

37
VJ
CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMORED DIVISION

NO 256, United States Army
17 August 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER.....20)

ORIGINAL ORDER - ETCUSA

SECTION I - AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF SILVER STAR
SECTION II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR
SECTION III - AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL
SECTION IV - AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

I. By direction of the President and under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded, posthumously, to:

✓ SECOND LIEUTENANT MAX LEBIDA, (Army Serial Number 01314370), Infantry, 50th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Le Clotire, France on 5 August 1944. While leading a machine gun section of his platoon, which was under heavy enemy fire, all members of the gun crew were wounded. He manned the machine gun and continued to fire on the enemy until he was mortally wounded. His heroic tenacity and devotion to duty at the price of his life reflect the finest traditions of the United States infantryman. Entered the military service from Rhode Island.

Staff Sergeant William F Murray, (Army Serial Number 18058907), Infantry, 6th Armored Division Band, United States Army. For gallantry in action in Kersan, France on 9 August 1944. Hearing a noise in a gasoline dump, he investigated and found a force of 150 enemy troops attempting to destroy the dump. Armed only with a carbine, he fired on the enemy. His action cost him his life but enabled others to drive off the enemy and save 75,000 gallons of gasoline. His alertness and courage reflect the highest credit upon himself and the military service. Entered the military service from Texas.

II. By direction of the President and under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded to:

CAPTAIN ROBERT HABER, (Army Serial Number 0444609), Infantry, 50th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Dinan, France on 2 August 1944. He personally led a bazooka team over high ground and destroyed field pieces which had been harassing our armored elements. His resourcefulness and courage enabled the combat command to advance. Entered the military service from New York.

CAPTAIN RICHARD R POLK, (Army Serial Number 01011880), Infantry, 68th Tank Battalion, United States Army. For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Plouvion, France on 9 August 1944. On his own initiative, he entered the town with two tanks to join other tanks in action there. In spite of enemy fire, he dismounted, formed tank infantry teams, and led one group to the successful completion of its mission. His initiative and personal courage reflect credit upon himself and the military service. Entered the military service from New York.

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CAPTAIN ALLEN R SCULLEN, (Army Serial Number 024984), Infantry, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. Under a steady artillery and mortar concentration, and trapped by burning vehicles, he rallied his command of one hundred men from advance guard units and went forward to reorganize positions against the enemy. Entered the United States Military Academy from Massachusetts.

FIRST LIEUTENANT ERIC H JAGER, (Army Serial Number 0388364), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For gallantry in action in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. While under a heavy concentration of artillery fire and surrounded with burning vehicles and ammunition, he put out fires in numerous vehicles. His initiative and bravery resulted in the saving of numerous vehicles and probably the lives of personnel. Entered the military service from Kansas.

III. By direction of the President and under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:

FIRST LIEUTENANT JOHN L NILES, (Army Serial Number 0385596), Infantry, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. While under heavy artillery fire, he rallied his platoon and other personnel in the area and led them to safety. Entered the military service from North Dakota.

FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT E O'BRIEN, (Army Serial Number 01013690), Infantry, 44th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Gouesnou, France on 8 August 1944 and 9 August 1944. Under heavy fire he constantly aided in clearing roads and bivouac areas and by his actions aided in saving lives and loss of vehicles. Entered the military service from New York.

SECOND LIEUTENANT JACKSON D CURRIE, (Army Serial Number 01315143), Infantry, 44th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Ormeaux, France on 8 August 1944. Under heavy enemy artillery fire, he moved from fox hole to fox hole checking on members of his platoon. Entered the military service from Arkansas.

SECOND LIEUTENANT CHARLES E YEGLEY, (Army Serial Number 01825585), 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. Under heavy artillery fire, he rallied his platoon and led them to security. Entered the military service from Missouri.

Technical Sergeant Lawrence A Kauffman, (Army Serial Number 32171997), Infantry, 44th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Normandy and Brittany, France during the period 28 July 1944 to 10 August 1944. Entered the military service from New York.

Staff Sergeant David R George, (Army Serial Number 35375702), Infantry, 44th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Ormeaux, France on 8 August 1944. Braving heavy enemy fire, he came out of a fox hole to stop a tank from running over a wounded soldier. Entered the military service from West Virginia.

Staff Sergeant Dewey L HARR, (Army Serial Number 6523302), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. He drove a vehicle across a field that was being heavily shelled and evacuated a wounded soldier. Entered the military service from Alabama.

CONFIDENTIAL

Staff Sergeant James F. O'Keefe, (Army Serial Number 93157617), Infantry, 44th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Grameaux, France on 8 August 1944. Under heavy enemy artillery fire, he moved out with 20 men and organized a defense for the battalion bivouac area. Entered the military service from Virginia.

Sergeant Burton Melcher, (Army Serial Number 35610240), Infantry, 44th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plouvien, France on 9 August 1944. Held back by enemy fire, he reorganized and personally led groups from the company which resulted in the successful completion of the mission. Entered the military service from Ohio.

