his platoon's mission, Sergeant Plunk, with utter disregard for his life, bravely left his covered position and advanced alone upon the machine gun. Firing with deadly accuracy, he knocked out the enemy crew, neutralizing the strongpoint, when he fell, mortally wounded. His magnificent fortitude in the face of danger so inspired his men that they pressed forward with redoubled vigor, clearing the approaches to the town, and enabling the remainder of the company to enter and take the town. Sergeant Plunk's gallant actions and exemplary devotion to duty were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Leapwood, Tennessee. Next of kin: Mr. Ervin A. Plunk (Father), Leapwood, Tennessee.

III -- 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:

Sergeant Valdeon W. Huckfeldt, 37466250, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 19 January 1945, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment, after it had taken a railroad track near * * *, France, was attacked by a superior enemy force. Out-numbered and in need of ammunition, the company was forced to withdraw. Sergeant Huckfeldt, a squad leader, fully cognizant of the tactical situation and the risk involved, kept one of the machine guns and remained behind to cover the withdrawal of the company. He assisted in holding off the enemy force while his company successfully withdrew to prepared positions. Sergeant Huckfeldt's heroic action was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Lockport, Illinois.

Private First Class Laverne W. Oxenrider, 6835143, Infantry, Company "C", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the twilight hours of 13 January 1945, Company "C" of the 410th Infantry Regiment attacked through woods near * * *, France, to seize a section of the railroad tracks leading into the village. As the company neared its objective, the men were pinned to the ground by intense machine gun fire from an enemy emplacement well camouflaged in the snow. Private Oxenrider, automatic-rifleman, exposed himself to the enemy in order to determine the source of the hostile fire. When the emplacement was disclosed by another blast of machine gun fire, Private Oxenrider courageously made his way to a position near the emplacement, where he directed a devastating burst of automatic fire on the strongpoint, killing the enemy crew and neutralizing the position. Private Oxenrider's display of magnificent valor and utter disregard for his life was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Homer, Michigan.

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R E S T R I C T E D

GO #55, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 8 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

IV -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal is awarded, posthumously, to following named individual:

Technician Fourth Grade Fred E. Lacy, 17175146, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 409th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. On 1 December 1944, as the company, to which Technician Lacy was attached as aid man, moved into the attack near * * *, France, one of the men of the point squad was seriously wounded in the leg by enemy machine gun fire. Hearing the cry for an aid man, Technician Lacy, heedless of his personal safety, dashed through the fire-swept area to his comrade and carried him to safety. Immediate evacuation being impossible, Technician Lacy skillfully applied a tourniquet to the injured man's leg and then remained with his patient throughout the night adjusting the tourniquet whenever required. Upon the wounded man's evacuation the following day, it was found that Technician Lacy's skill and devotion to duty had saved his comrade's life. His actions reflect the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Overland Park, Kansas. Next of kin: Mrs. Betty J. Lacy, (Wife), 322 First Street, Lenexa, Kansas.

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

Private Robert A. Dixler, 35089634, Infantry, Company "I", 409th Infantry Regiment, France, 4 February 1945. Residence: Piqua, Ohio.

Private George G. Maddox, 13114242, Signal Corps, 103d Signal Company, France, 2 February 1945. Residence: Highland Park, New Jersey.

Private First Class Lester Chastain, 35151886, Signal Corps, 103d Signal Company, France, 2 February 1945. Residence: Mitchell, Indiana.

Private Patrick Faulkner, Jr., 35575926, Signal Corps, 103d Signal Company, France, 2 February 1945. Residence: East Chicago, Indiana.

Technician Fifth Grade Harlon E. Chaffee, 36287782, Signal Corps, 103d Signal Company, France, 2 February 1945. Residence: Robins, Iowa.

Private Everett Cologrove, 35445018, Signal Corps, 103d Signal Company, France, 2 February 1945. Residence: Grayson, Kentucky.

Corporal Edward Vetsch, 37542266, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 409th Infantry Regiment, France, 2 February 1945. Residence: Linton, North Dakota.

Private Henry D. Rains, 34918255, Infantry, Company "B", 411th Infantry Regiment, France, 3 February 1945. Residence: Grove Oak, Alabama.

