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

AG RECORDS SEC.

26 January 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 14

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

FENTON L. BROWN, 12096809, Staff Sergeant, Company D, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 August 1944 in France. Enemy infantry troops, supported by two tanks, launched a determined counterattack against the battalion defenses and threatened to break through the friendly lines. The leader of the heavy machine gun platoon of Company D was wounded, and Sergeant Brown immediately assumed command. Fearlessly exposing himself to the hostile fire, he directed his men in increasing their fire power in an effort to drive back the attackers. While the attention of his platoon was focused on the enemy to the front, Sergeant Brown, constantly on the alert for a surprise assault, spotted three hostile soldiers stealthily approaching from the right flank. He swiftly opened fire with his rifle, killed two of the enemy and wounded the third. The hostile tanks charged the machine gun emplacements and rendered the position untenable. Sergeant Brown skillfully maneuvered his platoon into a new position and again directed effective fire against the enemy. He maintained the fire of his platoon until the battalion could reorganize, and, under his outstanding leadership, the unit inflicted 25 casualties on the hostile force, enabling the friendly troops to regain their former positions. Sergeant Brown was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Evelyn Bogart (Sister), 10 Main Street, Broadalbin, New York.

HENRY L. GRIFFIN, 34872050, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 September 1944 in France. Private First Class Griffin was assigned the mission of leading a seven-man patrol on a reconnaissance into an enemy-held town. The patrol was advancing toward the outskirts of town when a hostile force, occupying an outpost position near a large barn, suddenly opened fire. Displaying unusual selflessness and courage, Private First Class Griffin instructed his men to take cover and watch for enemy activity on the flanks while he approached the hostile outpost alone. Moving directly in the face of enemy fire, he charged the position, firing his automatic rifle as he advanced. He killed four of the hostile soldiers and wounded two with his accurate fire. After destroying the strong point, he swiftly organized a defensive position and sent word for the company to move up. Private First Class Griffin was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Dury M. Griffin (Mother), Route #2, Vardaman, Miss.

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ZACHARIAH W. MCCALL, 34208794, Private, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 October 1944 in France. When the 1st Battalion was surrounded by hostile troops, the remainder of the 141st Infantry Regiment attacked stubbornly defended enemy positions in an attempt to reach the beleaguered unit. The regimental command post was subjected to heavy artillery shelling which shattered the communication wires to the attacking battalions. Aware of the necessity for maintaining contact, Private McCall, a wire jeep driver, readily joined two other soldiers in repairing the line. Without a thought for personal safety, he left his covered position and moved fearlessly through the incessant artillery barrage. While repairing a break in the wire, he was mortally wounded by a nearby shell explosion. Private McCall's countless courage and outstanding devotion to duty inspired his comrades to redouble their efforts and maintain the vital communications. Next of kin: Mrs. Selma F. McCall (Wife), Lake Butler, Florida.

II. POSTHUMOUS 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 posthumously awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

DONALD J. MCCONKEY, 33674459, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 August 1944 in France. Company L was assigned the mission of establishing a road block to cut the enemy's route of escape from a trap in a strategically important river valley. Private First Class McConkey, occupying an advance position in front of the block, spotted four enemy reconnaissance vehicles approaching along the road. He crouched by the roadside and waited quietly until the vehicles were abreast of his position. At that instant he began hurling hand grenades at the lead vehicle and set it afire. The disabled vehicle blocked the road and forced the other three to stop. The company opened fire on them, and Private First Class McConkey continued throwing grenades at the vehicles until all were disabled and the enemy soldiers either killed or captured by the friendly troops. He was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Anna McConkey (mother), Route #1, Dunbar, Pennsylvania.

BERTRAND D. VINCENT, 37539552, Private, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 September 1944 in France. Company L was digging in positions for the night in preparation for an attack on the following morning. Private Vincent, a rifleman, was ordered to join an outpost group in front of the company. Constantly on the alert for enemy activity, he suddenly spotted two hostile soldiers preparing a machine gun emplacement in a well-concealed position a short distance away. Aware of the seriousness of this threat to the safety of his comrades, Private Vincent began working his way toward the enemy position. He was spotted by the soldiers and became the target for enemy-hurled hand grenades. Contemptuous of personal safety, he pressed dauntlessly forward, advancing to a spot within a few yards of the hostile position. He calmly pulled the pin of one of his own grenades and threw it into the emplacement, killing both of the enemy soldiers and completely destroying the machine gun. By his quick-thinking and valor, Private Vincent frustrated a hostile attempt to inflict casualties on his unit. He was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Lena M. Vincent (mother), Route #1, Jasper, Missouri.

