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**R E S T R I C T E D**  
**HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY**  
**Office of the Commanding General**

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 22 )

APC 339  
3 October 1944.

**AWARD OF SILVER STAR.** By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and under authority contained in Circular No 32, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, U. S. Army, 20 March 1944, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded to:

✓ Technical Sergeant John W. Franklin, 6994460, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 6 June 1944, near Pointe du Hoc, France, Sergeant Franklin, during a fierce German counter-attack in which all of his men were wounded, ordered his entire platoon to withdraw while he, alone, remained at his post to cover their withdrawal. In the performance of this heroic act he was severely wounded, but, with no thought of his personal safety and at the risk of his own life, he maintained his position until all his men had reached safety. His gallantry and courage reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Kentucky.

✓ Sergeant Michael J. Branley, 12086140, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On the night of 6 June 1944, Sergeant Branley was wounded in the shoulder while on outpost duty near St. Pierre DuMont, France. Disregarding his wound, he remained at his post and assisted in repulsing three fierce enemy counter-attacks. Displaying great gallantry and devotion to duty, Sergeant Branley refused to withdraw to safety and fearlessly maintained his position, without food or water, for forty eight hours. His gallantry and courage reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New York.

✓ Technician Fifth Grade Gordon C. Luning, 12065767, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 6 June 1944, near Pointe du Hoc, France, Technician Luning volunteered for the hazardous mission of delivering a message back through enemy lines to the company command post from which his group was completely isolated. While stealthily working his way through seemingly impregnable German lines, he was attacked by an enemy patrol squad. In the ensuing encounter Technician Luning killed one German, wounded another, and was successful in eluding the remainder. After completing his dangerous task, he returned over a similar route to rejoin his group, which was still cut off from the main body of troops. His gallantry and courage reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New York.

Technician Fifth Grade James J. Runyan, 38209213, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 6 June 1944 in the vicinity of Vierville-Sur-Mer, France. Technician Runyan, serving as an automatic rifleman, was seriously wounded while disembarking from his landing craft in the initial phase of the invasion. Although the nature of his injury was so serious that it rendered him unable to walk, Technician Runyan, showing great courage and devotion to duty, crawled forward to carry out his mission. Constantly subjected to intense enemy fire, he covered the advance of the remainder of his company until they reached the protection of cliffs located at the back of the beach. His gallantry in the face of extreme enemy resistance was a large contributing factor in clearing the beach in the vicinity so that friendly troops

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✓ GO 22, Hq Ninth U.S. Army, 3 October 1944, cont'd.

could move forward to their assigned objectives. His gallantry and courage reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Arkansas.

✓ Private William E. Anderson, 20918415, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 7 June 1944, near Pointe du Hoc, France, Private Anderson, while on patrol, advanced through enemy machine gun, small arms and mortar fire to an enemy ammunition dump. Fearlessly, he infiltrated through the enemy lines, carrying with him several Bangalore torpedoes which he placed at strategic points within the ammunition dump. After igniting the explosive charges, Private Anderson made his withdrawal through escape routes subject to heavy enemy fire. The success of his perilous mission was marked by the destruction of the main supply of ammunition available to the enemy. His gallantry and courage reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from California.

✓ Private Herbert J. Stark, 32224582, 165th Signal Photo Company, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 6 June 1944, near Pointe du Hoc, France, Private Stark, a cameraman going ashore with an attacking force of Rangers, had his camera damaged beyond immediate repair. When the advancing assault party was hindered by fire from two enemy machine guns, Private Stark fearlessly scaled a cliff, seized a Mauser rifle from a dead German and silenced the two machine guns. After this courageous act, he attached himself to the Ranger troops and advanced with them through machine gun, sniper, and mortar fire until they were again stopped by a hidden enemy machine gun. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Stark worked his way to a point from which he silenced this third enemy gun with rifle fire. His gallantry and courage reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from New York.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:

J. E. MOORE,  
Brigadier General, OSC, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

JOHN A. KLEIN,  
Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

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