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

AG RECORDS SEC.

10 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 213

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:

CHARLES DOLEJSI, JR., 38456379, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Dolejsi was given the mission of leading a six-man combat patrol to determine enemy strength on a nearby ridge. During the reconnaissance a fierce fire fight developed, and the enemy attempted to move a machine gun and several riflemen to the patrol's left flank. Having secured the necessary information, Sergeant Dolejsi ordered his men to withdraw. However, the enemy flanking force presented a serious threat to a successful withdrawal, and Sergeant Dolejsi dashed through heavy small arms fire to a position from which he could deliver fire on the hostile group. Bravely exposing himself to the enemy fire, he threw a hand grenade which silenced the machine gun and then pinned down the riflemen with effective rifle fire. By his quick-thinking and aggressiveness, Sergeant Dolejsi killed five Germans, wounded approximately six more, and enabled his men to complete their important mission. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

BERLIN W. BELL, 33658602, Staff Sergeant (then Corporal), Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. As the 2d Platoon attacked well-defended enemy positions in the face of intense artillery, mortar, rocket and small arms fire, both the platoon leader and platoon sergeant became casualties, and disorganization threatened the group. Realizing that hesitation might mean disaster, Corporal Bell immediately led his squad in a daring frontal assault. He killed two Germans and captured six prisoners as his squad overran and secured the positions. Later, when heavy self-propelled gun fire rendered the company positions untenable and the order to withdraw was given, Corporal Bell remained to cover the movement of his squad. Seeing one of his men wounded, he swiftly administered first aid and, while shells crashed in the immediate vicinity, carried his wounded comrade to a place of safety. Entered the Service from Laurel Branch, West Virginia.

PHILLIP L. HAYES, 36837839, Sergeant (then Private), Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 October 1944 in France. As the 3d Platoon spearheaded Company F's advance toward a wooded hill the men were halted by heavy enemy rifle and machine gun fire. After five hours of bitter fighting in which no progress was made, Private Hayes, an automatic rifleman, volunteered to destroy the machine gun that was holding up the advance. Although he became the target for enemy fire and bullets struck within inches of him, he

- 1 -
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(GO 213, Hq 36th Inf Div, 10 June 1945, contd)

worked his way around to the flank and alternately crawled and ran 150 yards until he reached a position from which he could observe the enemy machine gun. He then exposed himself to open fire with his automatic rifle and killed the two members of the gun crew, silencing their weapon. As other Germans attempted to reach the machine gun, he courageously continued to fire, wounding at least two of them and preventing the enemy from reaching the weapon. By his gallant and aggressive actions, Private Hayes enabled his company to renew the advance and seize the hill. Entered the Service from Jim Falls, Wisconsin.

FRANCIS A. HILDRETH, 32727156, Technician Fourth Grade, Company C, 753d Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 10 February 1945 in France. Tec 4 Hildreth was driving a tank which had the mission of covering a bulldozer as it cleared a road block during a night attack. A fragment of a machine gun bullet painfully wounded him. Although advised by his tank commander to give up his position to the assistant driver and seek first aid, he refused to do so. Instead, despite the pain of his wound, he remained at his post, skillfully maneuvering his tank back and forth on the road near the bulldozer. When the tank had completed its mission he received first aid and was evacuated to the hospital. Tec 4 Hildreth's courageous devotion to duty was a source of inspiration to the other members of his crew. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

ROBERT N. PATTERSON, 35277402, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private First Class), Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 14 December 1944 in France. Company A was given the mission of defending a sector of the line on an important hill, and Private First Class Patterson was assigned as a gunner in a machine gun squad. At dawn the enemy launched a strong counterattack and succeeded in penetrating a section of the line. Although his position was subjected to both frontal and flanking fire, Private First Class Patterson remained determinedly in position, delivering accurate fire into the midst of the attackers. A squad of 12 Germans assaulted his gun emplacement, and one of the soldiers hurled a grenade into the position. Although stunned by the concussion, Private First Class Patterson killed or wounded all the squad members with his effective fire. Throughout the day he maintained his position and, by his determination and aggressiveness, drove back a series of enemy attacks until the engineers were relieved by infantry troops. Entered the Service from Waverly, Ohio.

KENNETH S. EGGLESTON, 32855189, Private First Class, Company M, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1945 in France. Private First Class Eggleston, with the help of a comrade, was manning a machine gun protecting the left flank of his unit when the enemy launched a counterattack with the support of six tanks. As approximately 20 of the enemy attempted to infiltrate past his position, he waited until they were within 150 yards and then opened fire, killing two of the hostile soldiers, wounding an undetermined number and dispersing the remainder of the group. Later, when relieved by a new gun crew, Private First Class Eggleston, on his own initiative, reconnoitered the area where the Germans had been seen and found two trying to escape. He immediately opened fire, wounding both men, and then, advancing further, he captured three enemy soldiers. By his courage and alertness, he aided materially in repelling the strong hostile attack. Entered the Service from Glen Falls, New York.

