

1945

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

28 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 232

Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I
Award of Silver Star.....II
Corrected Award of Silver Star.....III

I. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

JOHN SHANKLIN III, O363401, Lieutenant Colonel, 93d Armored Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 15 August 1944 in France. On D-day in the invasion of Southern France, Lieutenant Colonel Shanklin, commanding the 93d Armored Field Artillery Battalion, landed with the assault waves to select firing positions for his guns. Frequently exposed to small arms fire and concentrated artillery fire, he valiantly moved about the beachhead area and selected positions from which his weapons could deliver effective fire support. He then met the batteries as they landed an hour after the assault troops, and guided them to the selected area. By his magnificent courage and calmness in the face of great danger, Lieutenant Colonel Shanklin succeeded in placing his guns swiftly in position to support the infantry troops. Lieutenant Colonel Shanklin was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Polly G. Shanklin (Wife), 202 Faddock Street, Watertown, New York.

WARD BYRNE, 35428557, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. Company I was clearing a road along the slope of a hill when the men were suddenly halted by a heavy concentration of machine gun and rifle fire. The 2d Platoon was assigned the mission of flanking the enemy force. Sergeant Byrne courageously led his squad to the right and had advanced 200 yards when he was again subjected to machine gun fire from the front. With complete disregard for his own safety, he moved among his men, urging them forward. He assisted a wounded comrade to safety and immediately rejoined his squad. He then continued to lead his men forward in the face of the hostile fire until he was hit and instantly killed by an enemy mortar shell. Displaying magnificent courage and aggressiveness, he had led his men to a spot from which they could direct effective artillery fire on the hostile positions, enabling the platoon to seize the hill without further casualties. Next of kin: Mr. Grover Byrne (Father), Dutch, West Virginia.

PAUL STULL, 16040702, Sergeant, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 March 1945 in France. While crossing 400 yards of exposed ground to attack a wooded area, the 3d Platoon was halted by heavy automatic weapons and rifle fire. Seeing the platoon leader start forward, Sergeant Stull, the platoon guide, jumped to his feet and, in the face of the enemy fire, ran from man to man, shouting encouragement and urging them on.

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The attack was resumed, but the platoon leader was wounded. Without hesitation Sergeant Stull moved out in front of the men and, as bullets struck around him, advanced toward the objective. As he gallantly led his men forward, he was killed by sniper fire. His magnificent courage and aggressive leadership were a source of inspiration to all the members of his platoon. Next of kin: Mrs. Grace Stull (Mother), 212 North Ward Street, Benton, Illinois.

II. 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:

WALTER G. KEALEY, 01048848, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 March 1945 in Germany. While Lieutenant Kealey was leading his platoon in the face of heavy small arms and artillery fire against a strongly defended sector of the Siegfried Line defenses, all but one of his non-commissioned officers were wounded and evacuated. Shortly afterward, he was himself seriously wounded; but, refusing treatment from the aid man who came forward to help him, he continued to lead his men in the attack. His determined and aggressive leadership, with utter disregard for his personal safety, inspired his men to press forward against the formidable enemy resistance. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

JAMES S. BALL, 0467837, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. Lieutenant Ball voluntarily led a five man detail with the mission of clearing a road of mines so that the supporting armor could advance. When the group had approached to within 250 yards of a town, they found a minefield and immediately began lifting the mines by hand to save time. After removing 35 mines in 15 minutes, they again moved forward; but they were fired on by an enemy machine gun and were forced to seek cover. Lieutenant Ball and his comrades, courageously exposing themselves to locate the hostile weapon, silenced the machine gun with accurate fire from their rifles and carbines. Lieutenant Ball then dashed back 50 yards to the nearest tank, and, exposing himself alongside the tanks to increasing small arms, mortar and artillery fire, led them forward into firing positions. Although another tank 20 yards away was hit and disabled by antitank fire, he gallantly remained in his exposed position and directed tank fire upon the enemy weapons, materially aiding the friendly troops in their successful advance. Entered the Service from Hardings, Virginia.

CHARLES L. GRISSOM, 01015237, First Lieutenant, 753d Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 1 May 1945 in Germany. While spearheading the advance of an infantry battalion, Lieutenant Grissom learned that a bridge over a river which crossed the battalion's route of advance was still intact, and he immediately ordered his tanks forward to secure the bridge. Just before he arrived at the bridge, the Germans succeeded in blowing a section of it; and, as he approached, they opened fire on him. Although the enemy was working desperately to destroy the remainder of the bridge, Lieutenant Grissom boldly drove his tank onto the undamaged part and began firing at the hostile force, killing twelve Germans and driving the remainder back from the bridge. He then directed his tanks in firing on an enemy convoy on the opposite side of the river. As a result of his gallant actions, the bridge was secured and the battalion was able to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Knoxville, Tennessee.

