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6 MAR 1945

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

AG RECORDS SEC

6 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 66

- Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I
- Award of Silver Star.....II
- Corrected Award of Silver Star - Posthumous.....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:

FRANK J. BELTER, 36833083, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1945 in France. While attacking well-fortified houses in an enemy-held town, friendly troops were halted by heavy machine gun fire from the left flank. Sergeant Belter volunteered to lead his squad across open, fire-swept terrain into a group of houses from which they could deliver fire on the enemy's rear. Fully aware of the danger involved, he started to advance across the open space. While running toward his objective, Sergeant Belter was killed by the machine gun fire. His heroic action inspired his comrades to renewed aggressiveness against the hostile force. Next of kin: Mrs. Lela Belter (Wife), 729 1st Avenue North, Park Falls, Wisconsin.

ELDON B. KELLER, 35894681, Private First Class, Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 in France. Private First Class Keller was a member of a heavy machine gun section supporting the 2d Platoon of Company B in the defense. Enemy troops overran the 3d Platoon positions and attacked the 2d Platoon from the rear. Although the hostile force was firing machine guns and rifles from a distance of only 100 yards, Private First Class Keller and two companions left their well dug in position and moved across open terrain, through the heavy small arms fire, to a new position which afforded a better field of fire. Swiftly putting the machine gun into action, they delivered effective fire into the midst of the attackers, checking their advance and eventually forcing them to withdraw. By their courage and aggressiveness, Private First Class Keller and his comrades prevented the enemy from overwhelming the platoon's defenses. Private First Class Keller was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Margaret G. Keller (Wife), Rt. #5, Elkhart, Indiana.

JOHN LYNCH, 36688599, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 September 1944 in France. As scouts in the 2d Platoon during an attack against an important hill, Private First Class Lynch and a companion led the way up the densely wooded slope. Through the thick mist that covered the hill, they spotted four enemy soldiers preparing to fire an antitank gun at the advancing platoon. Moving swiftly, Private First Class Lynch and his comrade charged the hostile gun position and, in spite of small arms fire from enemy soldiers emplaced further up the hill, captured ten prisoners before their platoon arrived. As a result of their quick-thinking and boldness, the company was able to seize its objective with little resistance. Private First Class Lynch was killed in action during a subsequent engagement.

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(GO 66, Hq 36th Inf Div, 6 March 1945, cont'd)

Next of kin: Mrs. Margaret Lynch, (Mother), 18 South Kildare Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

RICHARD H. ZOROMSKI, 36680970, Private First Class, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 February 1945 in France. During an attack against a well-defended enemy town, the squad leader and scouts of the 1st Squad of the 1st Platoon were trapped in a shed by hostile machine gun fire. Realizing the urgency of freeing his comrades, Private First Class Zorowski stepped forward and, exposing himself to the enemy fire, began operating his automatic rifle. He killed two of the hostile soldiers with his accurate fire, and the other squad members routed the remainder of the enemy with hand grenades. While performing this valiant deed, Private First Class Zorowski was mortally wounded by the hostile fire. His heroic sacrifice was a source of great inspiration to his comrades. Next of kin: Mrs. Anna Ostrowski, (Mother), 1119 Marthas Lane, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

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:

BERNHARDT J. MEIER, 0378498, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 January 1945 in France. Captain Meier, Battalion S-3, was following closely behind B Company during a night attack. When the enemy opened fire with small arms, the company became partially disorganized. Captain Meier moved through the company, reorganizing squads and platoons, and skillfully placed the men in advantageous positions. His calmness under fire restored confidence in the men and enabled the company to take and hold its objective. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

JAMES G. EBERHARDT, JR., 01061104, Second Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 January 1945 in France. Lieutenant Eberhardt, leader of the 2d Platoon, was assigned the mission of bringing up the left flank during his company's attack on high ground. About half way up the hill the platoon was halted by heavy small arms fire from dug-in positions. Lieutenant Eberhardt, despite the hostile fire, immediately led his platoon in a flanking maneuver by which they assaulted the hostile positions. By his skill and courage he led his men through to their objective and materially aided them in killing four of the enemy and capturing at least fifteen. Entered the Service from Tampa, Florida.

RALPH J. IANNIELLO, JR., 02055283, Second Lieutenant, (then Staff Sergeant), 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 October 1944 in France. The 1st Platoon, with Sergeant Ianniello in command, was in position on the crest of a hill with the hostile emplacements only 40 yards away. Sergeant Ianniello and several riflemen attempted to advance. Moving forward through heavy machine gun and mortar fire, Sergeant Ianniello fired his bazooka at the enemy. He suffered severe burns from his weapon and was struck in the face by shell fragments. In spite of intense pain, he continued to advance, firing rifle grenades into the midst of the hostile group and forcing the enemy machine gunners to flee. Throughout the entire engagement, he distinguished himself by his personal bravery and his aggressive leadership. Entered the Service from Mount Vernon, New York.