Private Walter N. Wedvik, 42142201, Infantry, Company "C", 411th Infantry Regiment, France, 3 February 1945. Residence: Stone Ridge, New York.

R E S T R I C T E D

GO #55, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 8 Feb 45
 V - AWARD OF PURPLE HEART (Cont'd)

Private First Class Anthony Drago, 18073817, Infantry, Company "C", 411th Infantry Regiment, France, 3 February 1945. Residence: Port Arthur, Texas.

SECOND LIEUTENANT WALTER E. KUNZE, JR., 01328049, Infantry, Company "A", 411th Infantry Regiment, France, 3 February 1945. Residence: St. Paul, Minnesota.

Private First Class Francis H. Shipp, 38182177, Medical Department, Company "C", 328th Medical Battalion, France, 3 February 1945. Residence: Vinson, Oklahoma.

Private First Class Warren G. Hayden, 35486455, Medical Department, Company "C", 328th Medical Battalion, France, 28 January 1945. Residence: Winslow, Indiana.

By command of Major General McAULIFFE:

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

OFFICIAL:

A. W. Groll

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

AFG 470, U. S. Army
9 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER - 56)

- AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSING IN ACTION I
- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF SILVER STAR II
- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL III
- AWARD OF PURPLE HEART IV

I -- 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:

See serial 103d 110200

Private First Class Donald J. Philpott, 35247114, Infantry, Company "D", 410th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. On 19 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, the enemy launched a counterattack in great strength under cover of intense fire, necessitating a withdrawal by our troops. Private Philpott, a machine gunner, realizing that his was the only machine gun in action, elected to cover the withdrawal. With utter disregard for his life, he maintained his position, directing heavy fire upon the advancing enemy which destroyed one hostile machine gun and temporarily disorganized them. Under cover of Private Philpott's fire, our forces were able to withdraw without serious loss. When last seen, Private Philpott, caught in severe cross-fire, was valiantly engaging the enemy. He has been subsequently reported missing in action. Private Philpott's fortitude and exemplary devotion to duty were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Canton, Ohio. Next of kin: Mrs. Penelope C. Philpott, (wife) 2418 14th Street NE, Canton, Ohio.

II -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded, posthumously, to following named individual:

Private First Class Ralph W. Johnson, 36713581, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 410th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. On the morning of 25 January 1945, approximately 300 enemy troops launched an attack on the town of * * *, France, in which the Second Battalion Command Post was located. Private Johnson, on his own initiative, placed himself in a vantage point and began firing upon the hostile troops which had overrun the command post. His accurate fire resulted in the enemy being temporarily halted until all the command post personnel had withdrawn to safety. Despite a painful wound, he remained at his post, firing upon the enemy until he was fatally wounded. His gallant stand which saved his comrades from possible capture was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Chicago, Illinois. Next of kin: Mrs. Lorraine Johnson (wife), 4530 N. Malden Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

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GO #56, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 9 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

III -- 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:

Private First Class John Bastuck, 36411926, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the morning hours of 20 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Bastuck, Company "D" aid man, made his way through a concentration of small arms and machine gun fire to the side of a wounded comrade. Although riflemen were withdrawing from the area, he continued to dress the man's wounds. With the help of two men, Private Bastuck assisted in the evacuation of his comrade. Despite an artillery barrage blasting their path, Private Bastuck and the two men carried the casualty 200 yards through the woods to safety where litter bearers could be summoned. His valorous action was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Coleman, Michigan.

Corporal Frank J. Meyer, 36303015, Infantry, Company "E", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroic achievement in action. During the daylight hours of 11 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Corporal Meyer, wireman, braved enemy mortar and artillery fire to repair numerous breaks in vital communication lines between his company and higher headquarters. In one instance Corporal Meyer crawled over the crest of a hill in full view of the hostile forces in order to mend a break in the vital line. Undaunted by the extreme dangers confronting him, Corporal Meyer successfully accomplished his mission and communication was reestablished between the company and higher headquarters. His actions were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Quincy, Illinois.

