

HEADQUARTERS 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION
A.P.O. #443, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS)

26 January 1945

NO. 11)

	SECTION
AWARD OF SILVER STAR (MISSING IN ACTION)	I
AWARD OF SILVER STAR	II
AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (MISSING IN ACTION)	III
AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL	IV
AWARD OF PURPLE HEART	V
AWARD OF PURPLE HEART (OAK LEAF CLUSTER)	VI

I -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR (MISSING IN ACTION) -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 2, First United States Army, 4 January 1945, the Silver Star is awarded to the following officers and enlisted men who are now missing in action:

Captain Arthur C. Brown, O1 165 477, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action from 20 December 1944 to 23 December 1944, in Belgium. As a result of a German tank attack that demolished his vehicle, which was last in a column, and separated them from the rest of the battery, Captain Brown successfully led the men back through enemy lines. Captain Brown, declining to remain in a rest area, voluntarily rejoined his battalion on 20 December 1944, and was given command of the three 105 mm howitzers which were to be used in establishing a strategic road block. Captain Brown, competently carried out orders to emplace the howitzers, machine guns and rifle-men to cover the roads from the south and west, and when the enemy attacked, took personal charge directing the fire of one of the howitzers and the machine guns protecting it. Repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire, Captain Brown displayed great personal courage, and by his example inspired his men to greater achievement. When the position was finally overrun by enemy tanks, Captain Brown directed his men who had heroically held their position for three days to safety through a woods, and remained until the last man had departed, and as a result was unable to follow. The unflinching devotion to duty and heroic example set by Captain Brown reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from New York.

First Lieutenant Thomas J. Wright, Jr., O1 180 387, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action from 20 December 1944 to 23 December 1944, in Belgium. As a result of enemy fire, consisting of mortar and artillery, First Lieutenant Wright was separated from his battery with forty-five enlisted men and successfully led them through the enemy lines to safety, rejoined his unit and as second in command, assisted in organizing the defenses of a main road where three 105 mm howitzers were emplaced. During the ensuing three days, First Lieutenant Wright personally directed fire of one of the howitzers, and established and maintained infantry defenses around his position. On 23 December 1944, First Lieutenant Wright, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, constantly moved from one position to another of the defensive lines effecting resistance of sufficient strength to hold the increasing enemy pressure; and later that day, when the position was overrun, he assisted in directing his men to safety and waited until the last man had departed, and as a result was unable to follow. The unflinching devotion to duty and heroic example set by First Lieutenant Wright reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from New York.

R E S T R I C T E D

Technical Sergeant James F. Tacker, Jr., 34 710 831, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action on the night of 22 December 1944, in Belgium. In charge of a platoon of men who were assigned to defend a section of an important crossroad which was under heavy enemy mortar and rocket fire, Technical Sergeant Tacker volunteered to attempt the rescue of two wounded men who were trapped in a burning half-track. The blaze from the vehicle illuminated the surroundings so that figures within a thousand yards could be discerned by the enemy, and had started to explode the ammunition on the vehicle and threatened a large ammunition supply dump nearby. In addition to subjecting himself to enemy observation, being silhouetted against the blaze, Technical Sergeant Tacker was required to run a gauntlet of exploding ammunition. Fearlessly disregarding his own safety, Technical Sergeant Tacker, with the assistance of three others, entered the blazing half-track, removed the two wounded men, and carried them to safety. The courageous actions of Technical Sergeant Tacker not only saved the lives of two men, but contributed greatly to the morale of the other men. The fearless devotion to duty and complete disregard for his own safety exhibited by Technical Sergeant Tacker reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Tennessee.

II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 2, First United States Army, 4 January 1945, the Silver Star is awarded to the following officers and enlisted men:

Major Arthur G. Parker III, O 281 919, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action from 20 December 1944 to 22 December 1944, in Belgium. His battalion having been overrun by enemy tanks and parachutists, Major Parker reorganized the remnants, consisting of one-hundred ten men, most of which were cooks, truck drivers, and cannoneers armed only with carbines and three 105 mm howitzers, and established a strategic road block. During the next three days, this force, manning the road block, repelled successive attacks by a German Volksgrenadier company, a German battalion, an SS Offizier patrol of thirty picked men and an SS battalion. Knowing that his position was surrounded, Major Parker never considered withdrawing and insisted on holding the position until "blown out". Repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire, Major Parker displayed great personal courage and calmness which inspired his men to heights of heroism. On 22 December 1944, Major Parker, acting as forward observer, successfully brought howitzer fire on German held positions and an hour later, disdaining cover as he had done repeatedly, went about coordinating his defensive positions and as a result was wounded by enemy mortar fire. Despite his injury, Major Parker refused to be evacuated and was not removed from the position until he lost consciousness. Major Parker's courage, coolness under fire and successful planning of the defensive position denied the enemy an important communication and supply route, and stemmed the German advance in the immediate area thereby enabling our forces to establish an organized line of resistance against further enemy attacks. The tenacity, devotion to duty, and exemplary conduct of Major Parker reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Alabama.