- 2 -

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(GO 213, Hq 36th Inf Div, 10 June 1945, contd)

JOSE A. SARABIA, 36842118, Private First Class, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. The men of Company L were halted by heavy fire from two enemy machine guns as they advanced to attack a town. Private First Class Sarabia, an automatic rifleman, was assigned the mission of attempting to flank and destroy the first enemy machine gun. Crawling forward about 40 yards to the left of the position, he opened fire and killed two Germans, neutralizing the machine gun. Despite the fact that he was the target for enemy machine gun, rifle and rifle grenade fire, he immediately moved toward the second gun. He advanced forward in the face of the enemy fire for 50 yards. Reaching a point 150 yards from the hostile machine gun he rose to a crouched position and, as bullets struck around him, dashed forward, firing his automatic rifle from the hip. In his bold charge toward the enemy position, Private First Class Sarabia killed a German officer, wounded the other member of the machine gun crew, and enabled his company to advance into the town. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

HOWARD L. PITTS, 34948335, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. While attacking a strongly fortified sector of the Siegfried Line, Company A encountered a fully manned and well-defended strong point. When the leader of the 1st Platoon was seriously wounded and the leader and assistant squad leader of Private First Class Pitts' squad became casualties, Private First Class Pitts, realizing that a delay might result in disaster, swiftly rallied the remaining men and led them in a daring assault. Crossing more than 100 yards of open ground in the face of intense enemy small arms and shell fire, he directed his men in overrunning the hostile position, personally killing one German and forcing five to surrender. His aggressive leadership enabled the company to continue forward and seize its objective, killing eight more Germans and capturing twenty prisoners. Entered the Service from Carrollton, Georgia.

JOHN M. TEJADA, 36675241, Private First Class, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Tejada, an automatic rifleman, was manning a telephone outpost beyond friendly lines and 300 yards from the enemy when he observed approximately 100 Germans preparing to attack. He immediately directed accurate mortar fire and disorganized the hostile force. The enemy then discovered his outpost and sent a nine man patrol to destroy it. When the hostile soldiers opened fire from a distance of 75 yards, Private First Class Tejada returned their fire with his automatic rifle. During the fire fight which ensued, he valiantly stood his ground, killing seven members of the enemy patrol and wounding the other two Germans. The enemy then directed 20mm gun fire on him, but he remained steadfastly in position and directed mortar fire on the hostile troops, inflicting many casualties and finally forcing them to withdraw. Entered the Service from Floresville, Texas.

LEON G. BONNER, 33546475, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. The 2d Platoon received the mission of passing through the position of another friendly unit which had been halted in its advance by heavy machine gun fire. After advancing 50 yards further the men were pinned down by fire from the same enemy weapon.

- 3 -
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(GO 213, Hq 36th Inf Div, 10 June 1945, contd)

Private First Class Bonner volunteered for the hazardous mission of destroying the hostile machine gun. As two comrades delivered covering rifle fire, he dashed from tree to tree and crawled along the ground until close to the enemy position. Then, quickly rushing the position in the face of the enemy fire, he killed the two Germans manning the gun and put their weapon out of action. Private First Class Bonner's courageous and aggressive act enabled the members of his platoon to continue their advance. Entered the Service from Richmond, Virginia.

FREDERICK LUSINGER, 39257147, Private First Class, Medic 1 Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. When the leader of the 1st Platoon was seriously wounded by machine gun fire, Private First Class Lusinger, although assigned as aid man with another platoon, unhesitatingly crossed several hundred yards of exposed terrain to reach the casualty. Finding him bleeding profusely from several wounds, he carried the officer to the slight cover afforded by nearby trees. He was the target for intense machine gun and mortar fire; over 300 mortar rounds fell in the platoon area in just over a half hour. With shells crashing within three yards of him, Private First Class Lusinger protected his patient with his own body. Despite the hostile fire, he skillfully treated the officer's wounds and remained with him in the dangerous area for over four hours. His courageous actions, performed at the risk of his own life, were responsible for saving the life of the injured officer. Entered the Service from Montebello, California.

HENRY O. INGRAM, 38668336, Private First Class (then Private), Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1944 in France. When the platoon's advance was halted by crossfire from enemy machine guns and by heavy rifle fire, Private Ingram, an acting squad leader, located one of the German gun positions by the weapon's muzzle blast. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he began crawling forward in the face of the hostile fire in an attempt to silence the machine gun. Upon reaching a position which afforded a good field of fire, he bravely exposed himself to fire rifle grenades into the emplacement. His accurate fire killed two of the crew members and forced the others to flee. By his quick-thinking and aggressiveness, he eliminated a serious threat to the safety of his platoon. Entered the Service from Doniphan, Missouri.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DAHLQUIST:

JESSE B. MATLACK
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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- 4 -
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