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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO #36, U. S. Army

AG RECORDS

16 May 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 179

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

THOMAS R. CLARKIN, 019963, Lieutenant Colonel, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. When the 1st Battalion was ordered to assist another unit in attacking a stubbornly defended town, Lieutenant Colonel Clarkin, the battalion commander, led his nearest available company into position to launch a flank attack on the town. After arranging for supporting fire from mortars and machine guns, he ordered his troops to attack. Personally advancing with his assault elements, he crossed 400 yards of open terrain under intense enemy machine gun fire. Despite this hostile fire, Lieutenant Colonel Clarkin skillfully maneuvered his forces in assaulting and overrunning German defenses in the town. As a result of his daring aggressiveness and outstanding personal leadership, elements of his battalion killed or captured 50 of the enemy, captured an antitank gun and seized and cleared their objective without suffering a single casualty. Entered the Service from St. Paul, Minnesota.

GEORGE E. CHAMBERS, 0373577, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 November 1944 in France. After the 2d Platoon had made several attempts to attack a strongly defended house situated in the middle of a wide cleared area Captain Chambers, the company commander, took charge of the attack and, reinforcing the group with the 1st Platoon, moved out in the lead of his men. Although he was wounded by machine gun fire and knocked to the ground, he quickly rose to his feet and, in the face of the intense enemy fire, continued to lead his men toward their objective. Inspired by Captain Chambers' gallant leadership, the men assaulted and seized the position, capturing 20 Germans. He then brought the rest of the company forward and supervised their reorganization before returning for medical treatment for his wound. Entered the Service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

KENNETH E. SWOFF, 01315236, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1945 in France. While approaching an enemy-held town across an open field, a six-man patrol from Company C was pinned down by heavy machine gun fire. Observing the action from the edge of a nearby woods, Lieutenant Swoff ran back to a Company C outpost for a telephone. Then, courageously exposing himself to enemy small arms, artillery and self-propelled gun fire, he laid a wire line to a vantage point from which he could direct the friendly artillery in firing smoke shells to cover the withdrawal of the patrol. When the line was cut by shellfire, he crawled back and repaired the break. Returning to his exposed position, he adjusted an effective smoke screen on the

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area and, while the patrol members worked their way back, he directed artillery fire on the German positions. His quick-thinking and courage enabled the patrol to return to safety. Entered the Service from West Union, Illinois.

JOHN A. BREWER, 02005949, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 March 1945 in France. Lieutenant Brewer had the mission of leading his platoon across a river to seize a group of ten houses. He made an extensive reconnaissance of the area and was able to occupy the first house before the enemy was aware of the presence of his men. Skillfully directing the operations of his platoon in the face of small arms and bazooka fire from a now alert enemy, he succeeded in clearing the next eight houses by late afternoon after two hours of fierce fighting. When the last house proved to be strongly defended, Lieutenant Brewer personally led one squad in assaulting it and, fighting from room to room, cleared it of the enemy by dark. After the position had been taken, largely as a result of his magnificent courage and aggressive leadership, Lieutenant Brewer organized a defense of the area and made frequent personal checks on the position. Entered the Service from Aurora, Illinois.

SVEN J. MYRBERG, 01061194, Second Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. Lieutenant Myrberg's platoon was spearheading the company's advance through the Siegfried Line defenses, when the men were halted by small arms fire from foxholes around the first pillbox. After attempting to neutralize the enemy fire with rifle fire, Lieutenant Myrberg directed mortar fire which silenced the hostile weapons. He then directed fire on the apertures of the pillbox, and enabled engineers to place a demolition charge against the door of the emplacement, forcing the defenders to surrender. In the face of a heavy enemy rocket barrage Lieutenant Myrberg gallantly led his men in clearing ten additional pillboxes, killing six Germans, wounding three and capturing seventy-one prisoners. Entered the Service from East Providence, Rhode Island.

RALPH K. DAVIES, 01058968, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1945 in France. Lieutenant Davies had the mission of leading his platoon in a night attack across open terrain to clear part of a town. Courageously advancing at the head of his troops, he led them through a waist-deep icy river and across snow and ice covered fields. When contact was made with the enemy, he courageously exposed himself to the heavy grazing fire to direct the operations of his men. So skillfully did Lieutenant Davies direct the fire and movement of his men, that they cleared their sector of the town and established a strong defense, inflicting many casualties on the enemy, and suffering none themselves. Entered the Service from New Castle, Penna.