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RUDOLPH A. GALKO, 36820637, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 January 1945 in France. When his squad was pinned down by intense enemy small arms fire during an attack, Sergeant Galko moved to an exposed position and directed the fire of his men at hostile targets. While in this exposed position he was seriously wounded but, despite the pain of his wound, he continued to direct the operations of his squad. When the order to withdraw was given, he valiantly remained behind and directed covering fire as his men moved back with the rest of the platoon. As a result of his courage and determination, his men were able to move to better defensive positions without a single casualty. Entered the Service from Milwaukee, Wis.

ELMER GOODSON, 20800987, Sergeant, 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mcz), for gallantry in action on 15 September 1944 in France. Sergeant Goodson had halted his reconnaissance jeep at an enemy road block and was waiting beside the road while an infantry column moved around the obstacle, when intense enemy small arms fire was directed at the friendly troops from nearby positions in a town. As the infantry soldiers sought cover, Sergeant Goodson ran through the enemy fire to where his jeep was parked and opened fire with its machine gun. Although he became the target for increased enemy fire, he steadfastly remained in position until he had fired an entire belt of ammunition. He then jumped to the side of the road and assisted his driver in firing a 30 caliber machine gun which had been abandoned there. Sergeant Goodson's gallant actions enabled the friendly troops to deploy and drive off the hostile force. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

CHARLES N. COOPER, 12133844, Sergeant (then Corporal) Battery B, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Long Branch, New Jersey.

WILLARD L. STRANGE, 35168897, Private First Class, Battery B, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Evansville, Indiana.

for gallantry in action on 16 March 1945 in France. These men, radio operators in the forward observer's party, were accompanying a rifle company in an attack when the advance was halted by enemy resistance. They set up their radio in a covered position but were unable to establish communications with the forward observer. Braving intense enemy small arms, automatic weapons and tank fire, they moved forward to join the forward observer and, from an exposed position, directed effective artillery fire on the German troops. Despite the heavy fire, they steadfastly remained at their post, even after the infantry elements were ordered to withdraw, and adjusted fire on two enemy tanks, forcing them to retreat. Displaying outstanding bravery, they maintained their position until all the infantry troops had withdrawn, successfully covering their movement with artillery fire.

JULIAN G. NELSON, 36807602, Technician Third Grade (then Technician Fifth Grade), Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 August 1944 in France. While attacking a strongly fortified hill, the assault platoon of Company L was ambushed and forced to withdraw, leaving seven wounded men behind on the dangerous slope. When he was informed of the situation, Tec 5 Nelson immediately started out to search for them. The enemy opened fire with small arms and automatic weapons and threw hand grenades at him, frustrating his first attempt. Undaunted, Tec 5 Nelson again moved forward and, despite the intense hostile fire, reached the wounded men. Courageously exposing himself, he skillfully administered first aid to each of the

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casualties and then, at great personal risk, brought them all back to covered positions from which they were evacuated. By his valiant actions he rescued the seven wounded men from a perilous position and assured them prompt medical attention. Entered the Service from Franksville, Wisconsin.

CHESTER P. RICE, 35484555, Technician Fifth Grade, 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mca), for gallantry in action on 15 September 1944 in France. Tec 5 Rice, a jeep driver, had halted his reconnaissance jeep at an enemy road block and was waiting beside the road with the section sergeant while an infantry column moved around the obstacle. When intense enemy small arms fire was directed at the friendly troops from nearby positions in a town, the infantry soldiers immediately sought cover. As the section sergeant manned the machine gun on the jeep, Tec 5 Rice dashed through the enemy fire to where a machine gun had been abandoned at the side of the road. He moved his weapon to an exposed position and, despite increased enemy fire directed at him, steadfastly remained in position, firing at the enemy-held houses. His gallant actions materially aided the infantry troops to deploy and eventually drive off the enemy force. Entered the Service from Boston, Kentucky.

LESLIE J. WALSH, 36741904, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. When a bridgehead was subjected to a violent enemy attack, part of the friendly force withdrew to the opposite bank of the river, but the house occupied by approximately 35 men was completely surrounded by hostile troops. Both infantry and armored elements assaulted the position, and the building was subjected to very heavy enemy fire of all types. During eight hours of intense fighting 17 soldiers were wounded, and Private First Class Walsh, an aid man, administered emergency treatment to all of them. He personally carried the nine most seriously wounded men to the comparative safety of the cellar. While he worked, enemy bullets and grenade fragments struck the wall within inches of him, but he continued performing his duties as aid man in a highly superior manner. His gallant and resourceful actions, performed at great personal risk, were an important factor in the final repulse of the enemy attack. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

III. CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR. So much of Section I, General Orders 100, this Headquarters, dated 26 March 1945, as pertains to Private BENNIE P. FRATELLO, 42023964, as reads "for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944" is amended to read "for gallantry in action on 13 December 1944."

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DAHLQUIST:

JESSE B. MATLACK
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OFFICIAL:

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

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