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

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 129)

18 May 1945.

SECTION

- I - Award of Silver Star, Posthumously.
- II - Award of Silver Star (Oak Leaf Cluster).
- III thru V - Award of Silver Star.
- VI - Award of Purple Heart (Oak Leaf Cluster).
- VII and VIII - Award of Purple Heart.

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

C Charley DeVisser, 37695558, Sgt (then Pvt), Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 9 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 9 February 1945, during an assault into the Siegfried Line in Germany, Sgt DeVisser, as a member of a squad which was attempting to destroy an enemy held pillbox, voluntarily placed the charges at the entrance and prepared the fuses despite the enemy fire to which he was exposed. After two attempts at igniting the charge had failed Sgt DeVisser convinced the occupants that they should surrender and as a gesture of good faith he discarded his weapons and exposed himself unarmed. Three officers and sixteen men surrendered to him. Sgt DeVisser's courage, initiative, and sincere devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Iowa.

D Ernest Dills, Jr, 15116107, S Sgt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 8 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 8 February 1945, while assaulting the Siegfried Line near Wallendorf, Germany, the machine gun platoon which S Sgt Dills led was ordered to furnish the riflemen necessary supporting fire for the attack. After aiding in driving off three enemy attacks, S Sgt Dills voluntarily manned a light machine gun to enable his men to bring up a new supply of ammunition. Through his effective fire he protected the men and the ammunition was replenished. He was killed by a sniper during the operation. The courageous leadership and supreme devotion to duty displayed by S Sgt Dills enabled the platoon to immeasurably support the successful assault and exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Kentucky.

K Nicholas R. Distefano, 36957681, Pfc, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 16 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 16 February 1945, Pfc Distefano, a rifleman, was wounded about the face and body by shell fragments during an assault into the Siegfried Line near Wallendorf, Germany.

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Disregarding his own wounds, he was in the act of rendering first aid to a more seriously wounded soldier when he was shot by a sniper. Still disregarding his own safety and pain, he continued with his work of mercy until mortally wounded by another sniper's bullet. Pfc Distefano's courage, unselfishness, and supreme devotion to duty are commensurate with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Michigan.

M William J. Griffiths, 35539837, Pfc, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Luxembourg on 8 January 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During an enemy counterattack at Dahl, Luxembourg, on 8 January 1945, tanks threatened the squad of which Pfc Griffiths was acting squad leader. Pfc Griffiths ordered his squad to withdraw to more covered positions as he manned the machine gun and drew the tank fire away from his men. When he realized that he was outflanked, he picked up the gun and started across open ground to rejoin his men, but was killed by machine gun fire from a tank. Such courage, leadership, and supreme devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Ohio.

I EDWARD B. LEROY, 01292014, Capt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 22 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. In an attempt to seize a strategic crossroads near Bierrensdorf, Germany, on 22 February 1945, the attacking platoons were delayed by intense direct enemy machine gun and tank fire from commanding terrain around the objective. Ordering everyone to take cover, Capt LeRoy advanced through an intense artillery barrage to instruct tank and tank destroyer men whom he called forward by radio. His timely and tactically sound plans enabled his men, supported by the added fire power, to take the objective and organize a defense. Capt LeRoy's courage, aggressiveness, and sincere devotion to duty are commensurate with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Ohio.

D Kenneth L. Shade, 33368283, S Sgt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 7 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 7 February 1945, while establishing a bridgehead across the Our River into the Siegfried Line near Wallendorf, Germany, S Sgt Shade, a machine gun platoon sergeant, was wounded in the initial assault. Disregarding his wounds, he controlled his platoon and capably emplaced the machine guns so that they furnished the maximum possible support to the attacking infantrymen. Refusing to be evacuated, he continued with his mission until killed by a mortar shell while displacing forward to a new gun position. S Sgt Shade's courage, leadership, and supreme devotion to duty are commensurate with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

I George F. White, 36409946, Pfc, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in France on 25 November 1944, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During an attack on St Avold, France, on 25 November 1944, the attacking rifle company was subjected to intense enemy fire. Pfc White, a rifleman, assumed command of his squad when the leader became a casualty and led his squad to capture its objective. While organizing the defense of the newly won position, Pfc White was slain.

