

HEADQUARTERS 104TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #104, UNITED STATES ARMY

GENERAL ORDERS

23 January 1945

NUMBER 23

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I--SILVER STAR MEDAL--By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to the authority contained in Paragraph 1a(1), Memorandum No. 34, Headquarters, Ninth United States Army, 8 September 1944, the Silver Star Medal is awarded to the following . . . enlisted man:

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Sergeant James W. Pearce (Army Serial Number 35793258), Field Artillery, Company A, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action in Germany on 2 December 1944. In the early stages of a battle for an important town, friendly forces held part of a town on one side of a river. During the night enemy tanks had caused heavy casualties among the infantry forces by crossing the bridge over the river and firing at point blank range into cellars where men were forced to seek cover because of the extremely heavy mortar and artillery fire. Sergeant Pearce, a tank destroyer gun commander, realizing that our forces could not take the town as long as the enemy tanks could come and go at will, volunteered to place his tank destroyer gun in a factory 30 yards from the bridge and enemy lines. With the help of other volunteers and while under extremely heavy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, Sergeant Pearce, at great risk to his life, placed his gun in position to prevent any movement by enemy tanks that would imperil friendly troops. His courage and devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States and reflect the highest credit on Sergeant Pearce and the military service. Entered military service from Middletown, Ohio.

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By command of the DIVISION COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

