

[REDACTED]

Jat

HEADQUARTERS 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION
- APO 200, U. S. Army

18 May 1945

GENERAL ORDER

NO 24

SECTION I - AWARD OF SILVER STAR (Posthumous Award)
SECTION II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR
SECTION III - AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Posthumous Award)
SECTION IV - AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL
SECTION V - AWARD OF PURPLE HEART (Oak Leaf Cluster)
SECTION VI - AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

I - AWARD OF SILVER STAR (Posthumous Award)

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular Number 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, as supplemented, the Silver Star is awarded Posthumously to:

Technical Sergeant Donald P. MacFarlane, 35010977, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For gallantry in action at Neumarkt, Germany, on 20 April 1945. Taking cover from withering machine-gun and rifle fire, Sergeant MacFarlane, pinned down with elements of his platoon, located an enemy position one hundred yards distant across a pasture. Crying "I am going to get them," he voluntarily deserted his cover and dashed across the field to an abandoned building, from which he opened fire, forcing the enemy to retreat in making possible the advance of his platoon by this courageous act Sergeant MacFarlane received a mortal wound. His aggressive spirit and bravery against overwhelming odds were a magnificent inspiration to his men and reflect the greatest praise upon Sergeant MacFarlane and the military service. Entered military service from Ohio.

II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular Number 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, as supplemented, the Silver Star is awarded to:

Staff Sergeant Ralph J. Smelley, 38522270, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For gallantry in action at Neumarkt, Germany, on 21 April 1945. During an attack on Neumarkt, Sergeant Smelley voluntarily advanced four hundred yards to the front of his platoon in order to reconnoiter possible routes of advance. Despite withering 88mm and small arms fire, Sergeant Smelley daringly exposed himself to secure the necessary information. He withdrew after his position became untenable, but only after he had accounted for three enemy casualties. While rejoining his unit he courageously risked his life to save two wounded men lying under direct observation of the enemy. The selflessness and bravery displayed by Sergeant Smelley saved the lives of two comrades and enabled his platoon to rout the enemy. Entered military service from Louisiana.

III - AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Posthumous Award)

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular Number 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, as supplemented, the Bronze Star Medal is



COPY

Department of the Army

COPY

from

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Record Group

407

ADD. INFO. Entry 427

World War II Operation Rpt

awarded Posthumously to:

Sergeant Garth G. Thurston, 12131225, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near Neumarkt, Germany, on 20 April 1945. As Sergeant Thurston was placing his mortar into position on the outskirts of Neumarkt, artillery "time fire" began raining upon the open field where his men were moving the mortar. With complete disregard for personal safety, Sergeant Thurston braved the flying shrapnel and directed his men to positions of adequate cover. Upon seeing his squad in comparative safety, he then fearlessly moved back to the open field to retrieve his mortar. At this time a shell fragment struck and fatally wounded him. Sergeant Thurston lost his life through his solicitude for his men and his determined devotion to duty. Entered military service from New York.

IV -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular Number 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, as supplemented, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:

Master Sergeant James A. Belchamber, 37059591, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Germany. From 5 March 1945 to 5 May 1945. Entered military service from Missouri.

Sergeant Esabel S. Castro, (then Private First Class) 39225727, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Neumarkt, Germany, on 20 April 1945. While advancing in the outskirts of Neumarkt, a rifle squad of which Sergeant Castro was a member, was crossing an open street when fired upon by an enemy sniper. After his squad had taken cover, Sergeant Castro, on his own initiative, began moving forward in search of the enemy soldier. Without regard for his safety, he crossed open ground through heavy machine-gun and sniper fire, located the sniper, and killed him, thus enabling his squad to continue its advance. Sergeant Castro's bravery and willingness to close with the enemy were a source of inspiration to his men, and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from California.

First Sergeant Claude R. Davis, Jr., 37058943, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Germany. From 5 March 1945 to 4 May 1945. Entered military service from Missouri.

First Lieutenant Robert L. Evans, 01062330, Infantry 259th Infantry. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Neumarkt, Germany, from 20 April to 22 April 1945. During the attack on Neumarkt the duties of Lieutenant Evans as executive officer of Company "K" were manifold and often hazardous. When moving his Headquarters across open terrain in the face of enemy artillery fire he set the example for his men by taking the lead. Throughout the action Lieutenant Evans was personally in charge of casualty evacuation as well as ammunition supply. In the performance of this work he was usually forced to traverse areas and streets devoid of cover and constantly under fire from enemy artillery and small arms. Lieutenant Evans' courage, leadership and determination were exemplary and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Florida.

