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

ORIGINAL ORDER
30 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 489

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

SECTION 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.

BERNARD A. ROONEY, 01300387, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 10 to 15 November 1944 in France. Company G was occupying a defensive position when a large hostile force launched a determined assault, inflicting heavy casualties on the unit. As a result of the cold, rainy weather and the incessant enemy rifle grenade and bazooka fire, the company was threatened with disorganization. Lieutenant Rooney, a platoon leader, moved fearlessly over the fire-swept terrain, encouraging and reorganizing his men. In order to direct his platoon with greater effectiveness, he courageously exposed himself to the hostile fire and was painfully wounded by a hurtling shell fragment. Lieutenant Rooney disdained evacuation and, mastering the pain of his wound, determined to remain with his men. He valiantly led his platoon in repelling the enemy thrust and, without a thought for personal safety or comfort, stayed in position for two and a half days. All the members of his platoon were inspired by Lieutenant Rooney's selflessness and devotion to duty and, under his brilliant leadership, repelled a series of savage enemy thrusts. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

JAMES E. MESKILL, 36236452, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 October 1944 in France. Sergeant Meskill was assigned the mission of leading an 18 man patrol to clear an enemy force from a group of three houses in hostile territory. When he approached the buildings, he halted his patrol and, aware of the danger of leading his men into a trap, advanced alone to reconnoiter the area. He spotted an enemy sentinel guarding the houses and, advancing cautiously to within a few feet of the sentry, called to him. As the soldier whirled around and opened fire, Sergeant Meskill calmly returned the fire, killing him with a well-aimed shot. The exchange of fire alerted hostile troops, and, as Sergeant Meskill started back toward his patrol, several enemy soldiers blocked his path. When one leaped at him from a concealed position, Sergeant Meskill fired swiftly and killed him, then whirled and fired point blank at another soldier who had attacked from the rear, killing him with a single shot. He returned to his men and immediately led them back toward the houses. There he discovered that the remainder of the hostile force had abandoned the buildings and fled. Entered the Service from Phillips, Wisconsin.

ANTONIO FIGUEROA, 31296575, Technician Fifth Grade, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 December 1944 in France. Tec. 5 Figueroa spotted two enemy sentries guarding a house in hostile territory and, acting entirely on his own initiative, attempted to capture them. He advanced fearlessly

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across 150 yards of open terrain swept by hostile rifle and machine gun fire. When he reached his objective, he demanded the two soldiers to surrender. He then captured five more of the enemy in the vicinity and marched the group through hostile small arms fire back to the friendly lines. The prisoners, when questioned, gave information which enabled friendly troops to capture over 40 soldiers in the same area which Tec 5 Figueroa had entered alone. His daring and aggressiveness were a source of constant inspiration to his fellow soldiers. Entered the Service from Taunton, Massachusetts

O. L. JONES, 38532779, Private First Class, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 August 1944 in France. One platoon of Company I was occupying a defensive position on one slope of a hill within 100 yards of hostile emplacements on the opposite slope. The area was subjected to a heavy artillery and mortar barrage followed immediately by a savage enemy attack. Private First Class Jones, an automatic rifleman, fired his weapon with deadly accuracy, contributing materially to the repulse of the assault. As the hostile force withdrew, he fearlessly left the safety of his fighting hole and accompanied by a machine gun sergeant, voluntarily pursued the enemy over the crest of the hill to within 20 yards of their positions. Although he was the target for small arms and mortar fire, he sprayed the entire area with rapid bursts of fire from his automatic rifle, remaining dauntlessly in position until his ammunition was expended. He and his companion returned to the friendly lines, secured an additional supply of ammunition and made another raid on the hostile force. He braved direct enemy fire and continued operating his automatic rifle until he had again exhausted his supply of ammunition. During the course of the action he fired at least ten magazines into the midst of the hostile troops. Entered the Service from Lone Oak, Texas.

ARNOLD B. HOSIER, 35875426, Private First Class, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 October 1944 in France. When the advance of the assault platoon was delayed by heavy machine gun and rifle fire from a well-emplaced enemy strong point, a squad from the support platoon was sent out to flank the position. Because of the hilly terrain, Private First Class Hosier, first scout of the squad, suddenly found himself far ahead of his comrades. Advancing alone, he reached the top of a steep cliff and encountered two enemy riflemen. Moving swiftly, he courageously charged the hostile soldiers and killed them both. Although he was the target for heavy enemy fire, he pressed forward and engaged the machine gun in an intense fire fight. When the remainder of the squad moved into position, the gun crew attempted to withdraw. Private First Class Hosier jumped to his feet and pursued the retreating soldiers. Inspired by his intrepidity, his comrades followed him in the chase, killing three of the enemy and capturing three. His quick thinking and courage enabled his company to continue its advance and seize its objective. Entered the Service from Clarksville, Ohio.

