

1945

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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

1 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 202

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I. POSTHUMOUS 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 posthumously awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action:

MELTON SIMS, 20802496, Staff Sergeant, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Sims, acting as forward mortar observer, voluntarily went forward to contact Company F when he learned that the unit had been subjected to a fierce attack and needed close mortar support. Before he and his radio operator could reach their objective, enemy infantry troops infiltrated between them and the rifle company. Although fully conscious of the dangers involved, he continued forward, with automatic weapons fire striking all around him, in an effort to reach the company and furnish the much-needed mortar support. Both he and the radio operator were killed by the hostile fire. Sergeant Sims' gallant sacrifice was a source of great inspiration to all the members of his unit. Next of kin: Mrs. Opal Sims (Mother), RR#1, Lockhart, Texas.

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:

JOHN G. THOMPSON, 01015715, First Lieutenant, 753d Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 12 June 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Thompson had the mission of leading two tanks to destroy several self-propelled guns which were delaying an infantry advance. After a personal reconnaissance he determined that the only route of approach was over the crest of a hill offering the enemy an excellent field of fire. He crossed the hill, and an alert enemy immediately opened fire with mortars, artillery and small arms. Undaunted by the hostile fire, Lieutenant Thompson advanced to within 75 yards and, moving across the hostile position, raked the enemy with his machine guns and 75mm cannon. The second tank then attempted to execute the same maneuver, but was disabled by a hit from a self-propelled gun. Lieutenant Thompson immediately charged the enemy position with all guns firing, and destroyed the enemy gun, enabling the crew of the other tank to escape. By his gallant actions he inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and enabled the friendly troops to advance. Entered the Service from Seattle, Washington.

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RALPH S. HEALY, JR., 01322550, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 January 1945 in France. Company F, occupying a wooded area, faced an estimated battalion of Germans across 500 yards of open terrain. Observing that any movement of his men was followed by a concentration of mortar and artillery fire on the immediate area, Lieutenant Healy, with a radio and rifle, started crawling across the field in an attempt to locate the German observation post. From a small mound he spotted eight enemy soldiers who were directing the artillery and mortar fire. Although he became the target for the shellfire, he remained in his exposed position and directed tank destroyer fire on the hostile group. As the Germans attempted to escape to the woods, he opened fire with his rifle, killing two and wounding three of the enemy. As a result of his intrepid action, the company suffered no more casualties from observed enemy fire. Entered the Service from Garden City, New York.

AUBREY J. DIXON, 20807801, Technical Sergeant, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 August 1944 in France. When intense enemy small arms, self-propelled and antitank gun fire forced the attacking troops to withdraw, members of the weapons platoon had to crawl back to new positions and were therefore unable to carry their weapons. Bravely exposing himself to the hostile fire, Sergeant Dixon, the platoon sergeant, immediately went forward alone to retrieve the abandoned weapons. Although he was subjected to heavy rifle, machine gun and mortar fire, he made three trips through the hazardous area, advancing to within 50 yards of the German positions and retrieving a machine gun, two mortars, and two boxes of ammunition. On his fourth trip into the dangerous area, displaying outstanding courage and intrepidity, he carried a wounded soldier back to safety. Entered the Service from Beaumont, Texas.

ROGER G. DANIELS, 36055334, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Daniels was placed in command of a rifle platoon and given the mission of clearing a group of houses. After all but a few of the houses had been cleared, he aggressively led one of the squads in an assault on an enemy strongpoint and, by his skillful direction of their fire and movement, succeeded in taking it without difficulty. As he started to return to the other two squads, an enemy machine gun fired at him from one of the houses not yet cleared. Without hesitation he dashed across the open area as the bullets struck around him. On reaching his men, he led them in a flanking maneuver that successfully destroyed the gun and completed the occupation of the remaining houses. When the enemy counterattacked, Sergeant Daniels skillfully organized and directed the defense of his men, quickly repelling the attack. Entered the Service from Alton, Illinois.