Second Lieutenant John D. Frawley, 0556012, Infantry, 261st Infantry. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Germany, from 17 March 1945 to 5 May 1945. During this period Lieutenant Frawley, anti-tank Platoon Leader, distinguished himself on several occasions. On 17 March 1945, under intense enemy fire, Lieutenant Frawley personally supervised the placing of anti-tank guns in position on the Saar River and direct the removal of a road block. On 31 March 1945, Lieutenant Frawley, despite enemy barrages, organized his platoon into listening posts 600 yards in advance of his forward elements, and on 4 April 1945, he and another officer entered Langenfeld, Germany, capturing 60 armed guards, and liberating 430 British prisoners. The outstanding leadership, aggressiveness, and bravery under fire shown by Lieutenant Frawley have continually inspired his men and are in keeping with military traditions. Entered military service from New York.

Major Fred B. Hammond, 0351266, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Germany. From 30 March 1945 to 1 May 1945. Entered military service from Oregon.

Sergeant Fred L. Hatch, 39202607, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Neumarkt, Germany, on 20 April 1945. From a covered position fifty yards in advance of his machine-gun squad, Sergeant Hatch, seeing the second platoon fired upon by a group of enemy soldiers, ran back to his squad despite the hail of bullets. Strategically placing his men Sergeant Hatch ordered them to open fire, thereby forcing the enemy to retreat. Later, when fired upon by snipers, Sergeant Hatch, endangering his life by exposing himself to the enemy fire, led a tank into a more advantageous position and directed telling fire against the snipers. Sergeant Hatch, by his aggressive actions and disregard for self, aided materially in the company's advance. Entered military service from Washington.

Technical Sergeant Robert B. Hochderffer, 38146930, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Germany from 16 March 1945 to 27 April 1945. Entered military service from Texas.

Technician Fifth Grade Leslie E. Holsclaw, 35691347, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Neumarkt, Germany on 21 April 1945. During the attack on Neumarkt by his battalion, Technician Holsclaw, a Third Battalion Headquarters Company radio operator, selflessly remained at his radio in a position which was exposed to enemy fire. Despite intense hostile artillery fire, Technician Holsclaw continued to transmit and relay vitally important tactical messages. Later as the rifle companies advanced Technician Holsclaw moved his radio from the Battalion OP to the attic of a nearby house in order to maintain contact with these companies and thus facilitate the attack. In spite of "time" fire bursting at house top level, Technician Holsclaw remained at his radio and accomplished his assigned mission. Entered military service from Kentucky.

Sergeant William G. Koerber, Jr., 36551633, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For heroic achievement in connection with military operation against an enemy of the United States in Neumarkt, Germany, from 20 April 1945 to 22 April 1945. During the attack on Neumarkt, Sergeant Koerber, Company "K" communications Sergeant, constantly endangered his life to maintain contact with forward platoons. In order to supply fresh batteries for the company

[REDACTED]
(GO No. 24, Hq 65th Inf Div, APO 200, 18 May 1945, cont'd)

radios, he repeatedly crossed open areas exposed to intermittent artillery "time" fire, shrapnel from which injured him slightly. During the times when communications were impaired Sergeant Koerber, disregarding his own safety, ran the gauntlet of fire to relay the messages personally. His initiative, courage in the face of enemy fire and untiring efforts reflect great credit upon Sergeant Koerber and the military service. Entered military service from Michigan.

Technical Sergeant Henry E. Kulwicki, 12093614, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operation against an enemy of the United States near Neumarkt, Germany, on 20 April 1945. Working his way on foot over enemy-occupied ground, Sergeant Kulwicki voluntarily returning to the company CP for rations for his men, succeeded in reaching the supply point, and returned by jeep over an unreconnoitered route to his platoon's position. He then evacuated an injured man through Pelchenhofen, fully realizing that enemy troops occupied this town. Succeeding in driving his jeep completely through the enemy-held town without detection, he again braved possible discovery to return to his platoon. Sergeant Kulwicki's devotion to the welfare of his men reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from New Jersey.

Corporal Anders Martenson, Jr., 11115397, Quartermaster Corps, 65th Quartermaster Company. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Eastern France and Germany during the period 5 March 1945 to 1 May 1945. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

Sergeant Franklin M. Stewart, 17911182, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Germany. From 17 March 1945 to 27 April 1945. Entered military service from Missouri.

