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HEADQUARTERS 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 35 US ARMY

GENERAL ORDERS)
NO 15)

6 August 1944

SILVER STAR MEDAL -- Awards -- I
BRONZE STAR MEDAL -- Awards -- II
BRONZE STAR MEDAL -- Posthumous Award -- III

I -- SILVER STAR MEDAL. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular 66, Headquarters First United States Army, 18 May 1941, as amended, the Silver Star Medal is awarded to the following officers and enlisted men of this command:

Captain Francis C Mason 0387134, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action, 15-17 July 1944, in the vicinity of * * * Normandy, France. During this period, Captain Mason distinguished himself in his leadership of his company in the operations leading up to and in the attack on * * *. On 15 July he led his company in a successful enveloping movement against an enemy position, causing the initial enemy defenses to fall, after which he maneuvered his company and succeeded in straightening the battalion line, facilitating the battalion attack against Hill Number 122. On the following day, he led a deep penetration into the enemy main line of resistance and by resourceful leadership, held his gains for two days, although his right flank was exposed and in the face of heavy enemy fire and counterattacks, and although Captain Mason was suffering from a severe concussion resulting from the explosion of an enemy shell in his observation post. On 17 July, Captain Mason personally directed the movement of attached tanks, which resulted in the penetration of well-prepared and strongly-defended enemy positions. The gallantry, tenacity of purpose, disregard for personal safety and the leadership of Captain Mason in battle, reflect credit upon the military service. Entered military service from Nebraska.

Captain Lorin S McCown 0419817, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action near * * * Normandy, France, 15-17 July 1944. During this period, Captain McCown was in command of a company in the operations leading up to, and in the attack resulting in the capture of * * *. On 15 July he skillfully led his company in a successful envelopment of enemy defenses, penetrating the enemy lines, and although his left flank was exposed, accomplished the mission of holding his gains through the following day, during which his position was constantly under heavy concentrations of enemy fire. He personally directed supporting artillery fire. On 17 July Captain McCown led his company in the attack from the open turret of a tank where he was exposed to enemy fire, and although severely wounded by an enemy machine gun, he refused evacuation and continued to lead his company, over-running enemy positions and penetrating the enemy lines. He quit his post of duty only when ordered to the aid station by his battalion commander. The gallantry, tenacity of purpose, disregard for personal safety, and leadership in battle by Captain McCown reflects credit upon the military service. Entered military service from Nebraska.

Technician Fourth Grade Earl E Spengler 20726741, Medical Department, United States Army, for gallantry in action in the * * * sector, Normandy, France, 11 July 1944. When observing a field covered by enemy machine guns emplaced in
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bordering hedgerows, Technician Fourth Grade Spengler saw another soldier fall from enemy machine gun fire, ignoring enemy machine gun and sniper fire, and without regard for the danger to his own life, he left the concealment of the hedges, made his way to the wounded soldier, and removed him to a covered area, where he constructed a litter and carried the wounded soldier to an aid station. The gallantry in action, disregard for personal safety, unselfish loyalty to his comrade, tenacity of purpose in performance of his duty resulted in saving the life of the wounded soldier, reflects the highest credit upon Technician Fourth Grade Spengler, and is in accord with the high traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Kansas.

Corporal Robert W Godfirmon 29721713, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action on Hill Number 122 in the vicinity of * * * Normandy, France, on 15 July 1944. When two of his comrades were wounded by enemy machine gun fire and were lying exposed to further fire, squad leader Godfirmon, with another member of his squad, crawled to the wounded soldiers, threw smoke grenades into the enemy machine gun position blinding the enemy and causing a cessation of enemy fire until the wounded men were removed to a position of safety. The gallantry in action, courage and unselfish loyalty to his comrades displayed by Corporal Godfirmon, acting with disregard for his own safety, resulted in saving the lives of the wounded soldiers, reflects credit upon this individual and is in accord with the high traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Nebraska.

Private First Class Mitchell R Helton 20721720, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action on Hill Number 122 in the vicinity of * * * Normandy, France, on 15 July 1944. When two of his comrades were wounded by enemy machine gun fire and were lying exposed to further fire, Private Helton, together with his squad leader, crawled to the wounded soldiers, threw smoke grenades into the enemy machine gun position, blinding the enemy and causing a cessation of enemy fire until the wounded men were removed to a position of safety. The gallantry in action, courage, and unselfish loyalty to his comrades displayed by Private Helton, acting with disregard for his own safety, resulted in saving the lives of the wounded soldiers, reflects credit upon Private Helton and is in accord with the high traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Nebraska.

II -- BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular 66, Headquarters First United States Army, 18 May 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following officers and enlisted men of this command:

Lieutenant Colonel Alford C Boatsman 0244530, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States, in the vicinity of * * * Normandy, France, during the period 15-19 July 1944. Colonel Boatsman, in commanding the First Battalion of the * * * Infantry, during the operations terminating in the capture of * * * displayed an outstanding degree of leadership. Throughout the operation, he kept his command post well forward, maintaining constant reconnaissance and control of his battalion. His personal bravery in rallying his troops when his command post was over-run by enemy troops was a splendid example for his command. His quality of leadership and his fearlessness under heavy enemy fire were vitally conducive to the successful accomplishment of the battalion mission. Entered military service from Nebraska.

