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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APC 758 US Army

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 360)

3 August 1945

Award of the Silver Star. I
Battle Honors - Citation of Unit. II

I -- AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded by the Army Commander to the following named individuals:

PETER C. SCHUELLER, 37 168 599, Sergeant, Coast Artillery Corps; Battery "D", 436th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, for gallantry in action on 18 March 1945, near Ensheim, Germany. Sergeant Schueller exposed himself to intense enemy artillery fire in the immediate vicinity of his position in order to dispose of a 170 millimeter dud that had landed only a short distance away. Carrying the shell in his arms, he dropped it over an embankment, fifty feet away and eliminated its threat to the lives of his section. His courageous action reflects great credit upon the armed forces. Entered military service from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

JOHN C. SHAFFNER, 37 440 628, Corporal (then Private), Chemical Warfare Service, Company "D", 83d Chemical Mortar Battalion, for gallantry in action on 7 December 1944, near Ostheim, France. During an enemy counterattack, the forward observer called for a heavy concentration upon enemy personnel forming for the attack. Corporal Shaffner, with full knowledge of the danger from the persistent enemy shelling, volunteered to man a gun in response to the call from the forward observer. Rushing to a mortar, Corporal Shaffner began to fire the mortar, and succeeded in breaking up the enemy attack. In attempting to complete the mission requested, Corporal Shaffner continued to fire the mortar until a defective shell exploded in the barrel, severely wounding him. Entered military service from Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

II - BATTLE HONORS - CITATION OF UNIT. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, the following named organization is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

THE 100TH BATTALION, 442D REGIMENTAL TEAM is cited for outstanding accomplishment in combat during the period 15 October 1944 to 30 October 1944, near Bruyeres, Biffontaine, and in the Foret Domaniale de Champ, France. During a series of actions that played a telling part in the 442d Regimental Team's operation which spearheaded a divisional attack on the Seventh Army front, this unit displayed extraordinary courage, endurance and soldierly skill. Jumping off in the attack on the morning of 15 October 1944, the 100th Battalion fought an almost continuous four-day firefight in freezing and rainy weather, through jungle-like forests, to wrest the strongly fortified hill "A", dominating Bruyeres, from a fanatically resisting enemy. When, during the course of the attack, the progress of an assault company was delayed by a strongpoint consisting of fifty enemy riflemen and an SP gun, a second company of the battalion swept in on the enemy force from the flank and completely routed it. To attack hill "A" proper, the battalion was forced to cross one hundred and

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Authority: **ANN 735017**
By: **WSP** NARA Date: **12/3/76**

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fifty yards of open terrain covered by seven enemy machine guns and heavy automatic weapon fire. Following an artillery barrage, limited because a draw lay between the two high hills, the battalion, with one company acting as a base of fire, launched a frontal attack. Covered by friendly tank fire, waves of platoon after platoon zig-zagged across the open field into a hail of hostile fire. So skillfully coordinated was the attack that the strongly fortified hostile positions were completely overrun, numerous casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and the capture of the town was assured. During the three day operation, beginning on 21 October 1944, that resulted in the capture of Biffontaine, the 100th Battalion fought two miles into enemy territory as a self-contained task force. On the third day of the attack, the battalion launched an assault to capture the isolated town. In the first surprise onslaught the battalion captured large quantities of supplies and ammunition which it turned against the enemy. Counterattacking enemy troops and tanks approached and fired pointblank into their positions. Shouting defiance in the face of demands for surrender, the men of the 100th Battalion fired their rifles and threw captured hand grenades at the enemy tanks. Bitter fighting at close range resulted in the capture of the entire town. During this action the battalion captured forty prisoners, killed or wounded forty of the enemy and destroyed or captured large quantities of ammunition and enemy materiel. On 27 October 1944, the 100th Battalion was again committed to the attack. Going to the rescue of the "lost battalion", 141st Infantry Regiment, it fought without respite for four days against a fanatical enemy that was determined to keep the "lost battalion" isolated and force its surrender. Impelled by the urgency of its mission, the battalion fought forward, risking encirclement as slower moving units left its flanks exposed. Fighting yard by yard through a minefield the battalion was stopped by an enemy strongpoint on the high ground which he had made the key to his defense. As the terrain precluded a flanking movement, the battalion was forced to the only alternative of a frontal attack against a strongly entrenched enemy. Attacking in waves of squads and platoons, and firing from the hip as they closed in to grenade range, the valiant men of the 100th Battalion reduced the enemy defense lines within a few hours. Between fifty and sixty enemy dead were found at their automatic weapon emplacements and dugouts. On the fourth day, although exhausted and reduced through casualties to about half its normal strength, the battalion fought doggedly forward against strong enemy small arms and mortar fire until it contacted the isolated unit. The extraordinary heroism, daring determination and esprit de corps displayed by the men of the 100th Battalion during these actions live as an inspiration and add glory to the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL MILBURN:

PEARSON MENCHER
Brigadier General, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

*W. G. Caldwell*W. G. CALDWELL
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

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