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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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

7 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 23

Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I  
Award of Silver Star.....II  
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster - 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:

RICHARD A. SELKIRK, 01293661, Captain, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 November 1944 in France. During an attack, the 1st Battalion was moving toward its initial objective when it was subjected to heavy enemy artillery and nebelwerfer fire which inflicted numerous casualties. Each time the enemy directed a barrage on the column, Captain Selkirk, leading the rear command group, courageously advanced under the shellfire to supervise the prompt and efficient treatment and evacuation of the wounded. Fearlessly exposing himself to the incessant shelling, he moved about among the men, encouraging them and reorganizing the column to continue its advance. After reaching its initial objective, the battalion had waded across a small, swollen stream when it was again subjected to a concentration of artillery shells. Captain Selkirk swiftly reorganized his group and directed men in hand-carrying the wounded across the stream. As the battalion drove forward toward its final objective, the enemy began blasting the area with another artillery barrage, and Captain Selkirk was fatally wounded by shell fragments. Next of kin: Mrs. Cora C. Selkirk (Mother), 113 North Allen Street, Albany, New York.

LLOYD B. MAPLES, 20808830, Technical Sergeant, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 November 1944 in France. While leading his platoon toward new positions, Sergeant Maples stepped on an enemy mine and was mortally wounded by the explosion. Aware that his men were in danger, he mastered the intense pain of his wounds and proceeded to direct them out of the mine field. Although the platoon was composed almost entirely of new reinforcements, Sergeant Maples kept them under control at all times. Under his skillful direction, the men slowly felt their way out of the mine field. Inspired by Sergeant Maples' selflessness and courage, they remained calm at a time when confusion and panic would have been fatal. Sergeant Maples realized that his guns should be in position immediately and that they would need their full quota of ammunition. He selected the men who would take him to the rear, redistributed the load of ammunition and designated the section sergeant who would assume command of the platoon. He then instructed the men to carry him to the jeeps rather than to the aid station, thereby enabling them to return to their platoon more swiftly with an additional supply of ammunition. His heroic self-sacrifice enabled his platoon to furnish prompt and effective support at a critical stage in the operations. Sergeant Maples died of his wounds on 24 November. Next of

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kin: Mrs. Violet F. Maples (Wife), 600 East Center Street, Springville, Utah

BLASCO J. BUSCEMI, 32572537, Private First Class, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 October 1944 in France. Private First Class Buscemi courageously volunteered to accompany a platoon of Company A in an attack and, although his functions as acting leader of a machine gun squad exempted him from such action, to guide the platoon over a route which he had previously reconnoitered. He led the group to an area where the riflemen could move to within hand grenade range of the enemy before being detected. He was the first to move into position and open fire on the hostile force. Directing effective fire into the midst of the enemy troops, he covered the platoon members while they maneuvered into position and attracted the hostile fire to himself, thereby forcing the hostile soldiers to expose their gun positions. Although he was the target for direct machine gun, rifle and grenade fire, he dauntlessly maintained his position and continued firing, disabling one machine gun and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, until he was mortally wounded by the hostile fire. His heroic sacrifice enabled the riflemen to destroy enemy positions and rout the hostile force. Next of kin: Mrs. Esther Buscemi (Mother), 1084 Abbott Boulevard, Palisade, New Jersey.

WILLIAM E. BOATMAN, 33505086, Private First Class, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 October 1944 in France. One platoon of Company A was engaged in an intense fire fight with a large hostile force approximately 100 yards from Private First Class Boatman's well-concealed machine gun position. A rise in the ground and dense woods obstructed his observation and prevented him from firing in support of the friendly troops. Acting entirely on his own initiative, Private First Class Boatman seized his gun and tripod and with one box of ammunition, ran to a spot near the top of the rise which afforded clear observation and an excellent field of fire. Although the position was exposed to direct fire from the hostile weapons, he unhesitatingly put his gun into action, directing rapid, effective bursts of fire on the startled enemy. Almost instantly he became the target for heavy machine gun, rifle and grenade fire, but he remained dauntlessly in position, inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy troops, until he was mortally wounded by the hostile fire. Private First Class Boatman sacrificed his life to save his comrades from a savage enemy counterattack. Next of kin: Mrs. Inez Boatman (Mother), 220 Nelson Street, Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania.

LEWIS E. ORR, 35762550, Private, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 September 1944 in France. During an attack against stubbornly defended enemy positions, Private Orr was a member of a litter team assigned the mission of carrying the wounded from the battlefield to an evacuation point. Braving intermittent artillery and mortar fire, he made several trips down a hill, across a valley and up another hill to a road where the patients were evacuated. During an unusually heavy barrage, it was necessary to take a severely wounded soldier to the point of evacuation. Private Orr was one of the first to volunteer for the hazardous mission. Advancing fearlessly through the incessant artillery and mortar fire, he was wounded by a hurtling shell fragment before reaching his destination. In spite of intense pain, he continued on without faltering, valiantly carrying his share of the burden to the evacuation point. As he and his companions reached the road, the area

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was subjected to heavy shellfire, and Private Orr was killed instantly in the barrage. His heroic sacrifice resulted in the prompt evacuation of his injured comrade. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary E. Orr (Wife), Morgantown, West Virginia.

