

FIFTH UNITED STATES ARMY ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY COMMAND

1943

GENERAL ORDERS

ALL

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH ARMY ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY COMMAND
A.P.O. 34, U. S. ARMY

26 October 1943

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER.....2)

1. AWARDS OF SILVER STAR MEDAL.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star Medal is awarded to the following named officer and enlisted men:

ROBERT J. FISCHER, (O-1043077), First Lieutenant, *** Battery, for gallantry in action. On September ***, 1943, at ***, Italy, Lieutenant FISCHER, in command of the first balloon wave to land on the beach, brought his dukw in, landed and began unloading balloons despite the fact that before reaching the beach his wave had been broken up, separated and ordered back to sea. This action drew immediate fire from German 88's positioned in sand dunes behind the beach. Lieutenant FISCHER, nevertheless, continued operations and inflated a balloon. Shortly after, this balloon, while only a few feet aloft, burned, when hit by an 88. Lieutenant FISCHER then supervised the crews in gathering more equipment for a second inflation. This balloon was likewise brought down by enemy fire, whereupon Lieutenant FISCHER organized men in a party to recover and bring in more equipment which was arriving at unscheduled points along the beach. Lieutenant FISCHER'S untiring effort in the face of adversity, his devotion to duty and his inspiring leadership are a credit to the service, reflecting its finest traditions. Entered service from Jersey City, New Jersey.

JOHN L. MCCLORY, (32640772), Sergeant, *** Battery, for gallantry in action. On September ***, 1943, Sergeant MCCLORY, as commander of a balloon squad, landed on the beach at ***, Italy. Although the beach at this time was under heavy enemy fire and balloons had been destroyed during all previous attempts to inflate, Sergeant MCCLORY flew his balloon, and, observing it to be under enemy Antiaircraft fire, led his crew in detaching the balloon from its anchorage and keeping it in constant motion up and down the beach, by running, prevented the enemy from getting range. Thus the balloon remained flying at operational height for several hours, helping to prevent enemy air attacks. After it was punctured, Sergeant MCCLORY and crew attached the balloon to a winch and attempted to reel it in before it deflated and crashed. Then almost down, three enemy aircraft strafed the surrounding beach area, exposing the winch to heavy fire. Instead of abandoning the winch and taking cover, the crew lay down and kept the winch from wheeling out by holding the crank with their feet. Sergeant

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McCLORY'S courage, coolness and high regard for performance of mission reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. Entered service from Brooklyn, New York.

WILLIAM D. SWICK, (32640827), Sergeant, *** Battery, for gallantry in action. Sergeant SWICK was in charge of one dukw which participated in the initial landing of balloons at ***, Italy, on September ***, 1943. Upon making the shore to which he had been ordered, he was ordered out again due to heavy enemy activity. In so doing, he lost contact with the wave commander. Noticing that an alternate beach had been occupied and was being used for debarkation, Sergeant SWICK directed his crew to this beach, unloaded and inflated a balloon, in spite of enemy field artillery fire that was bearing on the beach. When this balloon was shot down, he promptly inflated another. Sergeant SWICK'S judgment, courage and grasp of the situation reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. Entered service from Roscoe, New York.

RAYMOND A. WICKERT, (32640826), Technician Fourth Grade, *** Battery, for gallantry in action. After unloading a dukw containing barrage balloon equipment at ***, Italy, on September ***, 1943, he and his crew were temporarily forced to cover by heavy artillery fire. When it was deemed advisable to move, Technician Fourth Grade WICKERT, in the absence of the assigned driver and under continuous fire on the beach, drove the dukw about fifty yards from supplies and equipment despite the fact that the beach had not been tested for mines. Later, when the inflated balloon had been punctured by shrapnel from an 88 and was in danger of catching fire, Technician Fourth Grade WICKERT, without regard for personal safety, closed off the supply of hydrogen and disconnected the inflation equipment thus saving both, since the balloon, shortly afterwards, was destroyed by an 88. Technician Fourth Grade WICKERT'S courage, judgment and high regard for performance of mission reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. Entered service from Staten Island, New York.

RANDOLPH DOERNER, (32629831), Technician Fifth Grade, *** Battery, for gallantry in action. After inflating and flying a V.L.A. balloon on the beach at ***, Italy, September ***, 1943, Technician Fifth Grade DOERNER and other members of the balloon crew noticed that their balloon was being brought under enemy antiaircraft fire. Detaching the balloon from its anchorage, the crew, under almost continuous fire, kept the balloon in constant motion over a wide beach area thus offering great protection against enemy air strafing. When this balloon was finally punctured by shrapnel, Technician Fifth Grade DOERNER with other members of the crew took the balloon to a nearby ditch, endeavoring to save the flying wire and repair the balloon. Upon hauling the balloon down, the beach area occupied by the balloon crew was subjected to strafing by three enemy aircraft. Disregarding the fact that the winch was directly in line of fire and presented a target, the crew, refusing to abandon the cranks which were not equipped with locking devices, lay down on the beach and held the cranks in place with their feet, preventing probable loss of the balloon. Technician Fifth Grade DOERNER'S courage, coolness and high regard for performance of mission reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. Entered service from Brooklyn, New York.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