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fully wounded by enemy fire, but refused to be evacuated until all his men were in position. His courage, aggressiveness, and sincere devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Michigan.

II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR (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 Silver Star Medal previously awarded, a bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded the following named personnel:

*Amended by Sec XI  
GO 102-1945  
21 May 45  
to read  
OAC to  
Purple Star*

F WILLIAM H. CHAMBERLAIN, 01284292, Capt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 25 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. While clearing the town of Obergeckler, Germany, on 25 February 1945, Capt Chamberlain's company was assaulted by eighty enemy infantrymen supported by three tanks. Capt Chamberlain, despite enemy fire and the fact that his own artillery rounds fell within fifteen yards of the house he occupied, adjusted artillery fire so effectively that the enemy was forced to withdraw, leaving one tank destroyed. Such efficient leadership and courageous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from California.

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

K WILLIAM B. ADEN, 0513994, 1st Lt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 16 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. While leading his platoon into an attack against a Siegfried Line pillbox near Wallendorf, Germany, on 16 February 1945, Lt Aden was wounded but continued with his mission. When the tactical situation necessitated a temporary withdrawal, Lt Aden refused to be evacuated or to leave the field until all his wounded men were removed. Such courage, leadership, and sincere devotion to duty as displayed by Lt Aden exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Mississippi.

143 ROBERT J. BEE, JR, 01296979, Maj (then Capt), Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in France on 26 November 1944, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During an attack near St Avoild, France, on 26 November 1944, the evacuation of casualties over the rough terrain forced the employment of a long bitter haul. Capt Bee, commanding a heavy weapons company, organized on his own initiative, carrying teams which he led into the open fields, despite heavy enemy fire, to evacuate all of the wounded throughout a seven hour period. Capt Bee's courage, initiative, and inspirational leadership exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from New York.

B Warren R. Chain, 35331529, S Sgt (then Sgt), Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 10 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During

*Note: Copy forwarded  
to EMIN states*

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an attack within the Siegfried Line on 10 February 1945, S Sgt Chain, a platoon guide assumed command of his platoon and received an order to clear the company's flank near Wallendorf, Germany. Devising a flanking movement, S Sgt Chain ordered one squad to move to the enemy's flank under the cover of a protective fire from the rest of the platoon, during which S Sgt Chain personally destroyed an enemy machine gun by rocket fire. The plan worked and fifteen enemy soldiers were surprised and captured. S Sgt Chain's courage, initiative, and skillful leadership exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Ohio.

A William J. Collier, 38607732, Pfc, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 7 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 7 February 1945, during a temporary lull in the assault across the Our River into Germany and the Siegfried Line, the company in which Pfc Collier served as a rifleman consolidated its position. While preparing to dig in Pfc Collier accidentally pulled the pin of a grenade on his belt. Realizing that he could not throw it far enough to keep from endangering others, he grasped the grenade in both hands and between his legs, utterly disregarding his own life. The explosion broke his leg and blew off both hands. Even in shock he remarked "I'm glad no one else got hurt. Keep on going. I'm sorry I can't go with you". Pfc Collier's courage, consideration for his fellow soldiers, and supreme devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Texas.

B Orlanl Hyde, 6272034, Sgt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 8 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the night of 8 February 1945, the company in which Pfc Hyde served as platoon runner was engaged in the assault across the Our River into Germany and the Siegfried Line near Wallendorf, Germany. After carrying supplies through intense artillery fire from the crossing area up the steep slopes to the company and carrying casualties down to the assault boats, Pfc Hyde was assigned a patrol mission into enemy territory. Working his way well into enemy lines, Pfc Hyde crawled stealthily upon three Germans who were digging an emplacement. Covered by his two companions, he captured the three men who, when interrogated at headquarters, revealed valuable information. Pfc Hyde's courage, diligence, and sincere devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Texas.

