

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 35017

336-1.13

~~RESTRICTED~~

AG RECORDS SEC.

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

24 April 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 134

- 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:

ERNEST E. LEADMON, 35771614, Private, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. While attacking stubbornly held defenses on a hill in the Siegfried Line, Private Leadmon's squad was halted by intense machine gun and sniper fire. Private Leadmon immediately moved forward in the face of the enemy fire to a position from which he could see the hostile force, and with accurate fire from his rifle killed a sniper. He then again moved forward and captured three of the enemy. He continued to work his way up the hill towards the machine gun, but another sniper fired upon him and killed him instantly. Private Leadmon's aggressive and gallant actions, at the sacrifice of his life, enabled his squad to destroy the enemy machine gun and continue its advance. Next of kin: Mr. Amos R. Leadmon (Father), Quincy, West Virginia.

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:

ALBERT F. REGENTHAL, 01177947, First Lieutenant, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. Lieutenant Regenthal was acting as forward observer attached to an infantry battalion during an attack on a town. When the friendly troops were delayed by enemy small arms fire and the fire of two Mark VI tanks, Lieutenant Regenthal moved to an exposed position to adjust artillery fire on the enemy. Although one of the enemy tanks began firing directly at him, he calmly continued to adjust fire. He had just given the order for a concentration to be fired when a shell landed close to him and rendered him unconscious. On regaining consciousness he found that one enemy tank had been forced to withdraw, and he immediately began adjusting fire on the other. As a result of Lieutenant Regenthal's courageous devotion to duty, the hostile tanks were driven off and enemy small arms fire was substantially reduced, permitting the infantry to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Newark, New Jersey.

- 1 -  
(over)

~~RESTRICTED~~

36th INF DIVISION

1945



1945

36th INF Division

~~RESTRICTED~~

(GO 134, Hq 36th Inf Div, 24 April 1945, contd)

LESTER C. HAIRE, 20809075, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 October 1944 in France. Sergeant Haire was occupying an outpost position in front of his unit when Company L launched an assault against the enemy. Heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire forced the attackers to withdraw, leaving one seriously injured soldier approximately 15 yards beyond the outpost. Aware of the casualty's urgent need for medical attention, Sergeant Haire volunteered to go to his aid. Although the area was subjected to artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, he left the safety of the building which housed his outpost and, with one companion, moved forward. He worked his way through heavy small arms fire to the side of the wounded man and, with the assistance of his comrade, carried him to a covered position where he received prompt first aid treatment. By his quick-thinking and courage, Sergeant Haire was responsible for saving the life of an injured soldier. Entered the Service from Belton, Texas.

JOHN P. FRENCH, 20802095, Staff Sergeant, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 June 1944 in Italy. The enemy launched a surprise night attack in great strength against the positions of the 2d Platoon. When one of his squad leaders was wounded, Sergeant French, the platoon sergeant, immediately left his fox hole and, exposing himself to heavy small arms and mortar fire, reorganized the squad. Again, when one of the machine guns was put out of action, he moved about deploying the ammunition bearers as rifleman. So effectively did he control and direct the fire of his men that the force of the attack was completely broken and the enemy withdrew in disorder. His courageous and aggressive leadership was largely responsible for the rout of the hostile force, enabling friendly troops to capture a nearby city on the next of day. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

FULTON THOMPSON, 33053890, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Battery D, 443d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (SP), for gallantry in action on 5 August 1943 in Sicily. During a heavy artillery barrage, the platoon commander was buried by the debris of a shellburst. Valiantly leaving his place of safety, Sergeant Thompson ran across 50 yards of open terrain to aid the officer. While shells crashed around him, he removed the tree stump and dirt which had covered the man. Later in the day, Sergeant Thompson saw a medical truck, under which two men had taken cover, receive a direct hit and burst into flames. Although shells were still falling, he ran to the truck, helped the men to free themselves and directed them to a place of cover. He then proceeded to unload valuable medical equipment from the burning vehicle. By his gallant actions Sergeant Thompson assisted in saving the lives of three men and much essential equipment. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

ROBERT S. TAYLOR, 33171368, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 83d Chemical Mortar Battalion. Entered the Service from Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

GEORGE W. STEVENS, 13016920, Corporal, Company A, 83d Chemical mortar Battalion. Entered the Service from Richmond, Virginia.

