

HEADQUARTERS 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION

GENERAL ORDER:

APO #30

24 July 1944

NUMBER 26 :

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I--AWARD OF AIR MEDAL -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in paragraph 4, Section I, Circular 66, Headquarters First United States Army, 18 May 1944, the Air Medal is awarded to the following officers:

First Lieutenant Odell Williamson, 0460663, Field Artillery, United States Army, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights as an artillery observer from 16 June 1944 to 16 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from North Carolina.

Second Lieutenant Taylor S. Buck, 01175394, Field Artillery, United States Army, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights as an artillery observer from 15 June 1944 to 10 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from New Jersey.

Second Lieutenant Harold W. Hale, 0546340, Field Artillery, United States Army, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights as a liaison pilot from 12 June 1944 to 25 June 1944, in France. Entered military service from New York.

Second Lieutenant Jack H. Tafeen, 01177205, Field Artillery, United States Army, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights as an artillery observer from 11 June 1944 to 24 June 1944, in France. Entered military service from Connecticut.

II--AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF BRONZE STAR -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in paragraph 4, Section I, Circular 66, Headquarters First United States Army, 18 May 1944, the Bronze Star is awarded posthumously to the following enlisted men:

Staff Sergeant Horace W. Feimster, Jr., 20454288, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 3 and 4 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from North Carolina.

Private First Class Kenneth J. Grogan, 12067056, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 3 and 4 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from New York.

III--AWARD OF BRONZE STAR -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in paragraph 4, Section I, Circular 66, Headquarters First United States Army, 18 May 1944, the Bronze Star is awarded to the following officers, warrant officer, and enlisted men:

Captain Donald B. Bannerman, 0488299, Medical Corps, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 18 June 1944, in France. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

First Lieutenant Martin F. Caulfield, 01045696, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 7 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from New Jersey.

RESTRICTED

First Lieutenant Donald E. Wilson, 01309641, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 11 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Second Lieutenant Ellsworth E. Bolles, 01306231, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 2 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

Warrant Officer Junior Grade Robert L. Jerome, W2106302, United States Army, for meritorious service from 23 April 1943 to 15 June 1944. Entered military service from North Carolina.

~~Technical Sergeant Joe T. Wall, 20454322, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 3 and 4 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from North Carolina.~~

Staff Sergeant Emile P. Cote, 11047242, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 18 June 1944, in France. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

Staff Sergeant Robert G. Gossett, 35564740, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 3 and 4 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from Indiana.

Staff Sergeant James T. Greene, 34031210, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 3 and 4 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from North Carolina.

Staff Sergeant Leo J. Kowalski, 36108441, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 3 and 4 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from Michigan.

Staff Sergeant Andrew Polishuk, 32168410, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 3 and 4 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from New Jersey.

Staff Sergeant William H. Price, 20453914, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 2 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from North Carolina.

Staff Sergeant Furney M. Rivers, 20453244, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 22 June 1944, in France. Entered military service from North Carolina.

Sergeant Arbuth O. Bumgarner, 20454893, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 2 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from North Carolina.

Sergeant Charles E. Hanecek, 33392949, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 3 and 4 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

~~Sergeant Norman O. Elson, 20454285, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 3 and 4 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from North Carolina.~~

Technician Grade 4 Hyman Swidler, 36019514, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 2 July 1944, in France. Entered military service from Illinois.

Technician Grade 5 Parker Jesse, 33310551, Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on 15 and 16 June 1944, in France. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

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The 30th Infantry Division was commended for its heroic stand, for the courage and skill of its men who refused to let overwhelming odds discourage them in the battle against tanks at St. Barthelmy, and for the loyalty and stamina of the members of the "lost Battalion" who defied surrender demands, their spokesman telling the German officer:

"Go to hell. We wouldn't surrender if our last round of ammunition was fired and our last bayonet broken off in a Jerry belly".

This battle of the 30th against the best of the German armour started on the night of August 7-8 and a week later the Old Hickorymen again were forcing the retreat of the Germans.

The 30th troops drove rapidly against the Germans to free Evreux and Louviers, then crossed the Seine at Mantes Gassicourt to enlarge the bridgehead there and prepare for the next breakthrough, this time into Belgium.

