

GENERAL ORDERS }  
No. 20

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 14 April 1949

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**I. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE MEDAL.**—The President, authorized by the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), has awarded the Distinguished-Service Medal to *The Honorable James Forrestal* for exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility as The Secretary of Defense during the period 18 September 1947 to 28 March 1949.

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

Staff Sergeant *George W. Chaille* (Army serial No. ) (then sergeant), Coast Artillery Corps, Army of the United States, a member of Headquarters Company, 59th Coast Artillery Regiment, displayed gallantry in action against the enemy at Fort Mills, Corregidor, Philippine Islands, on 2 May 1942. When an ammunition magazine was blown up by enemy shell fire, a score of men were trapped, dazed, and wounded by the explosion and several were killed. Sergeant *Chaille* voluntarily left his place of safety and ran a half-mile to the battery under heavy Japanese shelling and bombing. He and others worked all afternoon extricating the trapped men and carrying the wounded to the hospital station. Sergeant *Chaille's* heroic actions are highly commendable.

Technical Sergeant *Sam Sacco* (Army serial No. ) (then staff sergeant), Air Corps, Army of the United States, displayed heroism on 22 June 1943 as tail gunner of a B-17 aircraft. He was severely wounded while shooting down an attacking enemy fighter. Weak from loss of blood and oxygen, he crawled to the waist for first aid. Instead of remaining there for further treatment, he insisted upon returning to the tail, upon which undefended section the enemy had begun a concentrated attack. Manning the one remaining tail gun on his badly crippled airplane, Sergeant *Sacco*, again badly wounded, shot down three more enemy fighters for a total of four, and remained until ordered to bail out.

Staff Sergeant *Rex B. Smith* (Army serial No. ) Air Corps, Army of the United States, displayed gallantry while serving as waist gunner on a heavy bombardment mission to Brunswick, Germany, on 10 February 1944. So seriously wounded in both legs that he was unable to stand when his aircraft was attacked on the bomb run by FW-190s, he propped himself against his guns and continued firing with such accuracy that he destroyed at least one fighter in the first attack. With two engines completely knocked out, another delivering only partial power, and a fire in the wing, the pilot gave the bail-out signal. Sergeant *Smith* was carried to the waist door, where he was wounded in the groin by 20-mm fire in an unsuccessful attempt to salvo the door and provide a means of escape for himself and his companions. Before he could do so, the aircraft had been brought back under control with the wing fire out. Sergeant *Smith*, deliberately refusing first aid for his wounds, was carried back to his position, where he again propped himself up and manned his guns so accurately that he destroyed another enemy fighter. In the course of the third attack, this gallant

soldier was wounded in both legs and one arm, but he remained at his post until the aircraft was crash-landed in a field near the border of Holland, where he was captured by the Germans.

Sergeant *Edward F. Wilson* (Army serial No. ) (then corporal), Coast Artillery Corps, Army of the United States, a member of the 59th Coast Artillery Regiment, displayed gallantry in action against the enemy at Corregidor, Philippine Islands, on 26 April 1942. When an officer and three enlisted men were seriously injured by a direct hit of a Japanese artillery shell on the observation post, he voluntarily exposed himself to enemy aerial bombardment and artillery fire and rescued them. Sergeant *Wilson's* heroic actions are highly commendable.

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

Colonel *James E. Roberts*, O22541 (then lieutenant colonel), Air Corps, United States Army. 3 December 1942 to 2 February 1943 and 3 February to 30 July 1943.

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

*His Excellency Romulo Gallegos Freire*, President and Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States of Venezuela.

*His Highness The Maharaja Mohan Shum Shere Jung Bahadur Rana*, Prime Minister and Supreme Commander in Chief of Nepal. December 1941 to April 1948.

*His Excellency Doctor Carlos Prío Socarras*, President and Commander in Chief of the Republic of Cuba.

**V. SILVER STAR.**—So much of paragraph 2, section I, DA General Orders 74, 1948, as reads "*Private Alfred McDonald*" is amended to read "*Private Alexander McDonald*."

**VI. LEGION OF MERIT.**—So much of paragraph 2, section IV, DA General Orders 7, 1947, as reads "*Colonel Olerin R. Smith*" is amended to read "*Colonel C. Rodney Smith*."

**VII. BATTLE HONORS.**—Paragraph 3, section II, WD General Orders 123, 1946, pertaining to the *Marine Fighter Squadrons 115, 211, 218, and 313*, is rescinded.

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 1911B