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

AG RECORDS SEC.

23 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 96

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I. 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:

JOSEPH P. KIMBLE, O1313902, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 October 1944 in France. When Company C was forced to withdraw from an untenable area, Lieutenant Kimble noticed the absence of his company commander and, without hesitation, returned to the scene of the battalion to search for him. While advancing through a shelled area, he encountered an enemy forward observer party. He engaged the Germans in a fire fight, killing five of them and dispersing the rest. He continued forward and found the company commander severely wounded and exposed to enemy artillery fire. While he was administering first aid, a nearby shell burst threw him over a bank and caused severe internal injuries. Despite his pain and the danger of the hostile shelling, he completed the treatment of his injured comrade and carried him to a position in the rear. After reporting to his battalion commander, Lieutenant Kimble finally reached the limit of his endurance and collapsed. His valor and dauntlessness were a source of great inspiration to his men. Entered the Service from Scranton, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM M. HEARN, O1319207, Second Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1945 in France. Assigned the mission of leading his platoon to attack an enemy-held house, Lieutenant Hearn discovered that the approaches to the building were heavily mined. Exposing himself to hostile machine gun, machine pistol and bazooka fire, he made a personal reconnaissance of the dangerous area to select a safer route for his platoon. During the assault which followed, Lieutenant Hearn was wounded by a shell fragment. In spite of intense pain, he remained with his platoon and continued directing its fire. As a result of his intrepid and aggressive leadership, 30 enemy soldiers were captured, ten were killed, five machine guns, three machine pistols and two bazookas were destroyed and the hostile force was completely routed. Entered the Service from College Park, Georgia.

CHARLES H. CARTER, O1180842, Second Lieutenant, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action from 9 to 11 December 1944 in France. By adjusting accurate artillery fire on the hostile troops, Lieutenant Carter, a forward observer with a rifle company, was largely responsible for the repulse of five strong enemy attacks. In spite of small arms fire and hostile shelling, he maintained his post and, when the attackers advanced to within hand grenade

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range of the company's defenses, brought artillery fire to within 25 yards of the friendly troops. In addition to a superior performance of his regular duties, he acted as a rifleman, helped treat and evacuate the wounded, and, when the company's wire lines were disrupted, maintained communications over his radio. His valiant and aggressive actions enabled the company to hold its position in the face of the enemy onslaughts. Entered the Service from Sylacauga, Alabama.

II. AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the second Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

ROBERT F. SPENCER, 01298148, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 December 1944 in France. As the battalion was attacking, the enemy launched a strong counterattack, infiltrating Company H's positions and disorganizing the 1st and 2d Platoons. The platoons, scattered by the enemy, suffered heavy casualties and lost four machine guns. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Lieutenant Spencer, the company executive officer, started reorganizing the platoons. Covering a distance of approximately 3000 yards, he entered areas overrun by hostile troops and braved artillery, mortar, machine gun and sniper fire in his heroic efforts to reorganize his company. He rallied groups of men, secured new machine guns, and directed the squads to advantageous firing positions. As a result of his daring initiative and brilliant leadership, the machine gun platoons of Company H were able to furnish effective support to the battalion's attack, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and enabling friendly troops to attain their objective. Entered the Service from Charlestown, Indiana.

RUSSELL R. HOLSTER, 01998716, Second Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 December 1944 in France. The 2d Battalion seized a strategically important town, but, before adequate defense positions could be established, a large hostile force launched a determined counterattack. The riflemen were forced to withdraw in the face of a numerically superior enemy, and intense small arms fire threatened to disorganize the friendly troops. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Lieutenant Holster, the leader of a mortar platoon, unhesitatingly assumed command and swiftly organized a group of approximately 50 riflemen. Skillfully deploying his men in strategic positions in a school yard and surrounding houses, he directed both rifle and machine gun fire into the midst of the attackers with devastating accuracy. Undaunted by the hostile fire, he encouraged the men to hold their ground. As a result of his initiative and aggressiveness, the assault was repelled in his sector of the town. Entered the Service from Midland, Texas.