Private Dee V. Maddux, 34021773, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During an attack on * * *, France, on 25 January 1945, Private Maddux, an aid man, although under continual enemy small arms, machine gun and artillery fire, fearlessly made his way from one wounded man to another, rendering effective aid. When the aid man of another platoon was wounded, he assumed his wounded comrade's duties as well as his own. When the company eventually withdrew, Private Maddux, with utter disregard for his life, remained in front of our lines until each wounded man was safely evacuated. His exemplary skill and devotion to duty reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Falkville, Alabama.

Corporal Edward Vetsch, 37542266, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 409th Infantry Regiment. For heroic achievement in action. During an attack in the vicinity of * * *, France, on 15 December 1944, numerous casualties were incurred by our forces. The available roads from the battle field to the aid station were subjected to heavy enemy fire and were obstructed by road blocks, making evacuation by litter vehicle impossible. Realizing the urgent necessity of caring for the wounded, Corporal Vetsch, a medical technician, immediately organized an aid station with the assistance of two aid men. Working tirelessly for more than 24 hours without rest or relief, he administered effective aid to the wounded until the roads were cleared and they could be safely evacuated. Corporal Vetsch's ingenuity and devotion to duty reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Linton, North Dakota.

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GO #56, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 9 Feb 45
 III - AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

Private First Class Joseph J. Powaga, Jr., 36548106, (then Private), Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. On 10 December 1944, the company to which Private Powaga was attached as aid man, crossed a small foot bridge in the vicinity of * * *, France, under intense enemy fire, suffering several casualties. Heedless of his personal safety, Private Powaga moved across the fire-swept terrain, administering aid to the wounded when he was struck in the leg by shrapnel. Refusing treatment, he completed his ministrations, and then evacuated all of the wounded to safety. Private Powaga's exemplary fortitude and devotion to duty exemplified the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Detroit, Michigan.

Corporal Maunsell W. Brousseau, Jr., 34291330, (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company "D", 409th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 18 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, Germany, Private Brousseau, attached to Company "C" as mortar observer, was pinned down by intense enemy mortar and artillery fire. Private Brousseau alternately crawled and ran a distance of 75 yards over exposed terrain to an observation post, to direct fire missions on the enemy positions. While in the observation post, he observed the enemy massing in an assembly area, preparatory to a counterattack. Once again, with utter disregard for his life, he dashed a distance of 125 yards to a better observation point and skillfully directed artillery fire into the enemy assembly area, inflicting heavy casualties and damaging much enemy materiel. Private Brousseau's outstanding courage was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Sergeant James E. Rigby, 33777528, Infantry, Company "B", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. On 20 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, our troops executed a withdrawal under intense enemy small arms, machine gun and artillery fire. Sergeant Rigby, a heavy machine gun squad leader, his weapon out of action, with utter disregard for his life, remained to cover the withdrawal with his M-1 rifle. He fired round after round into the advancing enemy until his rifle failed to function. He then destroyed his machine gun and joined his men. Throughout this entire action, Sergeant Rigby's fortitude and devotion to duty reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Freeport, New York.

Private First Class Tom J. Harrington, 38232996, Infantry, Company "D", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 26 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, our troops were advancing in the face of heavy enemy machine gun and small arms fire. Seeing several enemy strongpoints which were impeding the advance, Private Harrington, a machine gunner, with utter disregard for his life, moved his weapon to a commanding position under direct observation of the enemy. He then laid accurate fire upon the enemy, protecting our forces in their advance and subsequently breaking up an attempted counterattack. Private Harrington's exemplary fortitude and devotion to duty reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Zephyr, Texas.

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GO #56, Hq 103d Inf Div, dtd 9 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

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

FIRST LIEUTENANT RUFUS K. STRICKLAND, O1113005, Corps of Engineers, Company "A", 328th Engineer Combat Battalion, France, 7 February 1945. Residence: Jacksonville, Florida.

Technician Fifth Grade Leonard J. Piecuch, 36549110, Corps of Engineers, Headquarters and Service Company, 328th Engineer Combat Battalion, France, 6 February 1945. Residence: Detroit, Michigan.

