

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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GENERAL ORDERS

25 October 1944

NO. 417

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SECTION 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.

PAUL E. NAIL, 20804657, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 September 1944 in France. As leader of a section of machine guns in Company B, Sergeant Nail was assigned the mission of supporting an assault platoon in an attack against strong enemy defenses. When the company was suddenly subjected to heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire, one of the platoons was pinned to the ground. Immediately cognizant of this threat to the safety of his comrades, Sergeant Nail led his gun crews through the hostile barrage into a position from which accurate machine gun fire could be directed on the enemy. The guns were swiftly put into action and rendered effective support to the assault elements, enabling them to continue their advance and attain their objective. During this action Sergeant Nail was killed by the hostile fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Annabelle Nail (Mother), Route #1, Ovalo, Texas.

ROBERT J. DE KING, 36637328, Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Deking, assistant squad leader, was assigned the mission of manning an outpost position on the company's right flank. He established an observation post from which he could watch three enemy self-propelled weapons at the other end of a long open field. When the enemy suddenly opened fire on the observation post with heavy, direct artillery shelling, the men with Sergeant Deking fled from the exposed position and sought cover from the barrage. Sergeant Deking remained at the observation post alone, courageously braving the shellfire to protect his company's flank. After an hour of incessant shelling, the barrage decreased in intensity, but Sergeant Deking was wounded by the last shell explosion. He died in a hospital two days later. Next of kin: Mrs. Matilda Deking (Mother), 228 Aurora Avenue, Aurora, Illinois.

CLARENCE C. PETERSON, 37436805, Technician Fifth Grade, Company B, 753d Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 25 August 1944 in France. While supporting the 141st Infantry Regiment in an attack, Tec 5 Peterson's tank was destroyed by hostile tank fire, the tank commander and assistant driver were killed and the gunner seriously wounded. Contemptuous of personal safety, Tec 5 Peterson remained with the injured gunner and, while artillery shells crashed around him, administered first aid. When the enemy counterattacked and the infantry troops withdrew, he carried the injured soldier under incessant small

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arms and artillery fire to an aid station, then returned to his unit and reported for duty. Tec 5 Peterson was killed in a later engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Ester C. Peterson (Mother), RFD #2, Lockridge, Iowa.

ERNEST M. GRAHAM, 34098434, Private, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 August 1944 in France. While Company C was advancing through a densely wooded area, the enemy suddenly opened fire with small arms and artillery. Without waiting for the shelling to stop, Private Graham, a litter bearer, advanced over the shell-torn terrain to assist his wounded comrades. While administering treatment to an injured soldier, he himself was painfully wounded, but he steadfastly refused to accept aid and continued working with the casualties. Contemptuous of personal safety and comfort, he moved from one exposed position to another, treating and comforting the wounded, until, after an hour and a half of incessant shelling, the barrage was lifted and all the casualties were evacuated. Private Graham was killed in action in a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Miss Francis Luther (Aunt), 757 Anderson Street, Macon, Georgia.

SECTION II -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-47, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Silver Star is posthumously awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

FRANCIS D. CROWE, 35791371, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. While his platoon occupied a temporary defensive position preparatory to continuing an attack against an enemy stronghold, Sergeant Crowe led a patrol forward in order to locate hostile gun and tank positions. After advancing a short distance, he spotted an enemy tank moving over a slight knoll just ahead of him and only 75 yards beyond the company outpost he had left. He immediately ran back to the outpost, secured a bazooka and opened fire on the tank. Then, with a comrade, he ran forward directly toward the charging tank in order to shorten the range and increase his accuracy. After reaching a position only 35 yards from the tank, he and his companion alternately ran across the open, flat terrain, exposing themselves to the heavy enemy fire, to face the onrushing tank and delay its advance. Although his every movement was subject to enemy observation, he ran forward three times to fire on the tank and forced it to withdraw before it could attack the company. Technical Sergeant Crowe was killed in a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Silvia Crowe (Mother), RFD #1, Lewisburg, Ohio.