MYRON K. DABBERT, 36643673, Sergeant, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 March 1945 in Germany. Sergeant Dabbert volunteered to lead seven men in a night attack on a group of Siegfried line pillboxes which were delaying the advance of friendly troops. Undaunted by heavy small arms and mortar fire, Sergeant Dabbert and an engineer crawled toward the first pillbox and killed two Germans serving as outposts. They blew the door open with an explosive charge, forcing a captain and six other occupants to surrender. Sergeant Dabbert and his squad then moved toward the other pillboxes, whose occupants were now on the alert. They had to crawl through barbed wire, and were frequently under severe rocket and mortar barrage but by their courage

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and determination they succeeded in taking five pillboxes, killing 13 of the enemy and capturing 53. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

III. AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - SILVER STAR. 1. 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:

JAMES L. MINOR, 0406993, Lieutenant Colonel, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 March 1945 in Germany. As the 1st Battalion advanced to attack a town, they were subjected to a heavy enemy mortar, artillery and rocket barrage, inflicting many casualties and threatening to disorganize the column. Lieutenant Colonel Minor, the Battalion Commander, courageously moved forward with the assault elements of the company. In the face of intense enemy fire of all types, he moved from man to man along the column, encouraging them and directing their advance. When two enemy machine guns in the outskirts of town threatened to halt the advance, he directed fire on them and succeeded in neutralizing the hostile weapons. Lieutenant Colonel Minor's outstanding leadership and complete disregard for his own personal safety inspired the men of his battalion to overcome the formidable enemy resistance and seize their objective. Entered the Service from Tahoka, Texas.

FRED COSTILLA, 01998721, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1944 in France. When the commanding officer of Company C became a casualty during a house-to-house attack on a town, Lieutenant Costilla assumed command of the company and personally led it in the fighting that followed. In directing the operation he frequently exposed himself to mortar and artillery fire, and to small arms fire from enemy located in nearby houses. When its sector had been cleared, Lieutenant Costilla quickly reorganized the company and directed the establishment of defensive positions on the outskirts of town. Heavy machine gun fire wounded several members of the company, and prevented the establishment of a strong point at a crossroads. Lieutenant Costilla gathered a small force and, with bullets striking within inches of him, personally led the assault that drove off the enemy and established the strong point. Lieutenant Costilla's initiative, courage and leadership contributed materially to the taking of the town, and to the successful defense against an aggressive enemy during the night which followed. Entered the Service from Beaumont, Texas.

EUGENE R. HAMMOND, 01310835, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 March 1945 in Germany. As the men of Company K neared the crest of a hill, they were subjected to intense machine gun and rifle fire from trenches and pillboxes 25 yards away. Lieutenant Hammond, company commander, immediately exposed himself to the hostile fire to direct his men in clearing the enemy positions. During the fierce fight which ensued, he was painfully wounded by a fragment of a hand grenade. Refusing medical aid, he courageously moved among his men, encouraging them and directing their fire, until the hill was taken. Although suffering from concussion, he determinedly supervised the defensive deployment of his men. As a result of the courage and leadership of Lieutenant Hammond the company seized and held the objective. Entered the Service from Kenosha, Wisconsin.

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CHESTER W. JONES, 31374966, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 November 1944 in France. Sergeant Jones had the mission of leading a night patrol to locate an enemy machine gun believed to be about 1000 yards outside of town. Forced by the terrain to use an exposed and mined road, he carefully led his men forward until they reached the cover of a wall. Taking one man with him, he located the machine gun and immediately opened fire, killing one of the crew and wounding another. He then started back with his information, but on the way was severely wounded by an exploding mine. Although in great pain, Sergeant Jones maneuvered his men to safety, and insisted on being taken to the company command post to report his information before being evacuated to the hospital. Entered the Service from Center Ossipee, New Hampshire.

HENRY D. G. PHILBECK, 36900589, Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 March 1945 in France. When Company B's attack was halted by enemy sniper and automatic weapons fire from a nearby building, Sergeant Philbeck volunteered to lead his squad in eliminating the strong point. Bravely exposing himself to heavy artillery and small arms fire, he maneuvered his men into position and then led the assault on the building. His aggressive leadership enabled his squad to kill three Germans, capture six, and seize the position. Later, he personally captured an enemy soldier and, learning from him the location of five other Germans, forced them all to surrender. Sergeant Philbeck's gallant actions materially aided his unit in killing 14 of the enemy, capturing 57 prisoners, and successfully accomplishing its mission. Entered the Service from Urbana, Illinois.

2. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a second Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the third Silver Star is awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action:

RALPH G. KINDER, 35702565, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 20 to 23 March 1945 in Germany. Sergeant Kinder, the 3d Platoon Guide, was in command of the platoon throughout the attack on the Siegfried Line defenses. Continually exposing himself to the intense enemy fire, he directed his men in their advance over felled trees, trenches and barbed wire entanglements. When attacking pillboxes, he boldly delivered deadly accurate fire into the emplacements, enabling his men to maneuver safely into position. He skillfully led his platoon in spearheading his battalion's attack on a town, always in the lead as his men assaulted the hostile positions. Sergeant Kinder's gallant leadership materially aided his men in taking their objective, capturing 50 Germans and killing or wounding six others. Entered the Service from Richmond, Kentucky.

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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