

HEADQUARTERS 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 96

12 September 1945

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 709

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SECTION I

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bulletin 43, War Department 1918), a Silver Star is awarded Posthumously by the Commanding General, 96th Infantry Division, to the following named Enlisted Man:

Sergeant Virgil E. Skimahorn, 38291104, Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action against the enemy on Okinawa Island on 14 June 1945. When Sergeant Skimahorn's squad was held up by fire from an enemy machine gun position, and the terrain proved impassable for the tank with which he was operating, he exposed himself to intense enemy fire without regard for his own safety and unhesitatingly assaulted the enemy position with his rifle and hand grenades, accounting for four enemy dead. His heroic action cost Sergeant Skimahorn his life but his gallant devotion to duty provided a great inspiration to his men and was in keeping with the highest military traditions. Next of Kin: General J. Skimahorn, Father; General Delivery, O'Kean, Arkansas.

SECTION II

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9419, 4 February 1944 (Section II, Bulletin No. 3, War Department 1944), and pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45 (Decorations), 22 September 1943, as amended by Change No. 3, 25 April 1944, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded Posthumously by the Commanding General, 96th Infantry Division, to the following named Enlisted Man:

Staff Sergeant William A. Scritchfield, 38293676, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on Leyte Island from 23 October 1944 to 1 February 1945 and on Okinawa Island from 1 April 1945 to 30 May 1945. Next of Kin: Lucille Scritchfield, Wife, Route #1, Searcy, Arkansas.

SECTION III

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9419, 4 February 1944 (Section II, Bulletin No. 3, War Department 1944), and pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45 (Decorations), 22 September 1943, as amended by Change No. 3, 25 April 1944, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, 96th Infantry Division, to the following named military personnel:

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Technician Third Grade Kiyoto Yanamura, 30104130, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on Leyte Island from 20 October 1944 to 25 December 1944 and on Okinawa Island from 1 April 1945 to 30 June 1945.

Technician Third Grade Takeo Nonaka, 39025435, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on Leyte Island from 20 October 1944 to 25 December 1944 and on Okinawa Island from 1 April 1945 to 30 June 1945.

Technician Third Grade Takejiro Higa, 30106669, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on Leyte Island from 20 October 1944 to 25 December 1944 and on Okinawa Island from 1 April 1945 to 30 June 1945.

SECTION IV

AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of AR 600-45 (Decorations), 22 September 1943, the Bronze Star Medal having been previously awarded to the following named military personnel per authority indicated, a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded in lieu thereof by the Commanding General, 96th Infantry Division.

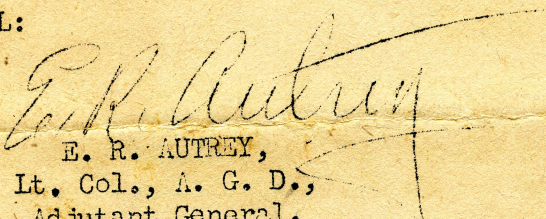
Sergeant Albert M. Bartzat, 39022663, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on Okinawa Island from 1 April 1945 to 25 June 1945. Previous award per General Orders No. 81, Headquarters 96th Infantry Division, 30 December 1944.

Technical Sergeant John H. Chandler, 36384825, Infantry, United States Army. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on Leyte Island from 23 October 1944 to 12 November 1944 and on Okinawa Island from 1 April 1945 to 29 April 1945. Previous award per General Orders No. 596, Headquarters 96th Infantry Division, 12 August 1945.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL BRADLEY:

C. H. WHITE JR,  
Colonel, G. S. C.,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

  
E. R. AUTREY,  
Lt. Col., A. G. D.,  
Adjutant General.

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