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

Second Lieutenant Barney M. Alford, Jr. (then Sergeant), 02 005 351, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action from 20 December 1944 to 23 December 1944, in Belgium. Manning a 105 mm howitzer without overhead cover, at a vital road junction which was completely surrounded by the enemy, Sergeant Alford, with another soldier, under constantly increasing enemy machine gun, mortar and rocket fire, assisted in repulsing three strong enemy machine gun, mortar and rocket fire, assisted in repulsing three strong artillery and mortar attacks on their position. During this period, Sergeant Alford, acting as forward observer, successfully adjusted artillery fire on a German mortar position. He then assisted in directing fire of a self-propelled M16 multiple 50 caliber antiaircraft machine gun against ground troops until it was destroyed by enemy artillery. In the afternoon of 23 December 1944, three German tanks were sighted attempting an enveloping movement, Sergeant Alford, acting as gunner on the howitzer, scored a direct hit on the lead tank, and with two more shots completely destroyed it. Covered by carbine fire, Sergeant Alford secured three more shells, and halted the second tank with the first two rounds. The final round missed the third tank which had skirted the first two and approached their position. Being now under both small arms fire and assault by the tank, their position became untenable, and Sergeant Alford and his companion withdrew, alternately protecting each other's withdrawal by carbine fire. The courage, ingenuity and determination displayed by Sergeant Alford reflect great credit on himself and the military service. Entered military service from Florida.

Staff Sergeant Robert E. Vorpagel, (then Technician Fifth Grade), 36 579 976, 424th Infantry, (then 589th Field Artillery Battalion), United States Army, for gallantry in action from 20 December 1944 to 22 December 1944, in Belgium. When his battalion was completely surrounded by the enemy, Technician Fifth Grade Vorpagel, aid man, displayed great skill and untiring effort in evacuating eight casualties to the battalion aid station, where with the use of improvised bandages and captured German medical supplies, he gave, with the assistance of another soldier, medical attention beyond the scope of his training and successfully amputated the right arm of an enemy soldier. During the night of 22 December 1944, with medical supplies nearly exhausted, Technician Fifth Grade Vorpagel, assisted by a truck driver, loaded twelve wounded men into a two and one-half ton truck and amid mortar shells, some of which fell within ten feet, and small arms fire which left numerous holes in the tarpaulin, successfully evacuated the patients through the enemy lines. The heroic and tireless efforts of Technician Fifth Grade Vorpagel were instrumental in saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers, and his actions reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Michigan.

Sergeant Johnnie B. Jordan, 34 286 692, 592d Field Artillery Battalion, (then 589th Field Artillery Battalion), United States Army, for gallantry in action from 20 December 1944 to 23 December 1944, in Belgium. Manning a 105 mm howitzer without overhead cover at a vital road junction which was completely surrounded by the enemy, Sergeant Jordan, with another soldier, under constantly increasing enemy machine gun, mortar and rocket fire, were of material assistance in repulsing three strong attacks on their position. During one period, Sergeant Jordan assisted directing the fire of a self-propelled M16 multiple 50 caliber antiaircraft machine gun against enemy ground troops until it was destroyed by enemy artillery. In the afternoon of 23 December 1944, three German tanks were sighted attempting an enveloping movement, Sergeant Jordan, acting as gunner, scored a direct hit on the lead tank, and with two more shots completely destroyed it. Assisting in securing three more shells,

R E S T R I C T E D

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Sergeant Jordan halted the second tank with the first two rounds. The final round missed the third tank which had skirted the first two and approached their position. Being now under small arms fire and assault by the tank, their position became untenable, and Sergeant Jordan and his companion withdrew, alternately protecting each other's withdrawal by carbine fire. The courage and determination displayed by Sergeant Jordan reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Tennessee.