Sergeant George J. Tine, (Army Serial Number 32237961), Infantry, 44th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plouvien, France on 9 August 1944. He reorganized and personally led groups of men from the company. His aggressive leadership greatly aided his unit to accomplish its mission. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

Technician Fourth Grade Irving W. Beardsley, (Army Serial Number 32290772), Infantry, 15th Tank Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Besquelon, France on 9 August 1944. When his tank commander had been killed and several crew members injured by enemy action, he drove his tank through enemy fire to obtain medical aid and thus save the lives of the wounded men. Entered the military service from New York.

Technician Fourth Grade Anthony E. Jansen, (Army Serial Number 6861140), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. Ignoring heavy enemy artillery fire and exploding ammunition from a burning truck, he extinguished a burning camouflage net on a half track that was a threat to other vehicles. Entered the military service from Kansas.

Technician Fourth Grade Arthur W. Kohlhaas, (Army Serial Number 36238903), Infantry, 44th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Guesnac, France on 8 August 1944. Despite enemy artillery fire and after orders to abandon the area had been issued, he remained at his radio and helped keep communications open. Entered the military service from Wisconsin.

Technician Fourth Grade Robert W. Potts, (Army Serial Number 32375588), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. Under heavy enemy artillery fire, he left his fox hole to render aid and remove to safety nine men who were injured by mortar fire. Entered the military service from New York.

Technician Fifth Grade Mitchell P. Jaber, (Army Serial Number 16005256), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. Under enemy fire, he removed two wounded men to a fox hole where he rendered first aid. Entered the military service from Wisconsin.

Technician Fifth Grade Leo M. Petroz, (Army Serial Number 38083351), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Lannilis, France on 9 August 1944. He entered the town, occupied by 500 enemy troops, and arranged for a meeting of enemy officers and officers of his organization. Entered the military service from Colorado.

Private Joe T. Garza, (Army Serial Number 31265354), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. He ignored enemy art-

- 3 -
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

lory fire and removed a burning half track to a safer area where he and another soldier extinguished the blaze. Entered the military service from New Hampshire.

Private James W. Cornill, (Army Serial Number 36221066), Infantry, 15th Tank Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Besquelen, France on 9 August 1944. With his foot partially shot away, he administered first aid to himself thereby permitting his fellow tank crew members a chance to fire back at the enemy while the driver withdrew the tank to an area where medical aid could be supplied. Entered the military service from Wisconsin.

Private Alton D. Sullivan, (Army Serial Number 19076434), Medical Department, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 7 August 1944. Under heavy artillery fire, he rendered aid to several injured men. Entered the military service from Oregon.

IV. By direction of the President and under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded to:

Captain Allan R. Scullen, (Army Serial Number 024984), Infantry, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Brest, France on 6 August 1944. Entered the United States Military Academy from Massachusetts.

Second Lieutenant Gilbert O. Kretson, (Army Serial Number 01300047), Infantry, 50th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Plabennec, France on 15 August 1944. Entered the military service from Texas.

Second Lieutenant Herman H. Kiehne, (Army Serial Number 01012614), Cavalry, 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Annoville, France on 7 August 1944. Entered the military service from Illinois.

Second Lieutenant Charles E. Yeglin, (Army Serial Number 01825585), 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Brest, France on 9 August 1944. Entered the military service from Missouri.

First Sergeant Harvey R. Grice, (Army Serial Number 6347016), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Brest, France on 9 August 1944. Entered the military service from South Carolina.

Staff Sergeant Doney L. Hamm, (Army Serial Number 6583302), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Brest, France on 9 August 1944. Entered the military service from Alabama.

Staff Sergeant William C. Long, (Army Serial Number 20745932), Field Artillery, 128th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Dinan, France on 2 August 1944. Entered the military service from Missouri.

Sergeant Kenneth F. Butler, (Army Serial Number 39680772), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Brest, France on 9 August 1944. Entered the military service from Utah.

Technician Fourth Grade Bruce E. Haelele, (Army Serial Number 6939952), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Brest, France on 7 August 1944. Entered the military service from Minnesota.

- 4 -
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Technician Fifth Grade Antonio G. Alonzo, (Army Serial Number 39017150), Medical Department, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For wounds due to enemy action in the vicinity of Brest, France on 9 August 1944. Entered the military service from California.

Private First Class Michael Cris, (Army Serial Number 33013930), Infantry, 50th Armored Infantry Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Flabennec, France on 15 August 1944. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

Private Donald L. Allen, (Army Serial Number 37020180), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Brest, France on 9 August 1944. Entered the military service from Minnesota.


Private Roy D. Rust, (Army Serial Number 6576799), Field Artillery, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Brest, France on 9 August 1944. Entered the military service from Texas.

Private Alison E. Scoy, (Army Serial Number 32483298), Field Artillery, 128th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army. For wounds received in action in the vicinity of Lesneven, France on 6 August 1944. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

By command of Major General GROW:

GLEN C McHRIDE
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


G. W. MOORE JR
Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION: "X"

CONFIDENTIAL