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III. 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:

RAYMOND F. RIDENBAUGH, 01692501, Second Lieutenant (then Staff Sergeant), 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 and 21 January 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Ridenbaugh was assigned the mission of leading his machine gun platoon in support of a rifle company during an attack across a strategically important river. He was advancing with the company's leading elements when they enemy suddenly opened fire with machine guns and mortars, pinning the unit to the ground. Sergeant Ridenbaugh fearlessly exposed himself to the incessant fire in order to return to his platoon and move it into an advantageous firing position. He directed his men in delivering effective fire on the enemy, thereby enabling the rifle troops to maneuver out of the shell-blasted area. He was then ordered to resume his former outpost position approximately 200 yards from the river bank. He had maneuvered his platoon to within 50 yards of the spot when he discovered that it had been occupied by hostile troops. He directed accurate machine gun fire on the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties and regaining his position. On the following night he again supported a rifle company in the attack. When the company suffered numerous casualties and lost its officers, Sergeant Ridenbaugh took charge of the riflemen, while still commanding his own platoon, and organized a strong defense line, again killing and wounding many of the enemy. Entered the Service from Walhonding, Ohio.

ROY T. TAYLOR, 35277401, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 and 10 November 1944 in France. Elements of Companies I and K were ordered to attack strongly defended enemy positions. Sergeant Taylor, acting platoon leader of the 1st Platoon of Company I, led his men aggressively forward, smashing through the hostile defenses and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy troops. When hostile reinforcements were moved in, the friendly force was trapped behind the enemy lines and was unable to contact other friendly units. In spite of the severe hazards which confronted him, Sergeant Taylor retained his coolness and good judgment, maintaining complete control over his men and encouraging them by his example of intrepidity. He kept his platoon well-organized and, after 24 hours, led his men through the hostile positions back to the safety of the friendly lines. Entered the Service from Rarden, Ohio.

JOE A. SHUFORD, 33454884, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 November 1944 in France. While Company C was occupying an enemy-held town, Sergeant Shuford was ordered to direct his squad in seizing three houses on the company's left flank. After accomplishing his mission, he spotted an enemy tank moving from behind a church and approaching along a road which led to the company area. Although he was armed only with a rifle, Sergeant Shuford courageously opened fire on the tank and forced it to button up. When one of the riflemen following the tank hurled a hand grenade at him, he ducked behind a corner of the church. As the smoke cleared, he again opened fire and killed three of the enemy soldiers. He then jumped down the bank of a stream, thereby escaping injury from the heavy bursts of fire directed at him. By his courage and aggressiveness, Sergeant Shuford forced the enemy tank to withdraw and erased a serious threat to the safety of the company. Entered the Service from Shelby, North Carolina.

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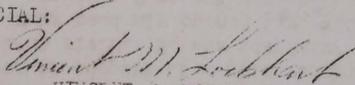
RAY W. BENNETT, 35430991, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 August 1944 in France. The advance of the 142d Infantry Regiment's motorized column was delayed by heavy fire from well-entrenched enemy positions overlooking the highway. Company L was ordered to smash the hostile resistance, and Private First Class Bennett, an acting squad leader in the 3d Platoon, led his men aggressively forward in the attack. Moving directly in the face of the hostile fire, he skillfully directed his squad through a barbed-wire entanglement and placed his men in advantageous firing positions. He then worked his way forward alone, crawling under the bursts of fire until he reached a point within a few yards of the enemy emplacements. Fearlessly exposing himself, Private First Class Bennett hurled three hand grenades into the midst of the hostile force, then motioned his squad forward to assault the position. The disorganized enemy immediately surrendered, and, as a result of Private First Class Bennett's brilliant leadership and ingenuity, one officer and nine men were captured. Entered the Service from Huntington, West Virginia.

SALVATORE A. SEIDITA, 32222384, Corporal, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 September 1944 in France. The Mortar Platoon of Company M moved into position on the slope of a hill near an important enemy stronghold. During the night a large hostile force infiltrated through the friendly lines and, at dawn, directed heavy artillery fire on the platoon area. The barrage was followed by harassing fire from tanks, self-propelled weapons and snipers. Corporal Seidita, assigned the mission of stopping the attack with his mortar, refused to take cover and remained dauntlessly in an exposed position with his weapon. He calmly fired missions which completely disorganized the hostile attackers. Almost immediately, a second enemy assault was launched in another sector. Quickly shifting his mortar, Corporal Seidita frustrated the attack with accurate shellfire. Although he was the target for heavy and incessant hostile fire, he calmly adjusted fire on a tank which was charging the friendly positions. He delayed the tank's advance and enabled the friendly artillery to destroy it. During the afternoon, when the enemy launched a third attack, Corporal Seidita braved heavy shelling to maintain his position and disorganize the assault force with his effective fire. Entered the Service from Elmhurst, New York.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:



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

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