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Lieutenant Colonel Douglas G Dwyre, 017535, Field Artillery, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the period 15-18 July 1944, in the vicinity of * * * Normandy, France, Colonel Dwyre commanded the * * * Field Artillery Battalion which supported the * * * Infantry during the attack which resulted in the capture of * * *. His leadership, resourcefulness and close attention to duty was outstanding throughout the action. Through maintenance of close personal contact with the infantry by visiting its command post and front line positions, by making personal reconnaissance to the front and by placing forward observers in the most advantageous positions, Colonel Dwyre was enabled to direct the fire of his battalion so as to offer the infantry the best possible support in this attack, his actions immeasurably facilitating the success of the operation. Entered United States Military Academy from Nevada.

Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Thomsen, 0235927, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of * * * Normandy, France, 14-19 July 1944. During this period Colonel Thomsen led his battalion in the operations leading up to, and in the attack which terminated in the capture of * * * by our forces, in an outstanding and aggressive manner. His courage and disregard for his personal safety as evidenced by his refusal to be evacuated after being wounded by shell fragments served as an inspiration and example to the members of his command. His active and aggressive leadership imbued his men with confidence and was directly responsible for the battalion's successful accomplishment of its mission in this operation. Entered military service from Nebraska.

Lieutenant Colonel Denver W Wilson, 0278007, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States, in the vicinity of * * * Normandy, France, during the period 15-18 July 1944. Colonel Wilson commanded the Second Battalion * * * Infantry in the operations which resulted in the capture of * * *. His leadership throughout the operation was outstanding. He was particularly aggressive in maintaining control and coordination within his command, personally taking charge in two instances where difficulties arose within companies of his battalion, and when a company commander became a casualty at the outset of an attack. His courage and personal bravery in the face of the enemy, served as an inspiration to all the troops in his command. His qualities of leadership and aggressiveness immeasurably facilitated the successful accomplishment of the battalion mission. Entered military service from Nebraska.

First Lieutenant Scott P Cooper, 0415169, Field Artillery, United States Army, for outstanding achievement in action against the enemy in the * * * sector, Normandy, France, 13 July 1944. When an infantry patrol which reinforced the tank destroyer platoon commanded by Lieutenant Cooper had been pinned down by enemy fire, he brought fire to bear on the enemy position on two different occasions, enabling the patrol to withdraw. The leadership of Lieutenant Cooper in maneuvering the tank destroyers and placing fire upon the enemy at the most propitious moment was outstanding. During the withdrawal of the infantry patrol under cover of the tank destroyers, Lieutenant Cooper personally and from an exposed position directed the evacuation of four wounded infantrymen. The meritorious achievement, initiative, and leadership in battle, and disregard for personal safety displayed by Lieutenant Cooper on this occasion reflects credit upon him and is in accordance with the high traditions of the military service. Entered military service from North Carolina.

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Staff Sergeant George J Tiedje, 37034244, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States on 15 July 1944, near * * * Normandy, France. Staff Sergeant Tiedje was acting in the capacity of squad leader. During the period that his platoon was moving into position for the purpose of attack, it was constantly harassed by the fire of numerous snipers, in addition to being subjected to heavy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. He, of his own volition, advanced to a position in the open, voluntarily exposing himself to enemy fire, in a measure drawing it to himself and away from the platoon. Staff Sergeant Tiedje was actively engaged in firing at a sniper when he was wounded by enemy fire. The unselfish loyalty of Staff Sergeant Tiedje to his comrades and his actions without regard for personal safety, facilitated in a great measure the advance of his platoon against the enemy and contributed materially to the final success of his organization in this action. Entered military service from Nebraska.

Sergeant Alexander W Wilson, 31065352, Field Artillery, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of * * * sector, Normandy, France, 13 July 1944. In an engagement against the enemy, Sergeant Wilson was gun commander in a tank destroyer when his vehicle struck an enemy mine, disabling the tank destroyer and wounding him. Observing a friendly infantry patrol in the vicinity pinned down by hostile fire, Sergeant Wilson continued to fire his gun into the enemy position, silencing three machine guns and accounting for a probable enemy observation post. His actions enabled the patrol to withdraw from that location. After his gun jammed and he was about to board another tank destroyer, Sergeant Wilson observed some wounded infantrymen to his front. He proceeded under enemy fire to carry two wounded soldiers to the safety of the tank destroyer for evacuation to the rear. The tenacity of purpose of Sergeant Wilson, his disregard for his own personal safety, and his unselfish loyalty to his comrades in arms reflects credit upon the military service. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

III -- BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Posthumous Award). Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular 66, Headquarters First United States Army, 18 May 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded, posthumously, to the following enlisted man of this command:

Private First Class Sam Bycheck, 32556437, Field Artillery, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States, in the * * * sector, Normandy, France, on 13 July 1944. Private First Class Bycheck, a cannoneer in a tank destroyer, was about to leave the area where an engagement had just taken place, when wounded infantrymen were discovered to the front. He left the comparative safety of the tank destroyer and proceeded under enemy fire in the company of another soldier, to the wounded infantrymen and evacuated two of them to the safety of his armored vehicle. The disregard for his personal safety and unselfish loyalty of Private Bycheck, reflects credit upon the military service. Entered military service from New Jersey.

By command of Major General BAADE:

OFFICIAL:

Richard G Chadwick

RICHARD G CHADWICK

Lt Colonel, A G D

Adjutant General

MADDREY A SOLOMON

Colonel, G S C

Chief of Staff

Distribution: Special

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