VERNON BERKEBILE, 33762823, Private First Class (then Private), Company A, 83d Chemical Mortar Battalion. Entered the Service from Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

FRANK D. MOODY, 36054970, Private, Company A, 83d Chemical Mortar Battalion. Entered the Service from Ashmore, Illinois.

for gallantry in action on 17 February 1945 in France. During a fire mission, a mortar shell burst prematurely, killing two soldiers and seriously

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND 73017

336-1.13



DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 35017

336-1.13

~~RESTRICTED~~

(GO 134, Hq 36th Inf Div, 24 April 1945, contd)

wounding five others. The blast ignited three large piles of ammunition in the vicinity of the wounded men. Despite the imminent danger of an explosion, these men rushed to the burning ammunition and began to fight the fire with every available means. They threw burning ammunition covers to the side, and carried hot shells, with their powder charges aflame, away from the remaining ammunition. They smothered the flames with dirt and with their field jackets. As a result of the magnificent courage of the above men, the fire was extinguished and the wounded men were safely evacuated, much valuable ammunition and equipment was saved, and the unit was enabled to continue with its fire mission,

HOWARD L. BARBER, 32585959, Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in Italy. Company F was in a defensive position on high ground and was receiving heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. An observation post was being established, and Sergeant Barber volunteered to lay the wire to it. He had proceeded approximately half a mile under heavy fire when a shell burst about ten feet from him, wounding him painfully in the leg. In spite of his wound he continued across the rough terrain for an additional 800 yards to the observation post. Only after the wire had been installed did he report to the aid station where he was evacuated to the hospital. Entered the Service from Wolcott, New York.

ARTHUR H. WILNER, 12036078, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery D, 443d AAA AW Battalion (SP), for gallantry in action on 22 February 1944 in Italy. While Tec 5 Wilner was on duty as a radio operator, the area was subjected to a heavy artillery barrage. A nearby vehicle was hit, killing one man and seriously wounding another. Although he had been thrown to the ground by the force of the explosion, Tec 5 Wilner rose and rushed to the aid of the injured soldier. While shells crashed all around, he helped him from the burning vehicle and started carrying him up a 100 yard slope to the command post. Bursting shells forced him to the ground time after time, but he persisted in his courageous task and successfully removed the wounded man to safety. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

EUGENE S. SCHMIDT, 37725041, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1945 in France. Private First Class Schmidt was an aid man attached to a machine gun platoon. After a successful attack the platoon was digging in, when enemy tanks fired a barrage at the position, wounding several men. As enemy shells burst all around him, Private First Class Schmidt immediately went to the aid of the injured soldiers. Although he was painfully wounded while caring for one of the soldiers, he continued to treat the casualties. When he saw that several men from a nearby rifle company needed medical attention he went to their aid also. Private First Class Schmidt, by his courageous devotion to duty, assisted in saving the lives of many wounded comrades, and his acts were a source of inspiration to all who witnessed them. Entered the Service from Wichita, Kansas.

JAMES C. MC NAIR, 34582511, Private First Class, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 October 1944 in France. Although Private First Class Mc Nair was severely wounded during a heavy enemy artillery barrage, he dragged himself from his fighting hole and crawled across 40 yards

- 3 -  
(over)

~~RESTRICTED~~

36th INF DIVISION

1945



1945

36th INF DIVISION

~~RESTRICTED~~

(GO 134, Hq 36th Inf Div, 24 April 1945, contd)

of shelled terrain to aid three injured comrades. He used his own aid packet to stop the most seriously wounded soldier's profuse bleeding and, although he was wounded a second time by shell fragments, continued to expose himself until he had treated the other two casualties. Without an aid packet to treat his own injuries, he was so weak from loss of blood and the strain of his exertions that he was in a state of semi-consciousness when the litter bearers arrived. Private First Class Mc Nair's gallant and heroic actions were responsible for saving the lives of his comrades. Entered the Service from Fairfield, Alabama.

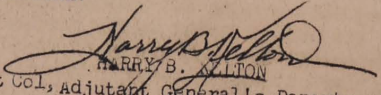
III. CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR - POSTHUMOUS. 1. So much of Section I, General Orders 110, this Headquarters, dated 29 April 1944, as pertains to JOSEPH KOWALCZYK, 31301305, Private, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, as reads "for gallantry in action on 25 November 1943" is amended to read "for gallantry in action on 21 November 1943."

2. So much of Section I, General Orders 417, this Headquarters, as pertains to ROBERT J. DE KING, 36637328, Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, as reads "He died in a hospital two days later" is amended to read "He subsequently died of wounds received in this action."

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

JOHN J. ALBRIGHT  
Colonel, General Staff Corps  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

  
HARRY B. MILTON  
Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department  
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION "E"

29 APR 1945

- 4 -

~~RESTRICTED~~

336-1.13

336-1.13

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND 735017