Second Lieutenant Carl F. Walker, 0558063, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Saarlautern, Germany, on 17 March 1945. While leading a reconnaissance patrol, Lieutenant Walker and his men came under fire for the very first time. The coolness and aggressive spirit shown by this Lieutenant did much to maintain control of his men and keep them on the move. Encountering an enemy pillbox, Lieutenant Walker singlehandedly captured the nine occupants after hurling a grenade into the installation. Later in fearlessly going to the rescue of one of his men injured by a schu-mine and lying in the midst of a mine-infested field, Lieutenant Walker was himself wounded by one of the mines. His calmness, leadership, and bravery were exemplary and inspirational to his men. Entered military service from Alabama.

Private First Class Louis W. Walker, 38661522, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near Neumarkt, Germany, on 20 April 1945. During the attack on Neumarkt, Private Walker's platoon, while crossing an 800-yard open field, was subjected to an intense enemy artillery barrage and small arms fire. Seeing the lead scout injured and unable to continue the advance, Private Walker, a Company K rifleman, voluntarily and without hesitation ran forward to assume the hazardous position, thus saving valuable time in reorganizing the squad. Private Walker's initiative, instant analysis of the situation, and bravery under fire served as

[REDACTED]
GO NO 24; Hq 65th Inf Div, APO 200; 18 May 1945; cont'd)

an outstanding example to his fellow soldiers, and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Texas.

Private First Class Eugene R. Ward, 36902276, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near Longfeld, Germany, on 27 April 1945. When his squad had dug in, without rations or water, because of a continuous 88mm and mortar barrage, Private Ward, learning that supplies were at the company CP, volunteered to return for the necessary rations. He crawled through the artillery barrage, over terrain devoid of cover, disregarding the continuing rain of shells and sniper fire. With his additional burden of water and food he again ran the gauntlet of fire in returning from the CP. Private Ward's selflessness and solicitude for his comrades are a great credit to himself and in keeping with high traditions of the Armed Forces. Entered military service from Illinois.

Sergeant Jack F. Zimmerman, 36443243, Infantry, 259th Infantry. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Germany from 5 March 1945 to 5 May 1945. Entered military service from Illinois.

V - AWARD OF PURPLE HEART (Oak Leaf Cluster)

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, in addition to the Purple Heart previously awarded, a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded to the following named enlisted men, for wounds received in Germany on dates indicated:

<u>RANK, NAME, ASN AND BRANCH</u>	<u>DATE WOUNDED</u>
Sgt Alex E. Berg, 36293479, Infantry	15 March 1945

VI - AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded to the following named Officers and Enlisted Men, for wounds received in Germany on dates indicated:

<u>RANK, NAME, ASN AND BRANCH</u>	<u>DATE WOUNDED</u>
Pfc Frank J. Baade, 36958933, Infantry	12 March 1945
Pfc Kay A. Bailey, 15362373, Infantry	18 March 1945
Capt Henry Barber, O-25568, Infantry	7 March 1945
Sgt Alex E. Berg, 36293479, Infantry	12 March 1945
S/Sgt William A. Bishop, 38599631, Infantry	9 March 1945
Pfc Joseph E. Brown, 34202482, Infantry	9 March 1945
Pfc Louis Caporale, 31353542, Infantry	8 March 1945
Pvt James B. Cunningham, 34895603, Med Det.	9 March 1945
Pfc Peter Derosa, 42110014, Infantry	15 March 1945
Pvt Elmer J. Gerwele, 35343621, Infantry	18 March 1945
Sgt Virgil R. Lake, 38546003, Infantry	13 March 1945
Sgt Alfred C. Levin, 12193304, Infantry	17 March 1945
Pfc Vito J. Mezzoni, 31211136, Infantry	18 March 1945
Capt Herbert D. Neff, 01296409, Infantry	17 March 1945
Pfc William Paine, 31269798, Infantry	17 March 1945
S/Sgt James R. Smith, 34088861, Infantry	8 March 1945
Pfc Robert J. Venner, 42085351, Infantry	8 March 1945
Pvt William H. Winburn, 18165893, Infantry	15 March 1945

[REDACTED]
(GO) No. 24, Hq 65th Inf Div, APO 200, 18 May 1945, cont'd)

By command of Major General REINHART:

WILLIAM J. EPES,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

D. S. Brody

D. S. BRODY,
Capt, AGD,
Asst Adj General.

DISTRIBUTION:

"C" Plus

TAG - 3

CG, ETO (Awards and Decorations Branch, AG Mil Pers) - 2

CG, Twelfth Army Gp (Attn: 37th MRG) - 1

CG, Third U. S. Army - 1

CG, Third U. S. Army (Attn: G-1 Misc Sec) - 1

CG, XX Corps - 1