WILLIAM R. YOMER, 33733908, Private First Class, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 September 1944 in France. While advancing along a wooded slope in an attack against an enemy road block, the 3d squad of the 1st Platoon was subjected to heavy enemy machine gun fire which delayed its advance. In order to relieve the pressure on his comrades, Private First Class Yomer, an automatic rifleman, courageously worked his way forward to the front of his squad and put his weapon into action behind a stump. Although he was the target for direct machine gun fire, he remained dauntlessly in position and returned the hostile fire. He fired rapidly into the enemy emplacement, expending all of his ammunition, then called to his assistant gunner to throw him an additional supply.

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He maintained his hazardous position and continued firing until he had neutralized the hostile gun, killed one of the enemy soldiers and wounded two others. By his quick-thinking and aggressiveness he erased a serious threat to the safety of his comrades and enabled his squad to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Grantsville, Maryland.

JOHN G. MILLER, 33149148, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 and 12 November 1944 in France. On 11 November the 2d Platoon of Company C was attacking strong enemy defenses. Private First Class Miller, an automatic rifleman, was ordered to lay down a base of fire while the remainder of the platoon assaulted an outpost position. As the men advanced, they were subjected to heavy fire from seven enemy riflemen. Private First Class Miller swiftly put his weapon into action and, with accurate bursts of automatic rifle fire, killed four of the hostile soldiers and wounded one. Then, contemptuous of personal safety, he worked his way forward to an exposed position which afforded a better field of fire. A heavy artillery and mortar barrage preceded a savage enemy counterattack. Undaunted by the fury of the hostile troops, Private First Class Miller dauntlessly remained in position and delayed the charging enemy with effective automatic rifle fire, killing two and wounding several others. He fired steadily, contributing materially to the repulse of two assaults, and then volunteered to remain in position and guard the platoon throughout the night. At dawn the enemy launched another counterattack. Private First Class Miller, constantly on the alert, gave the alarm and opened fire, inflicting many casualties on the hostile troops. He manned his weapon until, after a short, fierce fight, the enemy was forced to withdraw. Entered the Service from Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

JOHN L. MANNEY, 34844909, Private, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 September 1944 in France. Company A's advance was delayed by heavy machine gun and rifle fire from the opposite side of a bridge which spanned a small stream. The 1st Platoon was assigned the mission of smashing the hostile strong point. Private Manney, a scout in one of the assault squads, crossed the stream from a point above the bridge and cautiously advanced through thick underbrush. Spotting an enemy rifleman, he opened fire and wounded him. He then made his way up a ditch beside the road to a position above and behind the machine gun nest. Fearlessly exposing himself to the hostile fire, he hurled hand grenades into the enemy emplacement, silencing the machine gun and its crew. By his quick-thinking and aggressiveness, Private Manney destroyed an enemy strong point and enabled his organization to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Ripley, Mississippi.

CLEBER ROUSE, 14187779, Private, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 October 1944 in France. Private Rouse was attached as aid man to the 1st Platoon of Company G during an attack against well-defended enemy positions. The platoon was advancing across an open field when the enemy suddenly opened fire with machine guns and rifles, inflicting several casualties on the attackers. Although the field was swept by hostile fire, Private Rouse unhesitatingly left his place of cover and made his way to one of the injured soldiers. While he was administering first aid, a bullet narrowly missed Private Rouse and killed the wounded man whom he was treating. Retaining his calmness and self-control, Private Rouse braved the incessant fire to reach another of the casualties. In spite of the accuracy of the enemy fire, he continued rendering first aid treatment to the wounded soldiers, working tirelessly and skillfully to save the lives of his comrades. Entered the Service from Seven Springs, North Carolina.

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SECTION II - AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

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

FRANCIS CULOTTA, 01320437, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 and 11 September 1944 in France. Lieutenant Culotta, platoon leader in the Cannon Company, was assigned the mission of spearheading the regimental advance from a recently captured town to the high ground overlooking an important enemy stronghold. He took an exposed position on the leading self-propelled 75mm cannon of his platoon. When the unit encountered a strong enemy road block defended by an antitank gun, two machine guns and a truckload of hostile troops, Lieutenant Culotta ordered the crew of the gun he was riding to charge the enemy positions. Although he became the target for heavy fire, he directed his gun crew in destroying the enemy weapons and killing 12 soldiers. With this strong point eliminated, the platoon continued its advance until four well-concealed anti-aircraft guns opened fire on the group. Lieutenant Culotta jumped to the ground, deployed his tanks on both sides of the road and, moving about on foot, led them in an encircling attack on the hostile position. Under his guidance, effective fire directed on the enemy guns forced the crews to abandon them. As a result of Lieutenant Culotta's aggressive leadership, the regiment moved without opposition to the high ground overlooking the enemy-held town. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:



VINCENT M. LOCKHART
Captain, Adjutant General's Department
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