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Authority NND 35017

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

RECORDS SEC.

30 April 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 158

- 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:

JOHN F. GRIGAS, 31107099, Private First Class, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Next of kin: Mr. Thomas Grigas (Brother), 54 Kinsley Street, Nashua, New Hampshire.

DUANE R. FINCH, 36482752, Private, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Next of kin: Mrs. Celia Finch (Mother), RFD 2, Utica, Illinois.

for gallantry in action on 27 September 1944 in France. When the enemy laid down a heavy artillery and mortar barrage, an officer and several members of his party were severely wounded. Although fatigued by their dangerous work during the preceding 24 hours, these men, litter bearers attached to a rifle company, voluntarily left their covered position and ran to aid the injured soldiers. While shells crashed around them, they began administering first aid to the casualties, working calmly and skillfully until they were both killed by shell fragments. Their magnificent courage and heroic sacrifice served as an inspiration to all who witnessed their deed.

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:

RAYMOND A. GROSSMAN, 01176647, First Lieutenant, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action from 12 to 14 December 1944 in France. When a determined enemy attack forced two infantry platoons to withdraw to a school building which housed the artillery observation post, Lieutenant Grossman, the only officer in the town, immediately assumed command of the group. In addition to adjusting effective artillery and mortar fire on the hostile troops, he planned the defense of the schoolhouse and, although wounded, directed the infantrymen in repelling a series of enemy thrusts. When his position was surrounded by German troops, all his communications disrupted and the ammunition supply almost exhausted, Lieutenant Grossman valiantly led the remaining 60 men through the German lines to contact friendly forces. His gallant action and courageous leadership were responsible for inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and for saving the infantry troops under his command. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

- 1 -  
(over)

~~RESTRICTED~~

36th INF DIVISION

1945



~~RESTRICTED~~

(GO 158, Hq 36th Inf Div, 30 April 1945, contd)

ROBERT STENGER, 01314687, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1945 in France. In a night attack on a wooded area, Lieutenant Stenger's platoon was subjected to intense machine gun and rifle fire. Shouting words of encouragement to his men, he led them forward to assault the hostile position and the enemy force was routed. Learning that the platoon leader of the other assault platoon had been wounded, he moved under sniper fire to the other unit and assisted the platoon sergeant in reorganizing his men. Then, by moving back and forth between the two groups, Lieutenant Stenger led both platoons under tank fire in a daring flank attack, forcing two enemy tanks and the infantry elements to flee. His brilliant and heroic leadership enabled the company to seize its important objective. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

HAROLD E. WEIBEL, 01319805, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 November 1944 in France. Ordered to lead his platoon in clearing the western section of the town, Lieutenant Weibel assaulted the first house by himself and forced the enemy to fall back. Then, advancing as first scout, he led a four-man combat patrol in clearing the next two buildings. Despite fire from an enemy machine pistol, he forced open the door of the fourth house and captured one German. By questioning his prisoner, Lieutenant Weibel learned that over 20 of the enemy were occupying a building further up the street. Again leading his patrol forward, he took the hostile strong point completely by surprise and captured 28 Germans. As a result of his personal aggressiveness and daring leadership, a foothold was established in the town, and the remainder of the battalion was able to enter and seize its objective. Entered the Service from Joliet, Illinois.

BATTISTA LORENZINI, 36320267, Staff Sergeant, Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Lorenzini was advancing in a motor convoy with his platoon, when the column ran into an ambush. Armed only with 45 caliber pistols, the men could not return the heavy hostile small arms fire effectively, and a number were wounded. Sergeant Lorenzini immediately made his way to the 50 caliber machine gun on one of the trucks and, ordering the men to seek cover across the open terrain, opened fire to divert the enemy's attention. While he fired, mortar shells burst around him, but he valiantly held his position and, even after he was seriously wounded by a machine pistol, he continued to fire until reinforcements arrived. By his gallant action Sergeant Lorenzini permitted his comrades to reach a point of safety and organize a counterattack. Entered the Service from Peoria, Ill.

HERMAN L. SCHOMBURG, 35779155, Staff Sergeant (then Private), Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 November 1944 in France. When Company B's attack was halted and the leading squad was pinned down by heavy machine gun fire from a well-camouflaged position, Private Schomburg valiantly stood erect to draw the hostile fire and locate the gun emplacement. He instantly became the target for the hostile fire, and machine gun bullets ripped holes in his jacket. He spotted the position and, displaying extraordinary calmness, fired two clips of rifle ammunition, killing five of the enemy and silencing the machine gun. His aggressive actions and magnificent courage enabled his company to continue forward and overwhelm the enemy defenses in the area. Entered the Service from Portsmouth, Ohio.