IV. Sections IV through VIII published as extracts.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL McBRIDE:

OFFICIAL:

*J. W. Trone*

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

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

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

B. Walter Jodlik, 33185971, T Sgt (then S Sgt), Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 11 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 11 February 1945, during an assault into the Siegfried Line near Wallendorf, Germany, T Sgt Jodlik, a platoon guide, led a group in carrying casualties down the steep hill to an aid station. Despite the severe fire covering the area T Sgt Jodlik and his men evacuated casualties over the dangerous route until at daybreak when they were fired upon from an enemy held pillbox. Disregarding his own safety, T Sgt Jodlik attacked the pillbox and killed the occupants with grenades, giving the exposed litter squad a refuge from enemy fire until darkness could conceal their movements. T Sgt Jodlik's courage, initiative, and sincere devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

M. Charles W. Lewis, 33273365, T Sgt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Luxembourg on 8 January 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 8 January 1945, during an enemy counterattack on Dahl, Luxembourg, T Sgt Lewis, a machine gun platoon sergeant, discovered that an enemy patrol of eight men had penetrated to the command post in the darkness. Quickly crawling a heavy machine gun in his arms he fired, killing all of the enemy. Entering the command post he discovered his platoon leader locked in a hand to hand struggle with an enemy soldier. He immediately killed the enemy with his pistol. T Sgt Lewis' courage, aggressiveness, and sincere devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Anthony F. Mazur, 32119478, Pfc, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 29 March 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 29 March 1945, Pfc Mazur, a reconnaissance scout, was riding in the lead vehicle of a motorized patrol which rounded a curve and was stopped by a hasty road block protected by an enemy platoon. Despite his unprotected position, Pfc Mazur, without hesitation, fired on the enemy, killing two, neutralizing their machine gun, and preventing the use of a 22mm anti-aircraft gun which they had in position. His accurate fire enabled the patrol to withdraw to safety. Pfc Mazur's courage, initiative, and aggressive devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from New York.

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13 George C. McKinney, 33278368, T Sgt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany during the period 7 - 10 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the period 7 - 10 February 1945, during the struggle to consolidate a bridgehead across the Our River into the Siegfried Line near Wallendorf, Germany, all supplies were hand carried from the assault boats to the fighting soldiers. T Sgt McKinney, a platoon guide, was assigned to lead a detail on this important mission. Despite the intense mortar, artillery, and rocket fire falling in the area, T Sgt McKinney led his detail throughout each night to maintain adequate supplies. On one occasion, when challenged by an enemy patrol, he raised his hands and, walking to the patrol leader, kicked him in the abdomen, continuing with his work after the patrol was routed. T Sgt McKinney's courage, aggressiveness, and sincere devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

16 Robert E. McQueen, 42125644, T Sgt (then Pvt), Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Luxembourg on 23 December 1944, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Immediately after Heiderscheid, Luxembourg had been liberated on 23 December 1944, a numerically superior enemy force counterattacked and drove well into the town. Despite severe direct fire, T Sgt McQueen, a rifleman, took a position in a house from which he destroyed a tank by rocket fire. He also disabled another enemy tank. His aggressiveness, courage, and devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from New York.

18 Theodore G. Reedy, 33278345, T Sgt (then S Sgt), Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 10 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On 10 February 1945, T Sgt Reedy and his squad were ordered to make a flanking movement on a strong enemy position while his platoon was attacking a section of the Siegfried Line near Wallendorf, Germany. Creeping and crawling through mud and over obstacles, T Sgt Reedy so skillfully led his men that, when the protective fire was lifted by the other two squads of the platoon, the enemy was completely surprised and bewildered, enabling T Sgt Reedy's men to capture fifteen of them. The leadership, skill, and devotion to duty demonstrated by T Sgt Reedy exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL McBRIDE:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

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

HENRY G. TWETEN, 01328096, 2d Lt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 22 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the attack on Obergeckler, Germany, on 22 February 1945, Lt Tweten was painfully wounded in the leg but continued to lead his platoon in attacking and seizing its objective. Still refusing evacuation, Lt Tweten consolidated the position and inspired his men to repel a strong enemy counterattack of tanks and infantry, after which he was evacuated with a fractured leg. Lt Tweten's courage, aggressive leadership, and sincere devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Minnesota.