WILLIAM A. BROOKS, (34035740), Private First Class, *** Battery, for gallantry in action. After inflating and flying a V.L.A. balloon on the beach at ***, Italy, September ***, 1943, Private First Class BROOKS and other members of the balloon crew noticed that their balloon was being brought under enemy antiaircraft fire. Detaching the balloon from its anchorage, the crew, under almost continuous fire, kept the balloon in constant motion over a wide beach area thus offering great protection against enemy air strafing. When this balloon was finally punctured by shrapnel, Private First Class BROOKS with other members of the crew took the balloon to a nearby winch, endeavoring to save the flying wire and repair the balloon. Upon hauling the balloon down, the beach area occupied by the balloon crew was subjected to strafing by three enemy aircraft. Disregarding the fact that the winch was directly in line of fire and presented a target, the crew, refusing to abandon the cranks which were not equipped with locking devices, lay down on the beach and held the cranks in place with their feet, preventing probable loss of the balloon. Private First Class BROOKS' courage, coolness and high regard for performance of mission reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. Entered service from Rose Hill, North Carolina.

RAYMOND E. BURTON, (32482409), Private, *** Battery, for gallantry in action. After inflating and flying a V.L.A. balloon on the beach at ***, Italy, September ***, 1943, Private BURTON and other members of the balloon crew noticed that their balloon was being brought under enemy antiaircraft fire. Detaching the balloon from its anchorage, the crew, under almost continuous fire, kept the balloon in constant motion over a wide beach area thus offering great protection against enemy air strafing. When this balloon was finally punctured by shrapnel, Private BURTON with other members of the crew took the balloon to a nearby winch, endeavoring to save the flying wire and repair the balloon. Upon hauling the balloon down, the beach area occupied by the balloon crew was subjected to strafing by three enemy aircraft. Disregarding the fact that the winch was directly in line of fire and presented a target, the crew, refusing to abandon the cranks which were not equipped with locking devices, lay down on the beach and held the cranks in place with their feet, preventing probable loss of the balloon. Private BURTON'S courage, coolness and high regard for performance of mission reflect the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. Entered service from Vineland, New Jersey.

By command of Brigadier General RUTLEDGE:

OFFICIAL:

Alvin E. Bielefeld
ALVIN E. BIELEFELD,
 Major, C...C.,
 Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH ARMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY COMMAND
A. P. O. 464, U. S. ARMY

GENERAL ORDERS)

10 November 1943

NUMBER.....4)

1. AWARDS OF SILVER STAR MEDAL.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star Medal is awarded to the following named officer and enlisted man:

REUBEN F. KIDD, (O-340012), Captain, *** Battalion, for gallantry in action. On September ***, 1943, Captain KIDD, in command of Battery ***, landed, with one 40-mm gun and crew, on *** Beach, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire, prevailing during the approach, became even more intense as debarkation progressed. Finding no available transportation at hand, Captain KIDD directed his crew in "man-handling" the gun off the landing craft onto the beach and into position. Oblivious of heavy enemy sniper and machine gun fire, he assisted in digging the gun emplacement and in filling sand bags for the abutment. Captain KIDD then directed the fire of this 40-mm gun and succeeded in "wiping out" a nest of enemy machine guns which had previously inflicted numerous casualties on friendly troops. Later, while directing the emplacement of a machine gun, he was the first to observe a strong formation of enemy ME 109's approaching. Not waiting for the regular gunner to take over, Captain KIDD promptly manned and efficiently fired the piece during the ensuing raid on *** Beach. His calm and collected manner of action, his willing assumption of risk, proved an invaluable contribution towards maintaining a high morale without which the defense of the beaches would have been impossible. Placing mission above personal safety, Captain KIDD inspired all troops present, as well as his entire command. Such gallantry above and beyond the call of duty is a fine reflection on the Service and deserves the highest praise. Entered Service from Bedford, Virginia.

ROBERT E. HARBIN, (37259686), Corporal, *** Battalion, for gallantry in action. On September ***, 1943, Corporal HARBIN, Battery ***, in command of a 40-mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun, distinguished himself by diverting his fire on two German Mark IV tanks, eventually forcing them out of action. Corporal HARBIN had previously noticed these tanks inflicting heavy damage on friendly troops along *** Beach and preventing the approach of friendly landing craft. The beach where Corporal HARBIN's gun was positioned was under heavy enemy sniper and machine gun fire. Nevertheless, he opened fire with high explosive ammunition, knowing that by so doing he would reveal his position, but feeling that the resultant harassing action might force these tanks to withdraw. By accurate and persistent fire, he forced one tank to withdraw and forced the abandonment of the other. When enemy artillery found the range of his piece, Corporal HARBIN directed his crew to take over while he exposed himself in an attempt to locate the enemy positions from which he

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was being shelled. Placing performance of duty and mission above personal safety, Corporal HARBIN inspired his entire unit. Such willing assumption of personal risk and keen sense of duty are a credit to the Service and deserve the highest praise. Entered Service from Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

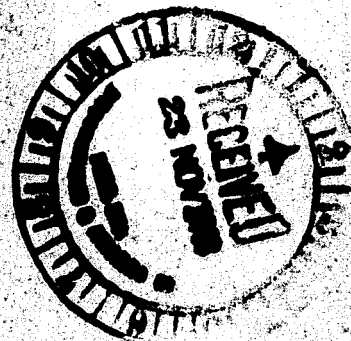
By command of Brigadier General KUTLEDGE:

ALVIN E. BIELEFELD,
Major, C.A.C.,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

Alvin E. Bielefeld

ALVIN E. BIELEFELD,
Major, C.A.C.,
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