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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

7 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 70

- 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:

RAYMOND L. HALL, 38628253, Private First Class, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 January 1945 in France. Private First Class Hall was a gunner in a heavy machine gun section assigned the mission of supporting a forward rifle platoon in defending the outskirts of a tactically important village. A large hostile force launched a violent attack with infantry troops supported by artillery and tanks. Braving artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, Private First Class Hall calmly manned his post, directing deadly bursts of machine gun fire into the midst of the attackers. As the charging enemy approached, the rifle elements withdrew from the untenable area and reorganized in a more advantageous position. The machine gun section was completely surrounded by hostile troops, and the communication lines were shattered by the artillery shelling. Although faced with almost certain death or capture by the enemy, Private First Class Hall valiantly remained in position. He continued delaying the hostile onslaught with his effective machine gun fire until he was mortally wounded. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary A. Hall (Mother), Route #1, Grand Prairie, 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:

HOMER W. STANSELL, 34089007, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 December 1944 in France. During an attack against an enemy strong point on the top of a hill, the 1st Platoon of Company I smashed the hostile outposts but was delayed by grazing machine gun fire from a well dug-in position. Sergeant Stansell, the platoon guide, volunteered to lead a patrol of five men, supported by a tank, in an attempt to eliminate the gun emplacement. Ordering his men to furnish covering fire, he approached the hostile position alone and hurled all of his grenades at the weapon. Then, fearlessly exposing himself to rapid bursts of fire, he stood up and fired a magazine of submachine gun ammunition at the enemy gunner. After withdrawing to reorganize his men, Sergeant Stansell moved forward again and, in the face of direct hostile fire, hurled a new supply of grenades at the machine gun emplacement. Suddenly 25 enemy soldiers jumped from their fighting holes and

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charged the small group. Sergeant Stansell dauntlessly held his ground and, standing erect in full view of the attackers, delivered accurate bursts of submachine gun fire into their midst. With the assistance of supporting fire from the tank, he repelled the assault, killing or wounding half of the hostile force. Entered the Service from Somerville, Georgia.

ORVAL V. WILMOT, 39338165, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1944 in France. In order to consolidate positions, it was necessary for Company G to take and secure a small knoll on the left which was occupied by the enemy. Sergeant Wilmot volunteered to lead a patrol to the hill. He and his men had advanced 100 yards when they were subjected to heavy machine gun and mortar fire from positions on the knoll. By creeping and crawling forward, Sergeant Wilmot led his patrol to a sunken road and approached to within 75 yards of the hostile emplacements. Skillfully deploying his men, he directed fire on the enemy in order to attract their fire and locate their positions. Spotting two enemy soldiers on his left, he worked his way forward under the hostile fire and, by hurling four hand grenades in rapid succession, killed both of them. After determining the location of enemy positions on the knoll, he reorganized his patrol and led it back toward his company, capturing a prisoner on the way. With information furnished by Sergeant Wilmot and the additional information obtained from the prisoner, Company G was able to eliminate the hostile strong point and secure the hill. Entered the Service from Creswell, Oregon.

EARL B. THORNTON, 35776260, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1944 in France. During Company B's attack against fanatically defended enemy positions, the leader of Private First Class Thornton's squad was seriously injured, and all but two of the squad members were killed or wounded. Immediately assuming command, Private First Class Thornton collected several men from an adjoining company and swiftly organized them into an effective combat unit. While the remainder of his company was pinned down by heavy small arms and mortar fire, he led his squad forward in a daring maneuver against the hostile positions. Bravely exposing himself, he skillfully directed his men in silencing a machine gun which had imperilled his entire company. Then, after returning the soldiers to their units, he moved back to the fire-swept area and assisted in evacuating several seriously wounded men. By his daring resourcefulness and aggressive leadership, he eliminated a serious threat to the safety of his company and enabled the unit to move into more advantageous positions. Entered the Service from Huntington, West Virginia.

DONALD F. PLASKI, 36809766, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 June 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Plaski, gunner in a machine gun squad, advanced with his company in an attack against stubbornly defended enemy positions on an important hill. As the attackers pressed forward, they were subjected to a heavy artillery and mortar barrage, and Private First Class Plaski was wounded by shell fragments from a nearby explosion. Although dazed by the concussion and suffering intense pain, he continued forward to his squad's objective. Spotting a group of hostile soldiers in a draw, he crawled to a firing position and put his gun into action. Sweeping the enemy with rapid, accurate bursts of fire,

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he killed several and forced the remainder to flee in disorder. While he and the other members of his squad were digging their gun emplacement, enemy artillery scored a direct hit on the position, killing the squad leader and assistant gunner. Private First Class Plaski unhesitatingly assumed command and skillfully reorganized the squad. Only after seeing that his men were occupying advantageous firing positions and were amply supplied with food and ammunition would he consent to be evacuated. His aggressiveness and courage contributed materially to his unit's success in the attack. Entered the Service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