- 2 -

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19 MAR 1945

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19 MAR 1945

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(GO 66, Hq 36th Inf Div, 6 March 1945, contd)

RALPH E. CAIN, 35750633, Technical Sergeant, (then Staff Sergeant), Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

STUART O. STUMP, 33047962, Private First Class, Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Monaker, Virginia.

for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 in France. These men were members of a heavy machine gun section supporting the 2d Platoon of Company B in the defense. Enemy troops overran the 3d Platoon positions and attacked the 2d Platoon from the rear. Although the hostile force was firing machine guns and rifles from a distance of only 100 yards, the above men left their well dug in position and moved across open terrain, through the heavy small arms fire, to a new position which afforded a better field of fire. Swiftly putting the machine gun into action, they delivered effective fire into the midst of the attackers, checking their advance and eventually forcing them to withdraw. By their courage and aggressiveness, these men prevented the enemy from overwhelming the platoon's defenses.

PERSHING E. FREEMAN, 33503886, Technical Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 January 1945 in France. While returning from a combat mission, the 2d Platoon of Company B encountered an enemy patrol, and the 2d Squad was ordered to outflank the hostile group. As the Squad advanced, it was pinned down by enemy small arms fire. Observing that the squad was in difficulty, Sergeant Freeman, the platoon sergeant, worked his way through hostile fire to the squad, firing his sub-machine gun as he advanced. After expending all of his ammunition, he secured an automatic rifle from one of the squad members and, standing up in the face of the enemy fire, led the squad in an assault. As a result of his aggressive leadership, the hostile patrol was routed, four of the enemy soldiers were killed and one was wounded. Entered the Service from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

MARTIN F. ROBINSON, 37615900, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 January 1945 in France. Sergeant Robinson, acting platoon leader, was assigned the mission of bringing up the right flank during his company's attack on high ground. About half way up the hill the platoon encountered heavy enemy rifle and machine gun fire and engaged the enemy in a fire fight which lasted approximately 30 minutes. During this time Sergeant Robinson skillfully controlled the advance of his platoon, although it was frequently necessary to expose himself to the enemy fire. By his skill and courage he led his men through to their objective and materially aided them in killing eight of the enemy and capturing fourteen. Entered the Service from Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

GEORGE LUCAS, 33764685, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 September 1944 in France. As scouts in the 2d Platoon during an attack against an important hill, Private First Class Lucas and a companion led the way up the densely wooded slope. Through the thick mist that covered the hill, they spotted four enemy soldiers preparing to fire an antitank gun at the advancing platoon. Moving swiftly, Private First Class Lucas and his comrade charged the hostile gun position and, in spite of small arms fire from enemy soldiers emplaced further up the hill, captured

- 3 -

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(GO 66; Hq 36th Inf Div, 6 March 1945, contd)

ten prisoners before their platoon arrived. As a result of their quick-thinking and boldness, the company was able to seize its objective with little resistance. Entered the Service from Scalp Level, Pennsylvania.

III. CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR - POSTHUMOUS. So much of Section I, General Orders 56, this Headquarters, dated 1 March 1945, as awards a Silver Star to THOMAS A. VOLTERO, 31301199, Sergeant, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

"Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action:

"THOMAS A. VOLTERO, 31301199, Sergeant, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 November 1944 in France. Company G was assigned the mission of attacking stubbornly defended positions on important high ground. Sergeant Voltero, advancing at the head of his men, led the assault squad of the 3d Platoon. An enemy machine gun suddenly opened fire, sweeping the area with rapid bursts and inflicting heavy casualties on the attackers. Aware of the necessity for immediate, aggressive action, Sergeant Voltero, moving under direct enemy observation and machine gun and sniper fire, crawled to the rear of his platoon and obtained a grenade launcher. He returned to his original position and, while his squad remained pinned to the ground, crawled dauntlessly forward to a point within 50 yards of the hostile gun emplacement. Although he was the target for heavy, direct fire, he took careful aim and fired two rounds into the enemy position, completely destroying the machine gun. His quick-thinking and daring saved his unit from suffering many casualties and enabled the company to hold its position. Sergeant Voltero was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Alexander Voltero (Brother), 48 Chestnut Street, Chelsea, Massachusetts."

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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