

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

GENERAL ORDERS

19 January 1945

NUMBER 19

SECTION I - Award of Silver Star
SECTION II - Award of Soldier's Medal

I. AWARD OF SILVER STAR - By Direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 Mar 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Silver Star is awarded to:

Major WILLIAM T WALLACE, 0305090, Infantry, 2d Battalion, 358th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, United States Army. For gallantry in action. On 16 November 1944, when the 2d Battalion, 358th Infantry was consolidating newly won positions in the town of DISTROFF, FRANCE, the enemy, which had surrounded the town, launched a fierce counter-attack directed primarily against the battalion command post located in a building at the edge of town. Major WALLACE immediately placed the few available troops in the command post at strategic firing positions in the windows and prepared to defend his position. Then, despite the fact that the walls of the building were crumbling under heavy enemy fire, he took a radio transmitter to the second floor, notified the battalion headquarters of the situation and called for artillery fire. He remained at his post directing the artillery fire, and when friendly tanks arrived he personally led his men against the enemy despite a painful foot wound. Major WALLACE'S inspiring leadership, personal bravery, and heroic devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

First Lieutenant EVERETT P BARTLEY, 01113562, Corps of Engineers, 168th Engineer Combat Battalion, United States Army. For gallantry in action. During the period 17 December to 22 December 1944, the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion was committed to action as infantry to assist in the defense of ST VITH, BELGIUM. During this time, Lieutenant BARTLEY served as liaison officer between his battalion and the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion. On numerous occasions he carried messages between the command post and the front lines, braving heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire. On several occasions, displaying outstanding initiative and exemplary leadership abilities, he helped to reorganize and consolidate the defending lines when they gave under enemy pressure. Lieutenant BARTLEY'S accomplishments, personal bravery and loyal devotion to duty reflect the greatest credit upon himself and the military forces of the United States.

II. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL - By Direction of the President and under the provisions of Sec I, Cir 32, Hq ETO US Army, 20 Mar 1944, as amended by Sec I, Cir 56, Hq ETO US Army, 27 May 1944, a Soldier's Medal is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant JAMES HALPIN, 31185008, Medical Detachment, 129th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (Mobile), United States Army. For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. On 17 September 1944, at an airfield in HOLLAND, Sergeant HALPIN and two other enlisted men on duty there with a medical detachment of an antiaircraft battalion, observed a B-17 Bomber, in flames, approaching the field for a landing. Realizing that the bomber was going to crash, he

and his companions ran to the probable scene to render what assistance they could, and were on hand almost immediately after the bomber did crash. Then, although there were bombs with armed fuzes lying about, and despite the imminent danger of explosions, Sergeant HALPIN, completely disregarding his own safety, entered the wreckage to assure that all survivors were removed to safety. His heroic actions, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

Technician Fifth Grade H C SMITH, 37702756, Company "C", 1391st Engineer General Service Regiment, United States Army. For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. On 8 December 1944, while working on a bridge across a river near the German Border, Technician Fifth Grade SMITH and another enlisted man risked their lives to save one of their companions who had been swept from a boat into the river. Making their way on a safety cable, hand over hand, they reached a point above the endangered soldier and fearlessly dived into the freezing water. By their courageous actions, above and beyond the call of duty, these intrepid soldiers succeeded in saving the life of their companion. Technician Fifth Grade SMITH's heroic accomplishment is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

Technician Fifth Grade LOREN W SMITH, 36146994, Medical Detachment, 129th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion (Mobile), United States Army. For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. On 17 September 1944, at an airfield in HOLLAND, Technician Fifth Grade SMITH and two other enlisted men on duty there with a medical detachment of an antiaircraft battalion, observed a B-17 Bomber, in flames, approaching the field for a landing. Realizing that the bomber was going to crash, he and his companions ran to the probable scene to render what assistance they could, and were on hand almost immediately after the bomber did crash. Then, although there were bombs with armed fuzes lying about, and despite the imminent danger of explosions, Technician Fifth Grade SMITH, completely disregarding his own safety, entered the wreckage to assure that all survivors were removed to safety. His heroic actions, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

Private First Class OPVILLE E FORTNER, 39235413, Medical Detachment, 129th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion (Mobile), United States Army. For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. On 17 September 1944, at an airfield in HOLLAND, Private FORTNER and two other enlisted men on duty there with a medical detachment of an antiaircraft battalion, observed a B-17 Bomber, in flames, approaching the field for a landing. Realizing that the bomber was going to crash, he and his companions ran to the probable scene to render what assistance they could, and were on hand almost immediately after the bomber did crash. Then, although there were bombs with armed fuzes lying about, and despite the imminent danger of explosions, Private FORTNER, completely disregarding his own safety, entered the wreckage to assure that all survivors were removed to safety. His heroic actions, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

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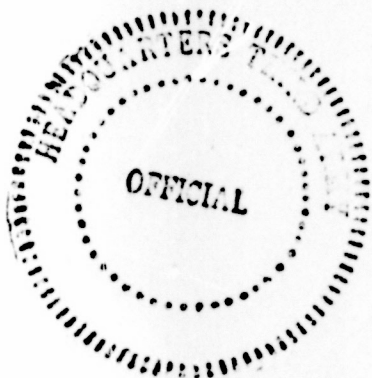
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Private FRANK M SUCHANEK, 35067797, Company "C", 1301st Engineer General Service Regiment, United States Army. For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. On 8 December 1944, while working on a bridge across a river near the German Border, private SUCHANEK and another enlisted man risked their lives to save one of their companions who had been swept from a boat into the river. Making their way on a safety cable, hand over hand, they reached a point above the endangered soldier and fearlessly dived into the freezing water. By their courageous actions, above and beyond the call of duty, these intrepid soldiers succeeded in saving the life of their companion. Private SUCHANEK's heroic accomplishment is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States.

By command of Lieutenant General PATTON:



ROBERT R. GAY,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

R. E. CUMINGS,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

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