

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 80, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 122)

9 May 1945.

SECTION

- I - Award of Bronze Star.
- II - Award of Purple Heart (Oak Leaf Cluster).
- III and IV - Award of Purple Heart.
- V - Rescission.

I. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded the following named personnel:

TDs JOSEPH C. SNYDER, 01822325, 1st Lt, FA, Army of the United States. For heroic service in Luxembourg on 24 January 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. As reconnaissance platoon leader, Lt Snyder has rendered invaluable aid to his tank destroyer battalion by the efficient and thorough reconnaissance which he has made in locating firing positions and routes of approach for the tank destroyers. On 24 January 1945, as he was reconnoitering for a gun position well forward in the battle section, he was wounded by enemy fire. With the mission as his chief thought, he reported all the vital information he had obtained to the battalion command post before he permitted the medical detachment to evacuate him. His courage, skill, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest ideals of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Illinois. JAN

Vernon Spenler, 37677106, S Sgt (then Pfc), Inf, Army of the United States. For heroic achievement in Germany on 12 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the assault on the Siegfried Line near Wallendorf, Germany, on 12 February 1945, when his platoon was halted by a German outpost, Sgt Spenler talked the enemy into surrendering. By capturing these soldiers the platoon was able to flank and capture three enemy pillboxes with a minimum of casualties. S Sgt Spenler's courage, initiative, and devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Iowa. Feb

Eugene M. Strickland, 34669920, Tec 5, FA, Army of the United States. For heroic service in Luxembourg on 6 January 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 6 January 1945, Tec 5 Strickland, serving as a member of a forward observer party attached to an infantry company, found that the entire unit was surrounded by the enemy near Goesdorf, Germany, and was receiving intense enemy mortar and artillery fire coupled with small arms fire on all sides. With utter disregard for his own personal safety, Tec 5 Strickland remained at his radio and by sending fire missions to the firing batteries, aided the company to safely withdraw to a better position. The bravery, skill, and courageous devotion to duty displayed by Tec 5 Strickland are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from North Carolina. JAN

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Fred D. Suttle, 37709378, Cpl, Armd, Army of the United States. For heroic achievement in Luxembourg on 18 January 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 18 January 1945, during the fierce fighting at Dahl, Luxembourg, the tank in which Cpl Suttle served as gunner was hit three times by enemy artillery, seriously wounding two of the crew. Despite the intense artillery falling all about the area, Cpl Suttle ordered the tank to be moved to a covered position and saw that the wounded were evacuated. His courage and devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Colorado. JAN

Warren M. Toler, 35438059, Pvt, FA, Army of the United States. For heroic achievement in Germany on 16 March 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 16 March 1945, Pvt Toler, as a member of an artillery forward observer party, had dismounted with his party to clear a road block from their path in a heavily wooded area near Weiskirchen, Germany, when the enemy ambushed them, killing two men and wounding the other. Although still under enemy fire, Pvt Toler carried the wounded man to safety and, not being able to obtain aid, returned to the scene alone to find that the enemy had withdrawn. Pvt Toler's bravery under fire and devotion to duty are commensurate with the highest ideals of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from West Virginia. MAR

FRANK M. TOWNSEND, 01176826, 2d Lt, FA, Army of the United States. For heroic service in Germany on 21 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. While serving as an artillery forward observer near Lahr, Germany, Lt Townsend voluntarily advanced ahead of the company to which he was attached in order to locate mortars, whose fire was delaying the attack. Disregarding the small arms fire and the danger of being captured, he and his radio operator infiltrated the enemy lines and, after finding the mortars, registered accurate fire which destroyed the position. On another occasion, while crossing the Main River, he and his radio operator located German artillery positions which he destroyed by accurately adjusting artillery fire on them. Lt Townsend's courage, initiative, and sincere devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Texas. FEB

