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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

29 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 103

Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I
Award of Silver Star.....II

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:

REEL L. YOUNGBLOOD, 14131124, Private First Class, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 and 15 September 1944 in France. When a machine gun squad was cut off from other friendly elements during an attack against a well-defended town, Private First Class Youngblood, a Company F runner, set out with the mission of contacting the squad. As he ran across a street to the gate of a courtyard, the concussion from an enemy grenade threw him against the wall. Although dazed, he continued on and located the squad in a nearby courtyard. Almost immediately the enemy established a strong defense outside the courtyard. Private First Class Youngblood braved hostile fire to work his way back through the enemy positions to the main body of the friendly force. By informing his company commander of the squad's location, he enabled the group to launch a successful assault and rejoin the machine gun squad. He was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Verda Youngblood (mother), 2212 North 32d Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama.

JOHN F. GRIGAS, 31107099, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, 27 September 1944, France. Next of kin: Mr. Thomas Grigas (Brother), 54 Winsley Street, Nashua, New Hampshire.

DUANE R. FINCH, 36482752, Private, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, 27 September 1944, France. 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:

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FINTAN A. MURPHY, 0498621, Captain, Chaplains Corps, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 20 October to 16 November 1944 in France. On 20 October, during the 2d Battalion's attack against stubbornly defended enemy positions on a mountain ridge, Chaplain Murphy accompanied the battalion commander to the front lines. Exposing himself to mortar and small arms fire, he talked with stragglers and encouraged them to rejoin their units and continue the fight. On 9 November, when Company F's hastily prepared positions were subjected to heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire, Chaplain Murphy went to the forward area and, exposing himself to the hostile fire, moved to each fighting hole, solacing the men and ministering to their spiritual needs. On 16 November, while driving toward a town between the friendly and enemy lines to conduct funeral services for a French civilian, he was severely wounded by a mine explosion. Entered the Service from New York, N. Y.

MORRIS H. O'DELL, 0419632, Captain, Medical Corps, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. Captain O'Dell, the 3d Battalion surgeon, advanced with the attacking companies to establish a forward aid station. When the enemy launched a strong counterattack, the building which housed his aid station was subjected to heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Although the house was almost demolished by 14 mortar hits, Captain O'Dell refused to withdraw and remained in the dangerous position, furnishing prompt medical treatment for the numerous casualties and supervising the successful evacuation of 41 wounded soldiers. By his outstanding courage in operating his aid station under extremely hazardous conditions, he saved the lives of men too seriously wounded to have survived a delay in treatment. Entered the Service from South Charleston, West Virginia.

WILLIAM N. TANNER, 38541491, Technical Sergeant, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 December 1944 in France. When the remnants of three rifle platoons and the attached machine gun squads were surrounded by SS troops in a stubbornly defended town, Sergeant Tanner, a squad leader, assumed command of the group and, exposing himself to enemy observation and fire, organized as strong a defense as possible. Although communications were cut and the supply of ammunition almost exhausted, Sergeant Tanner refused to surrender. He made a personal reconnaissance of the dangerous area for a route of withdrawal. After deliberately attracting hostile machine gun fire to himself to determine the enemy's fields of fire, he returned to his men and led them in an attack to break through the ring of Germans. As a result of his intrepid and aggressive leadership, he established a route of withdrawal and saved the men from a very dangerous situation. Entered the Service from Voth, Texas.

CHARLIE L. DIGGES, 38026439, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 December 1944 in France. During an attack against his company's position, Sergeant Digges, Weapons Platoon sergeant, moved to an upstairs window in a nearby building to direct the fire of his mortar. Spotting a group of approximately 75 soldiers approaching along a wall, he descended the stairs and exposed himself to enemy observation and fire in order to reconnoiter the situation. Identifying the troops as enemy and realizing that they were executing an encircling maneuver, he chose the direct route, which lay across dangerous terrain, to return to his

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platoon. Running through machine gun and rifle fire, he reached his post and began adjusting mortar fire on the attackers. As a result of his daring initiative and outstanding courage, he inflicted numerous casualties on the enemy and contributed materially to the repulse of the assault. Entered the Service from Campbellton, Texas.