An opposed infantry speed march record was made and another commendation won when on August 31 and September 1 the 30th dashed to Tournai, Belgium, covering ~~188~~ 180 miles through enemy occupied territory in 72 hours. The march was motorized during the last two days and was screened by a task force of the division. The 30th was the first allied infantry division to enter Belgium.

Still disrupting German efforts toward an orderly withdrawal the Old Hickorymen drove on to become the first allied troops in Holland, arriving there on September 12, after having captured the famous border fortress, Eben Emael, on September 10. Maastricht, Holland, fell to the 30th on September 13 after which Old Hickory troops fought on into Germany, advance elements crossing the border at Horbach and Palenbur on September 14.

The attack on the Siegfried Line started October 2, continued for two weeks, to establish the bridgehead in what was reputed by the Germans to be their "impenetrable West Wall".

More than 1,500 battle decorations have been awarded officers and men of the 30th Infantry Division for gallantry in action and meritorious service in the face of the enemy.

The 30th Infantry Division is commanded by Major General L.S. Hobbs who has been twice decorated.

Although it was originally built around troops from National Guard units of Tennessee, Georgia and the Carolinas, and thus gets its name, Old Hickory, from President Andrew Jackson, who led troops in that sector, the 30th's Officers and men represent all States in the Union.

The Division climaxed a colorful World War I history by cracking the Hindenburg Line, paving the way for Germany's ultimate defeat then. Will history repeat itself

Passed For Publication Capt. E.C.Lavelle; Chief Press Censor.

For some time I have been hoping I could tell you folks backhome about this outfit of ours and the swell record it has made in World War II from the ~~it~~ hit the Normandy Beach and began fighting on June 15. Censorship has kept our Old Hickory Division's engagements pretty much "under wraps" but we have made a record we'll stack up against any other divisions' and the public Relations staff has made it easier for us to get the information back to you by summarizing the highlights of the 30th's great campaigns and getting this material cleared through the press censorship.

This is some of the information we can tell:

When the 30th Infantry Division troops charged through the greatest concentration of artillery and mortar fire they had met in the Western Campaign to storm the bunkers of the German Siegfried Line and establish a bridgehead in the Fatherland, they reached an objective for which, in three months of bitter fighting, they had been paving the way since the battle near the beaches.

Smashing the Siegfried Line in the sector north of Aachen where it was heavily manned and then aiding in closing the gap that forced Aachen's fall constituted one of the toughest jobs assigned any division in the Battle of Europe.

But the 30th Infantry Division received its baptism of fire on a tough assignment June 15 and its progress to the German frontier was marked by battles that have been vital in the master strategy of World War II.

The all-important breakthrough south of pulverized St. Lo on July 25, a date already historically significant, was spearheaded by the Old Hickorymen. A real fighting team, the troops of the 30th had qualified for that assignment which battered open a passage through the hedgerow country allowing American armor to fan out over France by a series of successful offensives against the Germans. At the outset the 30th drove the Germans back across the Vire River. Then in a ~~spectacular~~ spectacular attack the Old Hickorymen forced a crossing of the Vire River and opened the drive on St. Lo. Those battles in the hedgerow sector were real slugging matches, every foot of advance being skillfully and stubbornly contested and they were complicated by rough and frequent counter-attacks.

However, some of the heaviest fighting remained to be accomplished by the 30th after it had given the "green light" to the armored drive. That occurred in the Mortain-St. Barthelmy sector when the 30th took over the area of the First Division at a time when four German panzer divisions struck in the most ~~powerful~~ powerful blitz effort of the campaign, to drive through to Avranches and separate the American First and Third Armies.

It was there that infantry riflemen with bazookas, artillery and tank destroyers, cooks and messengers, with the help of U.S. planes and RAF rocket-firing Typhoons ~~finally~~ finally threw back the German tanks in a battle that see-sawed for three days before the Germans concluded that they were no match for one American division. In this same battle, the great defensive at Mortain-St. Barthelmy, a battalion was isolated on a hill near Mortain, cut off without food, ammunition and medical supplies for five and a half days and despite the fact the harassed infantrymen were under constant enemy observation, artillery and mortar fire, they refused repeated demands to surrender.