EUGENE H. WILLIAMS, 35893399, Private, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 October 1944 in France. Private Williams was an aid man with the 2d Platoon of Company E. During an attack against enemy hill positions, the platoon was advancing across an uncleared mine field when one of the mines exploded, killing two men and wounding ten. Private Williams, refusing to wait until a path to the wounded had been cleared, valiantly went to aid the injured soldiers and, without a thought for personal safety, administered expert emergency treatment to all the wounded. Several hours later, when a machine gunner was seriously wounded in a forward area subjected to heavy machine gun and rifle fire, Private Williams unhesitatingly started toward the casualty. Although he was aware that the sniper who had wounded the machine gunner was still concealed in the vicinity, he pressed dauntlessly forward, unselfishly risking his life to save the life of a comrade. Just as he reached the injured soldier's position, Private Williams was killed by fire from the enemy sniper. His heroic sacrifice was a source of great inspiration to all the members of the command. Next of kin: Mrs. Ethel M. Williams (Mother), 1705 South Jefferson Street, Muncie, Indiana.

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

VORISE MILLER, 38484250, Private First Class, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Miller, a platoon runner, was advancing with his unit when an enemy artillery shell landed nearby. Although momentarily dazed by the explosion, he remained with his platoon leader and platoon sergeant, both of whom had been wounded and were unable to walk. While other men ran for cover, Private First Class Miller stayed in his exposed position, fearlessly braving the heavy barrage to protect his wounded comrades. After locating the platoon aid man, he left the two casualties under his care and courageously ran across 200 yards of shell-blasted terrain to the hastily constructed aid station. There he secured a group of litter bearers and led them to the spot where the officer and the platoon sergeant were lying. Private First Class Miller then assumed command of the platoon. Encouraging the men by his example of intrepidity, he skillfully reorganized the platoon and led it forward in the attack. Entered the Service from Lafayette, Louisiana.

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

LOUIS N. QUAST, 0452469, Captain, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. During an attack against stubbornly defended enemy positions, Captain Quast was assigned to the 3d Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, as forward observer for his artillery battalion. The 3d Battalion was delayed by heavy fire from hostile small arms weapons and a 20mm gun and was subjected to a tank assault. Captain Quast, accompanying the forward elements of the battalion, suddenly spotted two of the enemy tanks firing

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into the unit's most advanced positions. He swiftly moved forward with his radio, advancing beyond the last friendly outpost, and cautiously made his way toward the hostile force. Although he was exposed to the heavy enemy fire, he pressed forward to a spot very near the tanks. There he began directing accurate artillery fire on the enemy, adjusting the fire by his own position. Captain Quast was subjected to the friendly artillery shelling and was threatened by hurtling fragments from the nearby shell explosions. In spite of the dangers which confronted him, he determinedly remained in position and calmly directed the artillery fire until one of the enemy tanks was destroyed and the other forced to withdraw. Entered the Service from St. Paul, Minnesota.

ALBERT G. KUDZIA, 01306287, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 September 1944 in France. Before the men of Companies K and L could deploy and prepare defenses in preparation for an attack against a strategically important hill, the enemy suddenly opened fire from the rear with a 20mm gun, heavy machine guns, machine pistols and rifles. When the command to attack was given, the head of the column moved out so swiftly that contact was broken and the main body of the two companies was left under the heavy fire. Acting with unusual calmness and courage, Lieutenant Kudzia, a platoon leader in Company K, quickly assumed command, rallied the men and led them toward the battalion objective. After advancing for 300 yards, the attackers were subjected to heavy mortar and artillery shelling and fire from an anti-tank gun on a wooded hill to the left. Lieutenant Kudzia valiantly led an assault against the enemy position, destroying the gun and driving the hostile soldiers from the hill. He then led the two companies across an open field, swept by rapid bursts of machine gun fire, to the original objective, successfully occupying the forward slope of the hill. After organizing an all-around defense, Lieutenant Kudzia, fearlessly exposing himself to hostile artillery fire, led two enlisted artillery observers forward into enemy territory and established an observation post on the reverse slope of the hill. Working calmly under the incessant shelling, he adjusted accurate artillery fire on the enemy positions, destroying two artillery pieces in the valley below. When a large force launched a savage counterattack, he directed his men in repelling the hostile troops, killing at least ten, and then called for artillery fire on the retreating foe, completing the rout of the enemy. Entered the Service from Kalamazoo, 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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