

GENERAL ORDERS }  
No. 54

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**I. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE MEDAL.**—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bul. 43, WD, 1918), the Distinguished-Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility during the period indicated is awarded to the following named officer:

Major General *William H. Draper, Jr.*, , Army of the United States.  
May 1945 to August 1947.

**II. SILVER STAR.**—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bul. 43, WD, 1918), the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the periods indicated is awarded to the following-named officer and enlisted man:

Captain *Richard M. Blackburn*, (then first lieutenant), Infantry, Army of the United States, displayed gallantry in action in the vicinity of Dinard, France, during the period 13 to 15 August 1944. Although painfully wounded by enemy action, which killed his company commander and disorganized the company, he refused evacuation, assumed command, rallied his men, and led them in an attack through heavy enemy fortifications to capture all company objectives. Captain *Blackburn's* heroism in continuing despite his wounds inspired his company and contributed to the success of the offensive.

Private First Class *John F. Camien, Jr.* (Army serial No. ), Infantry, Army of the United States, a member of Company B, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, displayed gallantry and heroic action against the enemy near St. Martin de Varreville, France, on 6 June 1944. After landing by parachute, he assembled with others and approached the village where they were met by rifle fire from a house. While others gave protective fire, Private *Camien* opened the door of the house and threw a grenade, killing four Germans and capturing two. He then continued to several other houses, where several more Germans were killed and many captured. Private *Camien's* efforts were a distinct contribution to the success of his regiment in combat and an inspiration to his comrades.

**III. LEGION OF MERIT.**—1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (Sec. III, Bul. 40, WD, 1942) and Executive Order 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, Bul. 54, WD, 1942), the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the periods indicated is awarded to the following-named officers:

Lieutenant Colonel *Lawrence A. Spilman*, , Air Corps, United States Army. June 1941 to June 1947. (This award supersedes the award of the Army Commendation Ribbon to Lieutenant Colonel *Spilman* for service from December 1944 to March 1946.)

Colonel *Ernest R. Swanson*, (then lieutenant colonel), Air Corps,  
Army of the United States. December 1941 to June 1943.

Lieutenant Colonel *Michael J. Wozney*, , Corps of Engineers, Army  
of the United States. December 1941 to July 1947.

2. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec. III, Bul. 40, WD, 1942) and Executive Order 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, Bul. 54, WD, 1942), the Legion of Merit (first Oak-Leaf Cluster) for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated is awarded to the following-named officer:

Colonel *John H. Stokes, Jr.*, (then brigadier general), General Staff  
Corps (Infantry), United States Army. September 1944 to May 1945.

**IV..LEGION OF MERIT.**—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec. III, Bul. 40, WD, 1942), and Executive Order 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, Bul. 54, WD, 1942), the Legion of Merit, in the Degree of Commander, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated is awarded to the following-named officer:

Brigadier General *Milciades Contreras*, Chilean Army. 1943 to 1948.

**V..SOLDIER'S MEDAL.**—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Bul. 8, WD, 1926), the Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy during the periods indicated is awarded to the following-named officer and enlisted man:

First Lieutenant *Carey J. Land*, , United States Air Force, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Fifth Air Force, distinguished himself by an outstanding act of heroism on 2 February 1948 at Nagoya, Japan. Upon being awakened by his gardener and informed that a neighboring house was afire, Lieutenant *Land* rushed to the burning house in fear that a baby was trapped in the conflagration. An excited Japanese maid tried to explain that the baby was not in the house, but could not express herself in English. Her intense excitement was construed to mean that the baby was still in the house. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lieutenant *Land* plunged into the blazing house and groped his way to the baby's room. After a vain search he realized that the baby was safe. He then turned his attention to salvaging the household belongings by throwing everything possible out of the window. Although three Japanese attempted to enter the house and were driven back because of the intense heat, Lieutenant *Land* remained and continued to salvage what he could until forced out of the house when the ceiling collapsed, followed by an explosion of undetermined origin.

Staff Sergeant *James J. Walsh* (Army Serial No. ), Corps of Engineers, United States Army, a member of the 36th Engineer Base Depot Company, Adak, Alaska, distinguished himself by heroism on 14 March 1948. When the boat in which Sergeant Donald L. Hilde, a fellow soldier and member of the company, was riding in Andrews Lagoon overturned about 200 feet from shore, Sergeant *Walsh* stripped off his outer clothes and, without regard for his safety, unhesitatingly jumped into the ice cold water and swam toward Sergeant Hilde to rescue him. Sergeant Hilde disappeared before Sergeant *Walsh* could reach him. Sergeant *Walsh* returned to shore completely exhausted and suffering from exposure. His heroic action nearly cost him life.

**VI..BRONZE STAR MEDAL.**—By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (sec. II, Bul. 3, WD, 1944),

the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States during the period indicated is awarded posthumously to the following-named enlisted man:

Staff Sergeant *William F. Hobbs* (Army serial No. ), Infantry, Army of the United States. July to November 1944.

**VII.—BRONZE STAR MEDAL.**—By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (sec. II, Bul. 3, WD, 1944), the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States during the periods indicated is awarded to the following-named officers and enlisted man:

Captain *Bobby H. Hale*, (then second lieutenant), Infantry, Army of the United States. 8 August to 22 September 1945.

