

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

21 September 1944

13 Rev
Spec
12-30
GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 61

ORIGINAL ORDER - ETCHEZ

SECTION I - Award of Silver Star.
SECTION II - Award of Bronze Star 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, the Silver Star is awarded to:

Major General ROBERT W GROW, 04621, United States Army, 6th Armored Division while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. At approximately 1800 on 5 August 1944, Major General ROBERT W GROW, while personally supervising the progress of his marching elements arrived at the outskirts of HUELGOAT, FRANCE, in an armored car accompanied by two medium tanks. This party went in ahead of the leading reconnaissance elements, which were temporarily confused because of a report that the town was occupied by a large enemy force. General GROW organized and then personally accompanied the reconnaissance elements and, while under heavy enemy fire, succeeded in pushing these elements through the town, routing the enemy units which were later completely cleared from the area by the advance guard. His coolness, courage, and gallant leadership were an inspiring example to his men.

II. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR 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, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men:

Second Lieutenant CHARLES S CROOK JR. 01111004, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 7 August 1944, Second Lieutenant CHARLES S CROOK JR planned and supervised the clearing and repair of roads in an ammunition depot which had been bombed by the enemy. Although ammunition was burning and exploding and he was in constant danger from flying shell fragments, Lieutenant CROOK worked with such calmness and efficiency that he was an inspiration to his men. His mission was successfully completed.

Technical Sergeant QUINCY G BANKS, 36388817, Ordnance Department, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On the night of 6-7 August, while acting in the capacity of section leader in the magazine area of the *** Ordnance Ammunition Company, Technical Sergeant BANKS displayed superior leadership and ability in handling men under his command. When enemy aircraft dropped flares over the entire magazine area, Technical Sergeant BANKS, in full view of bombing and strafing aircraft, and without regard for his own personal safety, stood in the center of the area and directed his men to safe positions within the area, and later led his men from the bombed areas to safety.

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Technician Fifth Grade ELWYN C SISK, 36694509, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Technician Fifth Grade SISK was one of a detail given the mission of clearing roads through an ammunition depot which had been bombed by enemy aircraft the night before. Although shells were exploding in rapid succession, Technician Fifth Grade SISK, operating a bull dozer filled in craters in the road made by the bombs. He worked with calmness, efficiency, and courage in the face of constant danger from flying shell fragments.

Technician Fifth Grade GERALD P RAMSBERGER, 32775311, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operation against an enemy of the United States. Technician Fifth Grade RAMSBERGER was one of a detail given the mission of clearing roads through an ammunition depot which had been bombed by enemy aircraft the night before. Technician Fifth Grade RAMSBERGER assisted in filling craters made by bombs, and prepared charges of explosives to destroy unexploded shells along the road. He worked with great calmness, efficiency, and courage in the face of constant danger from flying shell fragments.

Technician Fifth Grade ROBERT H BENDER, 20342246, Ordnance Department, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On the evening of 3 August 1944, Technician Fifth Grade BENDER was placed as a guide at LE PONT GILBERT to direct trucks hauling ammunition. That night this location was subjected to heavy enemy aerial bombardment, but Technician Fifth Grade BENDER, without regard for his personal safety, remained at his post throughout the terrific bombardment and continued to direct the trucks of ammunition until relieved on the morning of 4 August 1944.

Private WAYNE L VAN RIPER, 39334167, Corps of Engineers, United States Army for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Private VAN RIPER was one of a detail given the mission of clearing roads through an ammunition depot which had been bombed by enemy aircraft the night before. Private VAN RIPER acted as 1/4 ton truck driver for the officer in charge, and later assisted in preparing charges to blow unexploded shells lying along the road. He worked with great calmness, efficiency, and courage in the face of constant danger from flying fragments.

Private WILLIAM H WIXSON, 39620013, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Private WIXSON was one of a detail given the mission of clearing roads through an ammunition depot which had been bombed by enemy aircraft the night before. Although shells were exploding in rapid succession, Private WIXSON assisted in filling in craters made by the bombs and in preparing charges to blow unexploded shells lying along the road. He worked with calmness, efficiency, and courage in the face of constant danger from flying shell fragments.

Private JOSEPH RAYES, 36744865, Ordnance Department, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On the evening of 3 August 1944, Private RAYES was placed as a guide at LE PONT GILBERT to direct trucks hauling ammunition. That night this location was subjected to heavy enemy aerial bombardment, but Private RAYES without regard for his personal safety, remained at his post throughout the terrific bombardment and continued to direct the trucks of ammunition until relieved on the morning of 4 August 1944.

R E S T R I C T E D

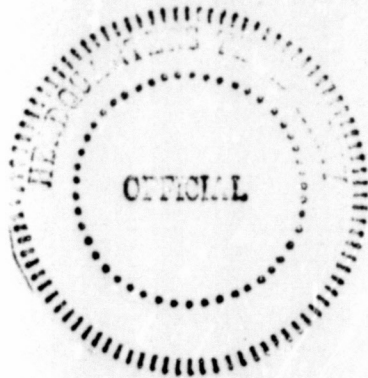
Colonel CLELL B PERKINS, 08678, Veterinary Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 23 March 1944 to 23 August 1944.

Captain HARRY T AKERS, 0390305, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 22 July 1944 to 28 July 1944.

Staff Sergeant CALVIN C BONO, 37097838, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 22 July 1944 to 28 July 1944.

Sergeant BRUCE R SHARPE, 33117647, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 22 July 1944 to 28 July 1944.

By command of Lieutenant General PATTON:



HUGH J. GAFFEY,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff.

R. E. CUMMINGS,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
adjutant General.

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