

GENERAL ORDERS)

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I -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF SILVER STAR -- Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is posthumously awarded to the following officer and enlisted man:

Private First Class Thomas C. Graham, 32 657 702, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1944, in Belgium. When the turret gunner of a nearby M-8 armored car was wounded, Private First Class Graham voluntarily raced to the car across ground exposed to concentrated small arms fire from a nearby enemy held house and manned the vehicle's turret machine gun. To obtain a more effective firing position, he ordered the car forward into the bullet raked area near the hostile strongpoint. Despite devastating small arms fire, Private First Class Graham remained upright in the vehicle's open turret pouring a deadly hail of bullets into the enemy's stronghold. Twice his weapon jammed, and each time Private First Class Graham calmly withdrew, repaired the gun and returned to resume fire. By his singular courage and aggressive action, Private First Class Graham killed and wounded twenty of the enemy and completely neutralized their position. Entered military service from New York.

First Lieutenant Raymond S. Kautz, 01 289 439, 424th Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 13 January 1945, in Belgium. Leading his company in an attack on the stubbornly defended town of Henumont, Belgium, First Lieutenant Kautz deployed two platoons to attack on the flanks and remained with his third platoon to form a base of fire. The attack was temporarily halted by devastating machine gun and small arms fire from well concealed enemy positions in a snow covered field. Murderous enfilading fire threatened to decimate the ranks of the flanking platoons. Observing that a frontal assault would be the only way to accomplish the mission, First Lieutenant Kautz jumped up and, urging his men to follow, and in the face of concentrated small arms fire charged toward the enemy emplacements. Only when he was fatally wounded did he stop; but refusing aid, he motioned and directed his men forward until they had crushed the enemy's resistance and seized their objective. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

II -- AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL -- Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Soldier's Medal is awarded to the following enlisted man:

Private First Class Roger W. Bilodeau, 31 291 207, 81st Engineer Combat Battalion, United States Army, for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy, on 11 June 1945, in Germany. When a can of gasoline was accidentally set afire in the battalion gas dump at Bad Ems, Germany, Private First Class Bilodeau, without regard for his own safety, unhesitatingly ran into the dump, seized the flaming can and removed it from the storage area. By his rapid thinking, decisive action and defiance of the great personal danger, Private First Class Bilodeau prevented the spread of a dangerous conflagration and destruction of valuable government property. Entered military service from Rhode Island.

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III -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (MISSING IN ACTION) -- Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following enlisted man who is now missing in action:

First Sergeant Leon J. Wochna, 32 212 120, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 16 December 1944 to 23 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from New York.

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 to the following officers and enlisted man:

Captain James B. Cagle, Jr., O 434 269, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 17 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Alabama.

First Lieutenant William L. Coughlin, O1 556 706, 81st Engineer Combat Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 16 December 1944 to 22 December 1944, in Belgium and Germany. Entered military service from New York.

Sergeant Travis Lawson, 17 010 160, 589th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 16 December 1944 to 23 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Arkansas.

Lieutenant Colonel Irwin Neigus, O 332 539, 331st Medical Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 12 December 1944 to 19 February 1945, in Belgium and Germany. Entered military service from New York.

Captain Nathan D. Ward, O1 107 213, 81st Engineer Combat Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 16 December 1944 to 21 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Tennessee.

V -- 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 Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, to the following enlisted man for wounds received as a result of enemy action in Northwest Europe, on date shown:

Private John Fragos, 15 011 634, 103d Engineer Combat Battalion, United States Army, on 18 December 1944. Entered military service from Ohio.

VI -- 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 officers and enlisted men for wounds received as a result of enemy action in Northwest Europe, on date shown:

Technician Fifth Grade David G. Brown, 32 752 971, 81st Engineer Combat Battalion, United States Army, on 19 December 1944. Entered military service from New Jersey.

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Staff Sergeant Jess J. Hurtado, 37 663 773, 424th Infantry, United States Army, on 26 December 1944. Entered military service from Iowa.

First Lieutenant James R. Kennedy, 0131723950, 592d Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, on 18 December 1944. Entered military service from New Jersey.

Captain Zack I. Lifchez, O 356 329, 331st Medical Battalion, United States Army, on 29 December 1944. Entered military service from Illinois.

Private First Class John T. Vojdik, 36 588 800, (then Private), 81st Engineer Combat Battalion, United States Army, on 22 December 1944. Entered military service from Michigan.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL STROH:

OFFICIAL:

WILLIAM C. BAKER, JR.,
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

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