Captain *Reuben Rapaport*, , Medical Corps, Army of the United States. January to March 1944.

Sergeant *Sidney J. Stewart* (Army serial No. ), Medical Department, Army of the United States. 14 and 15 December 1944.

**VIII.—BRONZE STAR MEDAL.**—1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (sec. II, Bul. 3, WD, 1944), the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States during the periods indicated is awarded to the following-named officer and enlisted man:

Second Lieutenant *Rufino D. Agcaoili*, (then third lieutenant), Infantry, Philippine Army, a member of Company L, 3d Infantry Regiment, Philippine Army, distinguished himself by heroic achievement at Moron Point, Bataan, on 19 January 1942. When superior enemy forces broke through the outposts of his platoon, causing panic and disorder among the troops, Lieutenant *Agcaoili* left his foxhole and, without cover, ran the entire length of his sector, encouraging his men in such manner that they rallied and successfully held their position against all assaults.

Technician Fifth Grade *Metro Bohaczylk* (Army serial No. ), Infantry, Army of the United States, a member of the 12th Infantry Regiment, distinguished himself by heroic achievement, during the Normandy invasion, on 13 June 1944. When an enemy counterattack overran and captured the battalion ammunition dump, an urgent call was relayed for a resupply. A jeep and trailer were loaded quickly and Technician *Bohaczylk* volunteered to deliver it. The only road to the battalion was being constantly shelled and fired on by small arms, as it was under direct enemy observation. Technician *Bohaczylk*, never faltering, drove this vehicle through the terrific fire to its destination. The resupply of ammunition staved off the attack and the battalion was able to go on the offensive. Technician *Bohaczylk's* courage was an inspiration to his comrades.

2. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (sec. II, Bul. 3, WD, 1944), the Bronze Star Medal (first Oak-Leaf Cluster) for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States during the period indicated is awarded to the following-named officer:

Captain *John B. Metz*, (then first lieutenant), Infantry, Army of the United States, a member of Company I, 22d Infantry Regiment, distinguished himself by heroic achievement near Konigshofen, Germany, on 5 April 1945. When his company was given the mission of clearing a ridge of enemy elements, Captain *Metz* volunteered to lead his platoon in a frontal assault on the entrenched enemy. He successfully led the way up the hill, at times crawling into

the direct fire of the enemy. After reaching the summit, he quickly reorganized the remnants of his platoon into a holding force until reinforced by the remainder of his company. Captain Metz's efforts contributed greatly to the general advance of the 22d Infantry Regiment.

**IX..COMMENDATION RIBBON.**—1. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 17.1, AR 600-45, the Commendation Ribbon for meritorious service during the periods indicated is awarded to the following-named officers and enlisted men:

Master Sergeant *Anthony Bellasai* (Army serial No. \_\_\_\_\_), Signal Corps, United States Army. 10 December 1947 to 10 March 1948.

Major *Harold L. Cumming*, \_\_\_\_\_, Medical Service Corps, United States Army. September 1945 to March 1948.

Colonel *Charles P. Light, Jr.*, \_\_\_\_\_ (then Lieutenant colonel), Judge Advocate General's Department, Army of the United States. December 1941 to July 1948.

Major *Joseph D. Mitchell*, \_\_\_\_\_, General Staff Corps, United States Army. January 1946 to July 1948.

Technical Sergeant *Louis H. Wallace* (Army serial No. \_\_\_\_\_), Corps of Engineers, United States Army. 6 to 22 September 1947.

2. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 17.1, AR 600-45, the Commendation Ribbon for meritorious achievement during the periods indicated is awarded to the following-named enlisted men:

Technician Fifth Grade *Billie Abner* (Army serial No. \_\_\_\_\_), Ordnance Department, United States Army. 6 April 1947.

Staff Sergeant *Fred L. Burgess* (Army serial No. \_\_\_\_\_), United States Army. 19 April 1948.

Staff Sergeant *Cecil O. Uzzel* ( \_\_\_\_\_), United States Air Force. 4 December 1947.

**X..LEGION OF MERIT.**—So much of section VI, General Orders 87, War Department, 1944, as pertains to Brigadier General *Julius O. Adler*, United States Army, as reads "Brigadier General *Julius O. Adler*, \_\_\_\_\_, United States Army," is amended to read "Brigadier General *Julius O. Adler*, \_\_\_\_\_, Army of the United States," and so much as reads "20 September 1941 to 19 June 1944" is amended to read "September 1941 to September 1943 and January to June 1944."

**XI..BRONZE STAR MEDAL.**—So much of paragraph 4, section III, General Orders 55, War Department, 1947, pertaining to Captain *Thomas Buckley*, Signal Corps, as reads "1 July 1944 to 31 December 1946" is amended to read "1 July 1944 to 31 December 1945."

**XII..ARMY COMMENDATION RIBBON.**—So much of section V, General Orders 48, War Department, 1947, as pertains to Brigadier General *George I. Back*, United States Army, as reads "22 December 1946 to 6 March 1947" is amended to read "22 December 1945 to 6 March 1947."

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

EDWARD F. WITSELL  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

OMAR N. BRADLEY  
Chief of Staff, United States Army

AGO 274B