JOSEPH R. VALENTINO, 36320656, Technical Sergeant, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 March 1945 in Germany. Company L was attacking positions in the Siegfried Line, when the enemy launched a strong counterattack. Sergeant Valentino, platoon sergeant of the 3d Platoon, rushed forward, firing his rifle at the advancing enemy. His bold action killed three Germans and momentarily halted the hostile advance. Sergeant Valentino then observed an enemy machine gun position. He called for two automatic riflemen and, undaunted by hostile bullets which at times struck within two feet of him, moved about placing his men in position and directing their fire. Their skillfully directed fire destroyed the machine gun, and killed or wounded its crew. Sergeant Valentino's courageous and aggressive leadership inspired his men to inflict heavy losses on the enemy and repulse the attack. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

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JOSEPH P. LO PRESTI, 31428476, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1945 in France. When two enemy tanks approached his squad's position in houses, Sergeant LoPresti, the squad leader, moved out to secure the help of a bazooka team. Although one of the tanks opened fire on him with a machine gun from 100 yards away, he dashed across an exposed street to reach the bazooka team's position. On returning he exposed himself to fire three rifle grenades at the tanks and effectively directed his men in steadfastly maintaining their position, although nearby friendly units were forced to withdraw a short distance. Sergeant LoPresti's courageous leadership was a source of inspiration to his men at this critical time. Entered the Service from Saugus, Massachusetts.

JEFF D. CANNAMORE, 20809442, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Cannamore, a mess sergeant, was delivering rations to the company's positions when the enemy launched a strong counterattack against the town. Leaving his jeep in a covered position, he joined one of the forward platoons in the defense. In the course of the battle he returned to check the safety of his vehicle and found it in the possession of two Germans. Opening fire with his carbine, he killed one of the hostile soldiers and wounded the other. As he was returning to the forward positions, a machine gun fired on him from a house just taken by the enemy. Valiantly crossing the road in the face of intense machine gun fire, he entered the building by a side door, moved to the second floor and threw a hand grenade into the room, killing one of the crew and wounding the other two whom he took prisoner. By his magnificent courage and aggressiveness, Sergeant Cannamore materially aided his company in its defense. Entered the Service from Hillsboro, Texas.

LEON I. RAYMER, 36174302, Sergeant, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Lincoln Park, Michigan.

EDGAR E. WATKINS, 34026341, Private First Class, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Augusta, Georgia.

JACOB KLOOSTER, 36173761, Private First Class, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Royal Oak, Michigan.

AUGUST E. EATON, 37729856, Private First Class, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Camden, Missouri.

HARDIE D. COOKE, 38498500, Private First Class, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

SALVATORE L. COLLETTI, 32175787, Private First Class, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

For gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. These men were assigned the mission of blowing enemy pillboxes in the Siegfried Line so that the infantry troops could penetrate the strongly fortified defenses. Although the area was subjected to harassing artillery and mortar fire, they started out during daylight hours to accomplish their hazardous assignment. Advancing in the face of heavy small arms fire from the pillboxes, they would place their beehive charges, blow open the fortification and assault the dazed enemy soldiers inside. By a series of gallant and courageous actions, performed in the face of great danger, they demolished four pillboxes and captured approximately 40 prisoners.

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JOHN RONKETTO, 36448594, Technician Fifth Grade, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. During an attack against strong enemy defenses, the lead scout stepped on a mine and was very severely wounded. Completely disregarding his own safety, Tec 5 Ronketto swiftly worked his way across the mined area and started carrying the casualty back to safety. Two snipers began firing at him, but Tec 5 Ronketto did not hesitate until he had placed his injured comrade in a covered position. Then, returning to the spot where the snipers were hiding, he swiftly opened fire with his automatic rifle and killed them both. By his bold and gallant actions, he saved the life of a wounded soldier and eliminated a threat to the safety of his unit. Entered the Service from Canton, Illinois.

MICHAEL A. PERROTTI, 35536095, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 March 1945 in Germany. When an infantry company suffered many casualties in attacking Siegfried Line defenses, Tec 4 Perrotti left the aid station in a jeep and rushed forward to help the wounded. Despite a heavy enemy mortar and artillery barrage concentrated on the road, he drove past the safety line for vehicles, and advanced to the company's forward position. After administering first aid to 15 wounded soldiers, he made six round trips over the hazardous route to evacuate them to safety. He then worked indefatigably during the next 36 hours, at times driving through streets of burning and falling buildings, to evacuate approximately 50 wounded men of other companies. By his courageous devotion to duty, Tec 4 Perrotti assisted in saving the lives of many wounded soldiers. Entered the Service from Cleveland, Ohio.

JOSEPH P. MESSICK, 33565552, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. During the early stages of an attack on a town, many men of Company K were seriously wounded by exploding mines and were lying in the minefield subjected to intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire. Disregarding the warnings of a friendly tank crew Tec 4 Messick, a litter bearer, entered the minefield and started carrying the more seriously wounded to a shallow ditch alongside a road 20 yards away. He carried seven men to safety and administered first aid to them. Then, as the road came under artillery fire and one of the litter bearers was wounded, he helped the litter teams carry wounded from the area until a shell landed nearby, killing two of the litter bearers and wounding him. Despite the pain of his wound Tec 4 Messick picked up his litter patient, carried him out of the shelled area, and again returned to the minefield and supervised the evacuation of the other wounded soldiers. Tec 4 Messick was later evacuated for wounds received in this action. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Maryland.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DAHLQUIST:

JESSE B. MATLACK  
Colonel, General Staff Corps  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

*Vincent M. Lockhart*  
VINCENT M. LOCKHART  
Major, Adjutant General's Department  
Asst Adjutant General

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