Harlan D. Wilson, 37695761, Pfc, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 23 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. After Obergeckler, Germany had been captured on 23 February 1945, the enemy counterattacked in force. Pfc Wilson, a rifleman, was aiding his squad in holding possession of a house in the face of an assault by twenty enemy soldiers. Observing that an enemy soldier had approached and was preparing to hurl a grenade into the house, Pfc Wilson, on outpost duty in a nearby shed, killed the grenadier and three others, and by his accurate fire captured a few and drove off the remainder of the enemy. His timely action saved his comrades and alerted them for later attacks. Pfc Wilson's courage, initiative, and devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Iowa.

VI. 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 France on dates indicated:

<u>RANK AND NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ARM OR SERVICE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
S. Sgt Cecil Sutherland	33049114	Inf	17 Sep 44
T Sgt (then Pvt) Samuel E. Hall	134609202	Inf	20 Sep 44

VII. 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 France on dates indicated:

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<u>RANK AND NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ARM OR SERVICE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Pfc Bartlo S. Martarano	33465826	Inf	3 Sep 44
Cpl Ross H. Nichols	35774519	Inf	26 Sep 44
1ST LT DONALD J. DEAN	01301790	Inf	17 Dec 44

VIII. 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 Pfc Kenneth L. Johnson, 38112800, Inf, for wounds received as a result of enemy action in Germany on 31 March 1945.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL McBRIDE:

OFFICIAL:

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

*J. W. Throne*  
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Lt Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

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By SP NARA Date 8-17-00



# R E S T R I C T E D

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

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

*E-319*  
HENRY G. TWETEN, 01328096, 2d Lt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 22 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. During the attack on Obergeckler, Germany, on 22 February 1945, Lt Tweten was painfully wounded in the leg but continued to lead his platoon in attacking and seizing its objective. Still refusing evacuation, Lt Tweten consolidated the position and inspired his men to repel a strong enemy counterattack of tanks and infantry, after which he was evacuated with a fractured leg. Lt Tweten's courage, aggressive leadership, and sincere devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Minnesota. *Feb*

Harlan D. Wilson, 37695761, Pfc, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Germany on 23 February 1945, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. After Obergeckler, Germany had been captured on 23 February 1945, the enemy counterattacked in force. Pfc Wilson, a rifleman, was aiding his squad in holding possession of a house in the face of an assault by twenty enemy soldiers. Observing that an enemy soldier had approached and was preparing to hurl a grenade into the house, Pfc Wilson, on outpost duty in a nearby shed, killed the grenadier and three others, and by his accurate fire captured a few and drove off the remainder of the enemy. His timely action saved his comrades and alerted them for later attacks. Pfc Wilson'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*

VI. 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 France on dates indicated:

<u>RANK AND NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ARM OR SERVICE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
S Sgt Cecil Sutherland	33049114	Inf	17 Sep 44
L T Sgt (then Pvt) Samuel E. Hall	134609202	Inf	20 Sep 44

VII. 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 France on dates indicated:

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<u>RANK AND NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ARM OR SERVICE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Pfc Bartlo S. Martarano	33465826	Inf	3 Sep 44
D Cpl Ross H. Nichols	35774519	Inf	26 Sep 44
1ST LT DONALD J. DEAN	01301790	Inf	17 Dec 44

VIII. 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 Pfc Kenneth L. Johnson, 38112800, Inf, for wounds received as a result of enemy action in Germany on 31 March 1945.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL McBRIDE:

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