By command of Major General McAULIFFE:

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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AG FILES ----- 14

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By: **JB** NARA Date: **8/28/10**

J. L. Fisher

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HEADQUARTERS 103d INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

AGO 470, U. S. Army
10 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER - 57)

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AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR MEDAL	V
AWARD OF AIR MEDAL	VI

I - AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded to following named individuals:

CAPTAIN ROBERT J. BUTLER, 0435264, Field Artillery, Headquarters, 383d Field Artillery Battalion. For gallantry in action. On 25 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, CAPTAIN BUTLER, liaison officer, went forward with the attacking infantrymen as the need for an additional forward observer became acute. Under intense enemy small arms, machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire he directed artillery barrages into enemy emplacements less than 50 yards away. After knocking out a threatening enemy machine gun nest which had pinned our assault troops to the ground, he abandoned this position as he observed our attacking forces pressing forward. After this series of actions, CAPTAIN BUTLER called three infantrymen, organized a patrol and under intense enemy cross fire raced over an open field, and eliminated a sniper who had been harassing our troops. He then returned to direct artillery fire upon the enemy. Throughout this action, CAPTAIN BUTLER's gallantry was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Bayard, Nebraska.

Technician Fifth Grade Rune A. DeBusschere, 36549663, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 328th Engineer Combat Battalion. For gallantry in action. On 10 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Technician DeBusschere, aid man, was caring for the wounded in the basement of a house, when it suffered a direct hit by enemy artillery fire. In this action Technician DeBusschere received a shell fragment puncture of the right lung. He refused evacuation and, despite his own pain, directed the men about him to prop him against the wall where he efficiently supervised the administering of aid to his wounded comrades. Technician DeBusschere's gallant actions were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Detroit, Michigan.

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CO #57, H- 103d Inf Div, dtd 10 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

II -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded, posthumously, to following named individual:

CAPTAIN SAINT E. RICKERSON, JR., O385095, Infantry, Company "A", 409th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. On 29 November 1944, CAPTAIN RICKERSON successfully led his attacking company into * * *, France, blocking all exits from the town before the enemy was aware of the company's presence. Under CAPTAIN RICKERSON's brilliant direction the town was quickly occupied without a casualty and 150 of the enemy were taken prisoner. Late that night the enemy launched a counterattack in great force using automatic weapons, flak wagons, and small arms. CAPTAIN RICKERSON quickly assembled his fighting force and placed them in strategic positions of defense. Completely oblivious of the intense fire of the enemy he ran from group to group encouraging and rallying his men. The counterattack was successfully repulsed under the outstanding leadership of CAPTAIN RICKERSON, and 214 of the enemy were taken prisoner, 25 were killed, and 24 vehicles destroyed or captured. CAPTAIN RICKERSON's actions were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. CAPTAIN RICKERSON has been reported as killed in action in a later engagement. Residence: Griffin, Georgia. Next of kin: Mrs. S. E. Rickerson, Jr., (Wife), 326 South 8th Street, Griffin, Georgia.

III -- 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 following named individuals:

Private First Class David L. Overcash, 3459192, (then Private), Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroic achievement in action. On 14 December 1944, Private Overcash worked continuously assisting in the evacuation of casualties, suffered by a task force in the attack near * * *, France. Evacuation of the wounded involved crossing more than 1000 yards of heavily wooded and mountainous terrain under continual enemy shell fire. In another action, on 19 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, Germany, Private Overcash worked through the night and next morning, evacuating wounded 1000 yards to an aid station over mountainous terrain and under constant mortar and machine gun fire. His valorous actions and exemplary devotion to duty were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Landis, North Carolina.

FIRST LIEUTENANT THOMAS E. STAGG, JR., O446480, Infantry, Company "E", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the night of 24 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, LIEUTENANT STAGG in search of a company with which contact had been lost, successfully maneuvered his vehicle through an area where hostile troops had been by-passed due to the swiftness of our attack. LIEUTENANT STAGG cautiously directed his vehicle to the outskirts of * * *, dismounted, ordered his driver to return to the battalion and then walked into the town. As he reached a house, a hitherto

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 III - AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Cont'd)

undisclosed enemy opened fire, painfully wounding him. He crawled to a barn and successfully concealed himself from the searching enemy. After several hours, he left his place of concealment, questioned civilians in the area and found the lost company had passed through the town. Despite his wounds he walked two and one-half miles to his battalion command post, gave the location of the company to the battalion commander, and then submitted to evacuation. LIEUTENANT STAGG's heroic actions were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Shreveport, Louisiana.