- 2 -

~~RESTRICTED~~

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND 235017



1945

36th INF Division

1-236

~~RESTRICTED~~

(GO 158, Hq 36th Inf Div, 30 April 1945, contd)

WILLIAM T. SNIDER, 35613467, Sergeant, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 February 1945 in France. Two soldiers were wounded in an enemy minefield while on a night reconnaissance patrol. Sergeant Snider and the other patrol members attempted to remove the casualties, but a third man was injured by a mine explosion. Displaying sound judgment in time of confusion, Sergeant Snider went back to the friendly lines and returned with a litter and a rescue party. During the subsequent attempts to evacuate the casualties, two more soldiers were wounded by exploding mines. Sergeant Snider made five trips into the minefield; and, after four hours, he and the other members of the party succeeded in removing all of the wounded to a place of safety. By his courageous actions, Sergeant Snider displayed a devotion to his men that far surpassed all regard for personal safety. Entered the Service from Louisville, Kentucky.

VALENTINE J. SPEYERER, 42084021, Technician Fourth Grade, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. Tec 4 Speyerer's squad had the mission of protecting the left flank of the company during an attack. As the men moved forward, an enemy machine gun, 75 yards to their front opened fire, halting the advance of the entire company. Tec 4 Speyerer immediately led his six-man squad forward in a flank attack. In the face of intense hostile fire, they rushed the position, firing their rifles as they went. Their fire killed one of the enemy and destroyed the gun. Tec 4 Speyerer quickly leaped into the position and captured the other three members of the crew. Observing another enemy machine gun position nearby, he again led his men in an assault which captured three more Germans and neutralized the gun. His gallant and aggressive actions enabled his company to continue its advance and secure its objective. Entered the Service from Camden, New Jersey.

LOYD A. SMITH, 33757132, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 February 1945 in France. During an attack against a stubbornly defended enemy town, three soldiers were seriously wounded by mine explosions in an open area, subjected to heavy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. Unhesitatingly Tec 5 Smith crawled into the mined area and, braving the hostile fire, calmly administered first aid to the most seriously wounded man. Then, after directing the other two casualties to crawl to a covered position in a nearby house, he carried his patient out of the minefield. Upon reaching the building, he treated the other two injured soldiers and supervised the evacuation of all three casualties. Later, he again worked his way across a mined area under heavy enemy machine gun fire to treat and evacuate another wounded man. His heroic efforts inspired the respect and confidence of the riflemen, assuring all casualties prompt medical attention. Entered the Service from Blairsville, Pennsylvania.

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:

JAMES G. EBERHARDT, JR., 01061104, Second-Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 March 1945 in Germany. Lieutenant Eberhardt's platoon was attacking Siegfried Line positions with the support of

- 3 -  
(over)

~~RESTRICTED~~

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(GO 158, Hq 36th Inf Div, 30 April 1945, contd)

a tank destroyer, when the vehicle was halted by a deep tank trap. The enemy immediately lighted the area with flares, and delivered a heavy concentration of bazooka, rocket and mortar fire on the platoon's position. The tank destroyer opened fire on the hostile positions with its 30 caliber machine gun, but the enemy fire continued unabated. It was imperative that more fire power be obtained, as the troops were in a completely exposed position. Lieutenant Eberhardt valiantly jumped on top of the tank destroyer, and opened fire with its 50 caliber machine gun. His steady and accurate fire, while enemy bullets ricocheted from the vehicle, silenced the hostile weapons and enabled the members of his platoon to move to more advantageous positions. Entered the Service from Plant City, Florida.

BERNARD P. BELL, 34336107, Technical Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1945 in France. Sergeant Bell, platoon sergeant of the 2d Platoon, led one of his squads through heavy enemy small arms fire to assault a strongly fortified factory building. After capturing seven Germans and occupying the strong point, he encouraged his men to maintain their position despite an intense enemy mortar barrage. Later, while clearing a group of enemy-held houses in the town, Sergeant Bell killed two machine gunners and neutralized the hostile fire, enabling the remainder of his platoon to seize the position and capture 25 Germans. Again exposing himself to heavy small arms fire, he directed his men in firing on another enemy strong point and contributed materially to the capture of 15 additional prisoners. Then, by a bold flanking maneuver, he directed his platoon in capturing approximately 30 more Germans. His outstanding valor and brilliant leadership enabled his unit to accomplish its important mission in a minimum of time. Entered the Service from Columbiana, Alabama.

FRANK L. NAHLEN, 38669521, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 March 1945 in Germany. While advancing in an attack on an enemy-held town, the 3d Platoon was halted by heavy machine gun fire from a position 200 yards to the front. Although their companions sought cover, Private First Class Nahlen and one companion, an automatic rifle team, continued forward in the face of the hostile fire. They immediately became the target for the enemy gunners, but they moved dauntlessly forward, firing their weapons as they advanced. By their aggressive action, they captured two Germans and their machine gun. A second machine gun crew abandoned their weapon and fled, and Private First Class Nahlen and his comrade captured this gun also. Their determination and courage enabled their platoon to continue its advance and seize its objective. Entered the Service from Conway, Arkansas.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

*Vincent M. Lochhart*  
VINCENT M. LOCHART  
Major, Adjutant General's Department  
Asst Adjutant General

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36th INF Division

1945