Joseph C. Vitolo, 32822925, Pfc, Inf, Army of the United States. For heroic achievement in Germany on 16 March 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 16 March 1945, Pfc Vitolo was serving as an assistant radio operator at an artillery forward observation post in Berger, Germany, when an enemy artillery shell hit the observation post, wounding the radio operator and another soldier who was outside the house. Despite the fact that he was under enemy observation, Pfc Vitolo ran to the aid of the wounded man and carried him to safety, utterly disregarding the severe shell fire directed at him. His courage, initiative, and sincere devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from New York. MAR

James F. Whitaker, 34011700, S Sgt, Inf, Army of the United States. For heroic achievement in Germany on 7 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the difficult crossing of the Our River and the assault into the Siegfried Line near Hoesdorf, FEB



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Germany, the supply problem for the advance elements became critical, as all attempts to build a bridge across the river had been thwarted by the swift river and heavy enemy artillery fire. S Sgt Whitaker, an anti-tank squad leader, worked for three successive nights carrying supplies across the river in an assault boat, completely disregarding the danger from enemy fire. His courage, initiative, and sincere devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Georgia.

W. C. Womack, 38119157, Cpl, FA, Army of the United States. For heroic service in Germany during the period 10 - 13 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the period 10 - 13 February 1945, Cpl Womack, an artillery wire chief, realizing the vital need for wire communication across the Our River to the infantry troops assaulting the Siegfried Line, established a forward switching central in the town of Wallendorf, Germany. Although under enemy artillery fire, Cpl Womack maintained wire communication with the infantry liaison officers and battalions throughout the entire operation. The courage, initiative, and devotion to duty displayed by Cpl Womack exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Texas. ✓

II. AWARD OF PURPLE HEART (OAK LEAF CLUSTER): By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, in addition to the Purple Heart previously awarded, a bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded the following named personnel for wounds received as a result of enemy action in Germany on dates indicated:

<u>RANK AND NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ARM OR SERVICE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Sgt John H. Grimes	33786085	Inf	1 May 45
Pfc Joe Oplt	36987282	Inf	2 May 45

III. AWARD OF PURPLE HEART: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded the following named personnel for wounds received as a result of enemy action in Germany on dates indicated:

✓ Pvt Lewis W. Bobo	34104698	Inf	12 Mar 45
Pfc Loo J. Davy	31361591	Inf	1 May 45
Pfc Joe H. McGill	34986425	Inf	2 May 45
Tec 4 James Tucker	35720819	FA	2 May 45
Tec 4 Joseph Tanaszi	35550479	Inf	2 May 45
Pvt John J. Lapinski	20260325	CAC	4 May 45
Tec 4 Albert P. Boverio	39096002	FA	4 May 45
T Sgt Hardy J. Hale	38607879	Inf	5 May 45
S Sgt Sheridan T. Busby	32936995	Inf	5 May 45
Pvt Lawrence Rife	33664836	Inf	5 May 45
Pvt John D. Swope	33925507	Inf	5 May 45
S Sgt Edward R. Brush	42143214	Inf	5 May 45
Pfc Lee W. Lucas	37495131	MD	5 May 45
✓ 1st Sgt William C. Bateman	38175417	Inf	7 May 45

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IV. AWARD OF PURPLE HEART: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded the following named personnel for wounds received as a result of enemy action in Austria on dates indicated:

<u>RANK AND NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ARM OR SERVICE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
CAPT EDWARD SELEGO	01100759	CE	4 May 45
Pfc Herbert G. Schwager	33591686	FA	6 May 45
Pfc James B. Krasik	33278032	FA	6 May 45
Pfc Edward A. Klais	42101591	Inf	6 May 45

V. Section XII, General Orders Number 55, this Headquarters, dated 24 February 1945, is amended to delete the name of "Pfc Jessie W. Jenkins 33213389 Inf 21 Feb 45". Enlisted man was awarded Purple Heart by the 135th Gen Hosp, 10 March 1945.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL McBRIDE:

S. P. WALKER  
Colonel, Cavalry,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

*J. W. Trone*  
J. W. TRONE  
Lt Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.