Private First Class George O. Coalson, 38672513, (then Private), Infantry, Company "I", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 28 November 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Private Coalson while going forward in the attack as platoon scout, was pinned to the ground by intense enemy machine gun and automatic weapon fire. From his position of danger he observed an enemy patrol of 20 men advancing toward his company in a flanking movement. Fully cognizant of the impending danger, he crawled under intense fire to secure a more advantageous position for firing into the oncoming hostile forces. He gained his position, engaged the enemy patrol, inflicting heavy casualties and forcing its withdrawal. Private Coalson's heroic efforts enabled his company to press forward, knock out harassing frontal fire and continue successfully to its objective. His actions reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Uvalde, Texas.

Staff Sergeant Dominick Grusecki, 36411312, Infantry, Company "D", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the early morning hours of 20 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Sergeant Grusecki, machine gun section sergeant, heroically crawled from gun to gun directing fire on a counterattacking enemy force. Under intense enemy fire he checked and rechecked the operation of the guns, continually exposing himself to extreme danger. When his squad was ordered to withdraw, Sergeant Grusecki remained behind, covering his squad's withdrawal with an M-1 rifle. His devotion to duty was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Standish, Michigan.

Technician Fifth Grade James C. Strange, 34516393, Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery, 103d Division Artillery. For heroic achievement in action. During the daylight hours of 12 December 1944, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Technician Strange, crew leader of a wire team, fearlessly braved an open and fire-swept road to assist in laying vital communication lines from a proposed battalion command post. His wire vehicle attracted a barrage of enemy artillery fire but heedless of the dangers confronting him, he continued to lay wire and supervised the successful completion of the circuit. Technician Strange's heroic actions were in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Sumter, South Carolina.

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GO #57, HQ 103d Inf Div, dtd 10 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

IV -- 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 individual:

FIRST LIEUTENANT RALPH LAMB, O1312948, Infantry, Company "D", 409th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the afternoon of 14 December 1944, while our troops were attacking * * *, France, radio communications between our mortar section and the company commander failed at a critical time when the battalion commander directed our mortar fire be shifted so that troops could enter the town. LIEUTENANT LAMB went forward from the battalion observation post to the mortar observers, braving intense enemy fire, and succeeded in shifting our fire. This mission was undertaken with full knowledge of the danger and also the necessity for reaching the mortar observers. Prior to being fatally wounded he succeeded in his mission. His actions reflect the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Butte Falls, Oregon. Next of kin: Mrs. Margaret H. Lamb, (Mother), Box 44, Butte Falls, Oregon.

V -- AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal is awarded following named individual:

Technician Fifth Grade George F. Addington, 36411294, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the daylight hours of 27 January 1945, in the vicinity of * * *, France, Technician Addington was informed of the plight of a wounded comrade lying in a draw under intense enemy fire. Without hesitation, Technician Addington raced across the fire-swept terrain, reached his comrade and efficiently administered first aid. Technician Addington's heroic action in saving the life of a comrade was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Reed City, Michigan.

VI -- AWARD OF AIR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Air Medal is awarded to the following named individuals for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight:

SECOND LIEUTENANT JOSEPH C. BOYER, O2000758, Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery, 928th Field Artillery Battalion, from 18 November 1944 to 29 January 1945, in Eastern France and Western Germany. Residence: Fort Worth, Texas.

SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES B. SOCLICK, O180391, Field Artillery, Battery "G", 384th Field Artillery Battalion, from 28 December 1944 to 29 January 1945, in Eastern France. Residence: Los Angeles, California.

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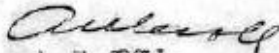
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GO #57, Hq 103d In Div, dtd 10 Feb 45 (Cont'd)

By command of Major General McAULIFFE:

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

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