Technician Fourth Grade Melvin R. Pollow, 36 808 359, 424th Infantry, (then 589th Field Artillery Battalion), United States Army, for gallantry in action from 20 December 1944 to 23 December 1944, in Belgium. When his battalion was completely surrounded and subjected to fire from mortar and rockets, Technician Fourth Grade Pollow, aid man, displayed great skill and untiring effort in evacuating casualties to the battalion aid station, where, with the use of improvised bandages and captured German medical supplies, and with the assistance of another soldier, rendered medical treatment beyond the scope of his training. On the night of 22 December 1944, Technician Fourth Grade Pollow volunteered to attempt the rescue of two wounded men who were trapped in a burning half-track. The blaze from the vehicle illuminated the surroundings so that figures within a thousand yards could be discerned by the enemy, and had started to explode the ammunition on the vehicle and was threatening a quantity of ammunition which was stored nearby. While being silhouetted against the blaze, Technician Fourth Grade Pollow was required to run a gauntlet of exploding ammunition to reach the half-track. Fearlessly disregarding his own safety, Technician Fourth Grade Pollow, with the assistance of three others, entered the blazing half-track, removed the two wounded men, and carried them to safety. On 23 December 1944, accompanying men of his unit who had been driven from their position by a German attack, Technician Fourth Grade Pollow, under direct fire from two German tanks and in view of an estimated German battalion which was attacking from the south, east and west, stopped and administered first aid to two wounded men, who he found in a ditch, and with the help of others, succeeded in evacuating both casualties to an aid station. The heroic and tireless efforts of Technician Fourth Grade Pollow were instrumental in saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers and his actions reflect great credit on himself and the military service. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

III -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (MISSING IN ACTION) -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 2, First United States Army, 4 January 1945, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following officer who is now missing in action:

First Lieutenant John D. Ford, 01 633 218, 106th Signal Company, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 16 December 1944, in Germany. Entered military service from New Jersey.

R E S T R I C T E D

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IV -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 2, First United States Army, 4 January 1945, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following officers and enlisted men:

Lieutenant Colonel Phillip E. Hoover, O 381 161, 591st Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 16 December 1944 to 30 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Oklahoma.

Major Elliott Goldstein, O 408 175, 592d Field Artillery Battalion, (then 589th Field Artillery Battalion), United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 16 December 1944 to 18 December 1944, in Germany. Entered military service from Georgia.

Captain Ralph E. Kuzell, O 23 766, Cavalry, Division Headquarters, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 18 December 1944 to 19 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered United States Military Academy from Arizona.

Captain William E. Neal, O 374 734, Infantry, Division Headquarters Company, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 18 December 1944 to 19 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Kentucky.

Second Lieutenant Randolph C. Pierson, (then Technician Fourth Grade), O 2 005 353, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 20 December 1944 to 23 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Florida.

Technician Fourth Grade Oscar F. Pawasarat, (then Technician Fifth Grade), 36 299 629, 331st Medical Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 17 December 1944 to 18 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

Corporal Peter A. Vestich, 36 456 415, 591st Field Artillery Battalion, (then 589th Field Artillery Battalion), United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 20 December 1944 to 23 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Michigan.

Technician Fifth Grade Milton C. Ballantyne, 36 739 575, 331st Medical Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 17 December 1944 to 18 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Illinois.

Technician Fifth Grade Robert L. King, 32 752 657, 331st Medical Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 16 December 1944 to 22 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from New Jersey.

R E S T R I C T E D

- 5 -

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R E S T R I C T E D

Private First Class Ernest Balarzs, 35 660 539, 331st Medical Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 17 December 1944 to 18 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from West Virginia.

Private First Class Harry R. Buckley, 33 683 090, 331st Medical Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 17 December 1944 to 18 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Private First Class Philip E. Gerace, 35 362 988, Infantry, Division Headquarters Company, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 18 December 1944 to 19 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Indiana.

Private Vernon A. O'Leary, 36 649 794, Infantry, Division Headquarters Company, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 18 December 1944 to 19 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Illinois.

V -- AWARD OF PURPLE HEART -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 2, First United States Army, 4 January 1945, the Purple Heart is awarded to the following enlisted men for wounds received in action against the enemy in Northwest Europe, on the date shown:

424TH INFANTRY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ENTERED MILITARY SERVICE FROM</u>
Sergeant Mills, Waman R	31 320 247	11 January 45	Maine
Sergeant Oxford, Paul G	34 546 819	16 January 45	Florida
Technician Fifth Grade Mitsch, George J, Jr	33 589 731	9 January 45	Pennsylvania
Private First Class Laczynski, Edward G	33 427 998	11 January 45	Pennsylvania

591ST FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Private First Class Panizza, John R (then Private)	36 582 986	23 December 44	Michigan
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VI -- AWARD OF PURPLE HEART (OAK LEAF CLUSTER) -- In addition to the Purple Heart previously awarded, a bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 2, First United States Army, 4 January 1945, to the following officer:

Second Lieutenant Thomas E. Lawrence, 026 835, 424th Infantry, United States Army, for wounds received in action against the enemy on 16 January 1945, in Belgium. Entered military service from Minnesota.

By command of Brigadier General FERRIN:

OFFICIAL:

F. I. Agule
F. I. AGULE
Lt. Colonel, A. G. D.
Adjutant General

WILLIAM C. BAKER, JR.
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff

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R E S T R I C T E D
- 6 -

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