WILLIAM VAN MILLIGAN, 36612180, Private First Class, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 September 1944 in France. When Company A's advance was stopped by strong enemy resistance, members of the unit established a defensive position to meet a hostile counterattack. The company area was subjected to a heavy artillery barrage followed by a determined assault by enemy infantry. Company A suffered numerous casualties and was ordered to withdraw from the untenable position. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Private First Class Van Milligan voluntarily moved forward to a point beyond the friendly troops and opened fire with his automatic rifle to cover their withdrawal. Although he became the target for direct small arms and mortar fire, he determinedly maintained his exposed position, sweeping the onrushing enemy with rapid, accurate bursts of fire. He succeeded in delaying the attackers until his company had established new defenses. He then rejoined his squad and accompanied it on a flanking maneuver which resulted in the elimination of three enemy positions. Entered the Service from South Nolland, Illinois.

JOSEPH A. LO GUIDICE, 32303543, Private First Class, Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944 in France. A large hostile force launched a determined attack against the sector defended by the 1st Platoon of the Antitank Company. The enemy directed rapid bursts of machine gun fire along the street where one of the company's trucks was parked. While the remainder of his squad fought with rifles from the comparative safety of a house, Private First Class LoGuidice courageously left his covered position and ran through direct hostile fire to the truck. Calmly operating the machine gun mounted on the vehicle, he swept the hostile troops with accurate fire. Although he became the target for heavy enemy fire, he remained in position and continued manning the weapon until a ruptured cartridge caused a stoppage. Ignoring the heavy small arms fire, he skillfully removed the cartridge and again began operating the machine gun. His effective fire destroyed three enemy machine gun nests, wounded one hostile soldier and killed ten. His courage and aggressiveness were the determining factors in repelling the enemy assault. Entered the Service from Jersey City, New Jersey.

ROBERT T. ALCOTT, 32637592, Private First Class, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 September 1944 in France. During an enemy counterattack, when the building which housed the 1st Battalion Command Post was set afire by machine gun tracer bullets, a temporary command post was hastily established in a ditch beside the road. Private First Class Alcott, runner for Company A, volunteered to return 200 yards to the burning house and tap in a wire in order to establish communications with regimental headquarters. Alternately crawling and running under direct machine gun and artillery fire, he reached the wire head, established the line and returned to the ditch. When

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artillery shelling shattered the line, Private First Class Alcott again volunteered to establish the vital communications. Moving across a half mile of shell-blasted terrain, he swiftly repaired the break. He was returning to his unit when he spotted a wounded soldier lying in an open field exposed to the hostile fire. Aware of the casualty's urgent need for medical attention, he helped the injured man through heavy machine gun and artillery fire to the comparative safety of a ditch and then, without assistance, carried him almost a mile to the aid station. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

III. 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:

GAYE H. PARE, 19166856, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 February 1945 in France. As acting leader of the 2d Platoon, Sergeant Pare led his men in clearing a street strongly held by enemy troops. Skillfully coordinating the movements of the 1st Platoon with his own unit, he led his squads from one house to another with such rapidity that the startled enemy was unable to recover from the surprise of the assault. After three houses had been taken, he spotted five enemy soldiers in a machine gun emplacement and, with the aid of a comrade, captured them before they could fire a shot. While preparing to attack the last house, he was wounded by an enemy grenade. Refusing to be evacuated, he directed his men in taking the house and in spite of heavy fire, adjusted artillery and mortars on the enemy to eliminate the danger of a counterattack. His valor and aggressiveness was largely responsible for the rout of the enemy and the capture of approximately 50 prisoners. Entered the Service from Kelso, Washington.

CHARLES W. LEADINGHAM, 33715052, Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 in France. When Company B was threatened by a large scale enemy counterattack, the 3d Platoon of Company C, in which Sergeant Leadingham led the 2d Squad, advanced down a mined road under hostile artillery fire to help drive back the attackers. Upon learning the enemy's exact location, Sergeant Leadingham, after killing two of the hostile soldiers, led his squad with other elements of the platoon in overwhelming an observation post in a wooded sector. During the attack against the well-camouflaged positions of the main force of the enemy, he braved machine gun and automatic weapons fire to direct his men in reducing a machine gun emplacement which was endangering the platoon. He personally killed two more hostile soldiers during the fire fight. His aggressive leadership contributed materially to the success of the attack in which 37 of the enemy were killed and 30 captured without a single casualty to the 3d Platoon. Entered the Service from Monaca, Penna.

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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