ROBERT A. TRAMEL, 20815510, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery B, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 6 and 7 December 1944 in France. While the forward observer was adjusting artillery fire on enemy attackers, Tec 5 Tramel, a member of the forward observer party, observed three hostile riflemen approaching the observation post. Securing the aid of a friendly infantryman, he opened fire; and he and his companion killed two of the enemy and wounded the third. On the following day, when Tec 5 Tramel was wounded during a heavy mortar barrage, he refused medical aid and, in spite of intense pain, helped direct artillery fire on a large assaulting force. When a hostile group approached his position and demanded his surrender, he forced the enemy to withdraw with effective rifle fire. His courage and aggressiveness contributed materially to the repulse of a series of enemy attacks. Entered the Service from Kerens, Texas.

JACK W. SIDNEY, 33734299, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 December 1944 in France. When Company E was forced to withdraw, leaving four wounded men in an exposed position on a hillside, Private First Class Sidney, a company aid man, unhesitatingly braved hostile small arms, mortar and artillery fire to help the casualties. After administering emergency treatment to all the injured soldiers, he ran back to his platoon and, securing the aid of another man, returned to evacuate the most seriously wounded soldier across dangerous terrain to the company command post. Once more returning to the hill, he again exposed himself to the hostile fire to administer first aid to the wounded members of another unit and to supervise the prompt evacuation of all casualties. His gallantry and courage inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Maryland.

CHARLES F. EVEREST, 36898350, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 February 1945 in France. A soldier, severely wounded beyond his unit's skirmish line, lay exposed to enemy small arms and tank fire as well as fire from the friendly troops. While shells fell dangerously near and bullets spattered mud around him, Private First Class Everest, an aid man, ran 75 yards in front of the friendly positions to aid the casualty. Calmly administering expert first aid and making his patient as comfortable as possible, he remained with the injured soldier, still under heavy fire, until the friendly troops advanced beyond his position. By his gallant and unselfish action, at the risk of his own life, he saved the life of a seriously wounded man. Entered the Service from Battle Creek, Michigan.

FRANK L. NAHLEN, 36669521, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1945 in France. While firing his automatic rifle to support his squad's advance, Private First Class Nahlen spotted an enemy antitank gun to his front. Immediately leaving his covered position, he ran forward, firing as he advanced, and killed the enemy gunner.

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He then took up a position in front of the antitank gun to prevent its recapture and continued firing in support of his comrades. By his quick and courageous action, Private First Class Nahlen denied the Germans further use of their antitank gun and enabled his platoon to seize its objective. Entered the Service from Conway, Arkansas.

WILLIAM P. HENDERSON, 33710304, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Pitcairn, Pennsylvania.
EDWARD H. COPENHAVER, 35778516, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Mason, West Virginia.

For gallantry in action on 4 February 1945 in France. These men were litter bearers attached to Co pony G. A scout had been sent forward to reconnoiter a route of approach for a night attack on an enemy position, and had been severely wounded. They volunteered to evacuate him and went forward of friendly lines a distance of 150 yards. Although frequently fired on by the enemy, they succeeded in reaching the wounded man and administered first aid. Then standing upright the two men carried the casualty through heavy machine gun fire to a place of safety. Their courageous action in the face of great danger resulted in the prompt evacuation of their seriously wounded comrade.

TONEY SPARACINO, 35770628, Private First Class, Company D, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 December 1944 in France. When a strong enemy counterattack disorganized and scattered the friendly riflemen, Private First Class Sparacino, a gunner in a heavy machine gun squad, braved heavy mortar and tank fire to maintain his position and continue firing at the attackers. After firing twelve boxes of ammunition, he observed enemy soldiers crawling toward his position and realized that his fire was no longer effective. As the Germans approached, he became the target for enemy grenades and automatic weapons fire. Undaunted by the hostile onslaught, he hurled eight hand grenades into the midst of the enemy, killing six, wounding an undetermined number and forcing the remainder to withdraw. His inrepid and courageous action was responsible for smashing an enemy counterattack. Entered the Service from Kilsyth, West Virginia.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

Nancy B. Kelton
NANCY B. KELTON
Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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