WENDELL E. TANKERSLEY, 20803599, First Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Tankersley was in position with his command post group behind the company lines when a large force of enemy riflemen, supported by two machine guns, infiltrated the unit's right flank and launched a determined attack against the command post. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, he left the cover of his fighting hole in order to organize a defense. Moving through machine gun and rifle fire, he went from one position to another, encouraging his men to hold their ground in the face of the enemy onslaught. When the supply of ammunition was exhausted,

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front of the house and killed two of the hostile soldiers. He hurled a hand grenade into the doorway; and, as he attempted to enter the building, an enemy machine gun opened fire, wounding one of the squad members. After withdrawing with his squad to evacuate the casualty, Private First Class Callihan moved forward again to assault the machine gun position. Although he was painfully wounded by enemy bazooka fire, his valiant actions enabled another squad to seize the house. Entered the Service from Greenup, Kentucky.

III. CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR. So much of Section III, General Orders 40, this Headquarters, dated 20 February 1945, as awards a Bronze Star Medal to VALERIAN L. PRZYGOCKI, 36595033, Technician Fifth Grade, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

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

"VALERIAN L. PRZYGOCKI, 36595033, Technician Fifth Grade, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion, for gallantry in action on 7 January 1945 in France. As a member of the litter squad which volunteered to evacuate a wounded man from an exposed position, Tec 5 Przygocki left his companions in a place of comparative safety and started toward the casualty. Although fired on by an enemy machine gun, he continued across 30 yards of open terrain, picked up the injured soldier and, without assistance, carried him back through the hostile fire to the nearest place of cover. He was joined by the other members of his litter squad and, with their help, evacuated the seriously wounded man. His personal bravery in performing this heroic deed inspired both the respect and confidence of the riflemen. Entered the Service from Bay City, Michigan."

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

JOHN J. ALBRIGHT
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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Sergeant Tankersley collected additional ammunition from the dead and seriously wounded and redistributed it among his men. During almost the entire 30 minutes of the attack, he was exposed to fire from the hostile troops. As a result of his aggressive leadership, his small group killed 15 of the enemy soldiers, wounded many more, and repelled a numerically superior hostile force. His intrepidity and resourcefulness were a source of great inspiration to his men. Entered the Service from Waelder, Texas.

ROY M. THUT, 33435228, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 December 1944 in France. When his platoon's advance was stopped by sniper and bazooka fire from an enemy strong point, Sergeant Thut opened fire with his light machine gun to cover two of his men in flanking the position. Although he was completely exposed and subjected to heavy enemy fire, he determinedly remained in position and continued firing into the midst of the hostile force. Sergeant Thut's valiant and aggressive action, at the risk of his life, enabled his men to outflank the strong point and led to the capture of 47 SS troops and Gestapo officers and men. Entered the Service from Ferrell, Pennsylvania.

THOMAS BATALEAS, 32811108, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1945 in France. After scattering enemy infantry elements which had surrounded his machine gun positions, Sergeant Bataleas, leader of a light machine gun section, covered his men in moving to alternate positions. He then discovered that an enemy group had set up a machine gun to his rear, thereby endangering a nearby rifle platoon. He picked up his machine gun, slung a belt of ammunition over his shoulder and single handedly assaulted the enemy machine gun position. In spite of heavy hostile fire, he killed the three soldiers manning the gun and neutralized the weapon. He then rejoined his men and skillfully directed their fire, contributing materially to the rout of the hostile force. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

EWEL BELL, 34926968, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 February 1945 in France. While clearing a group of houses in the Northwest section of a strongly fortified town, Private First Class Bell found a grenade launcher and some grenades left behind by the enemy. Exposing himself at a window of the house just captured, he fired grenades into the next building, forcing the hostile soldiers to withdraw. After the last house in the area had been taken, he spotted a hostile force advancing toward his platoon. With the help of another automatic rifleman, he fired into the midst of the enemy, killing many and delaying their advance. When an enemy soldier fired a rifle grenade at him, Private First Class Bell swiftly opened fire and shot the hostile grenadier. After nightfall, when the attackers forced the platoon to withdraw to new positions, he and his companion braved heavy small arms fire to remain behind and cover their unit's withdrawal, enabling their comrades to establish a new defense. Entered the Service from Blue Springs, Miss.

RICHARD L. CALLIHAN, 35779670, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 February 1945 in France. During Company C's attack against a strongly fortified town, Private First Class Callihan was assigned the mission of leading his squad to clear the first house. When he and his men were subjected to enemy rifle fire, he fired into the fighting holes in

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