

RESTRICTED
HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY
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Rev. M. P.

8
GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 23)

APC 339
4 October 1944.

I. AWARD OF SILVER STAR.
II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

I. 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:

First Lieutenant James E. McCullers, O-1310185, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action in the landing near Pointe du Hoc, France, on 6 June 1944. Lieutenant McCullers was in command of four amphibious "DUKW" trucks with power ladder attachment. Despite extremely heavy seas, he led his force to the beach and attempted to land the craft. Aerial bombardment had blown sections of the cliff onto the beach, thus making it extremely difficult to maneuver the "DUK'S" onto the beach. During the attempts to land, the vehicles were continuously subjected to heavy enemy fire, but Lieutenant McCullers personally directed repeated attempts to land on different sections of the beach. When he saw it would be impossible to make a successful landing, he beached the craft containing ammunition; had the remainder returned to Omaha Beach and personally rallied the men together to form an assault squad. Lieutenant McCullers led these men through two days of heavy fighting on the Pointe and was seriously wounded while leading them in an attack against an enemy machine gun nest. 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 Georgia.

Technician Fourth Grade Charles S. Parker, 6576656, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 6 June 1944 at Pointe du Hoc, France. Engaged with his unit against a superior enemy force which threatened to overwhelm them, Technician Parker, a radio chief, recalled that machine guns and ammunition had been abandoned in the amphibious "DUKW" trucks which had been beached. He returned to the beach and salvaged this much-needed equipment. In removing the guns, he was subjected to intense enemy sniper and machine gun fire, but determinedly, and with complete disregard for his own safety, stuck to his job until he had completed it. By his initiative and aggressive action, Technician Parker gave his unit their only machine guns, which played a vital part in its being able to hold out against 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.

Technician Fourth Grade Stephen A. Liscinsky, 33262094, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Cornet Lewis F. Liako, 33278363, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

For gallantry in action. During a major German counter attack on 6 June 1944, near Pointe du Hoc, France, Technician Liscinsky and Cornet Liako volunteered to fight their way through enemy lines to relieve an eight-man patrol which was pinned down by fierce enemy machine gun fire for over eight hours. With complete disregard to personal safety, these two men succeeded in contacting the patrol, and in the adjacent vicinity found an abandoned mortar. Technician Liscinsky

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and Corporal Lisko promptly made their way back to the beach and returned with salvaged ammunition. The mortar was then put into action and the enemy driven back. Their gallantry and courage reflect much credit upon themselves, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

Staff Sergeant Lester G. Arthur, 20311607, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Private First Class Harry J. Fato, 36182049, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army. Entered military service from Michigan.

Sergeant Joseph L. Flanagan, 11048463, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

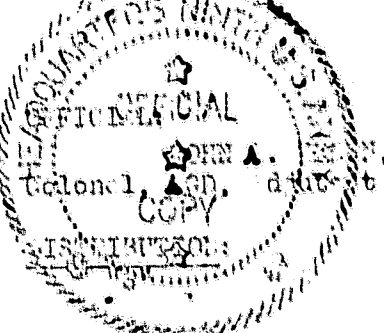
Staff Sergeant Jack E. Kuhn, 33173086, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

For gallantry in action. From 6 June to 8 June 1944, while on outpost duty at Pointe du Hoc, France, the above named enlisted men protected the battalion command post and aid station. The determination and initiative displayed by these men while performing this duty, set an example for the remainder of the company, which were engaged in repelling three counter attacks by a numerically superior enemy. They held tenaciously to their position against heavy enemy fire, thus permitting the safe withdrawal of their men. When finally cut off from the main body, and although without food, water or medical aid for a period of forty-eight hours, and despite being greatly outnumbered, these heroic men continued to harass the enemy, and refused to surrender. On 8 June 1944, the enemy was forced to withdraw, making it possible for these men to rejoin their unit. Their gallantry and courage reflect much credit upon themselves, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

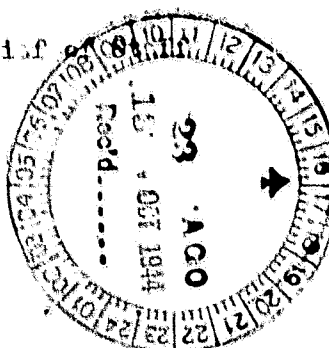
II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS). By direction of the President, under the provisions of Act 600-13, 22 September 1943, as amended, and under authority contained in Circular No 72, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, U. S. Army, 20 March 1944, as amended, the Silver Star is posthumously awarded to:

Staff Sergeant Benjamin H. Wirtz, 25434827, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 6 June 1944, near Pointe du Hoc, France, after having reached the shelter of a high cliff during a landing operation, Staff Sergeant Wirtz, on his own initiative, returned to the beach, which was under heavy machine gun and artillery fire, to rescue an officer of his battalion who was trapped in a burning tank under an overhanging "BUTY" truck. Despite the murderous fire from enemy guns, Staff Sergeant Wirtz, with utter disregard for his own personal safety, waded out to the trapped officer, cut him free from his entanglements and assisted him to shore. His gallantry and courage in saving the life of this officer reflect much credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered military service from West Virginia.

and of Lieutenant Colonel J. E. MOORE, 1st Sergeant:



J. E. MOORE, 1st Sergeant, G-2, Chief



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