WAYNE DENHAM, 20819054, Sergeant, Battery C, 134d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 15 September 1944 in France. Before the men of Battery C could dig either gun pits or foxholes, the enemy registered a heavy concentration of artillery fire on their new position. The ammunition, powder and camouflage nets of the 3d gun section were set afire, and the men were exposed to the explosions of their own ammunition. Immediately cognizant of the situation, Sergeant Denham, the section chief, left his place of comparative safety and braved the enemy shelling and exploding ammunition to fight the fire. With no thoughts only for the safety of his men, he remained in the shelled area until, with the assistance of his cannoneer, he had extinguished the blaze. His quick thinking and fearlessness saved his howitzer from damage and prevented possible loss of life, but Sergeant Denham died of wounds received in performing this deed. Next of kin: Mrs. Beaulah Denham (Wife), 206 Spring Street, Weatherford, Texas.

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SECTION III — 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.

JAMES L. VEILE, 36448295, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 June 1944 in Italy. During an attack against strong enemy defenses, Sergeant Veile, acting platoon sergeant, was advancing with his men when his attention was attracted by a noise to his left. With two soldiers from his platoon he moved in the direction of the sound. After advancing a few yards he and his companions were suddenly subjected to heavy fire from five enemy machine pistols. Instead of seeking cover for himself, Sergeant Veile crawled forward toward the enemy emplacement and directed his two men into firing positions. Then, after hurling hand grenades, he and his comrades leapt to their feet and, in the face of direct machine pistol fire, assaulted the position and bayoneted the enemy soldiers. Sergeant Veile destroyed the hostile emplacement and returned to the company command post with two prisoners. Entered the Service from Quincy, Illinois.

THELBERT R. WINGATE, 20814619, Staff Sergeant, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 15 September 1944 in France. When a heavy enemy artillery concentration was registered on the gun positions of Battery C, eight men were wounded by the shell explosions. Without waiting for a lull in the shelling, Sergeant Wingate, with two companions, left his place of safety and braved the artillery fire to aid the injured soldiers. While shells crashed around them, they carried one of the men to a position of cover. They immediately returned for another casualty; and, while in the process of moving him, Sergeant Wingate was seriously wounded by artillery shell fragments. Mastering the pain of his wounds, he continued assisting his comrades in evacuating the casualty. After carrying the man to a place of safety, he collapsed from loss of blood and shock. Entered the Service from Bonham, Texas.

ROBERT W. CROISANT, 36124213, Sergeant, Company A, 753d Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 15 August 1944 in France. During the assault landing operation on D-day in the invasion of Southern France, Sergeant Croisant's amphibious tank was disabled and immobilized by the enemy artillery fire which blasted the area. Rather than evacuate his crew, he chose to support the infantry troops as they landed on the beach. Although he was severely wounded about the face and neck, he calmly commanded his tank and knocked out an enemy machine gun nest which had been harassing the friendly troops. When a shell became lodged in the muzzle of his gun, Sergeant Croisant immediately dismantled and, in the face of artillery and machine gun fire, rammed the round free. By his valor and determination, he supported the infantry and contributed materially to the success of the operation. Entered the Service from Willmette, Illinois.

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, 38051032, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery A, 135d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. Tec 5 Johnson was a radio operator for the forward observer party attached to Company C of the 143d Infantry Regiment. When an enemy force attacked the company defenses, the outposts withdrew to more advantageous positions. Tec 5 Johnson had been conducting a fire mission at the forward observer's post and immediately moved to a position from which he could direct fire on the enemy and delay their advance. The accurate fire from his carbine disorganized the center group of hostile soldiers and forced them to withdraw. He then moved to the left flank

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and began harassing the enemy in this sector. When his ammunition was exhausted, he remained in his exposed position and hurled hand grenades until the hostile force was routed. His courageous deeds resulted in two enemy dead, one wounded, and two prisoners; and, by repelling the attack, he prevented a possible disaster to the company command post. Entered the Service from Texas City, Texas.

SECTION IV. -- 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.

THEODORE H. ANDREWS, 0365318, major, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. When the entire 3d Battalion was engaged in a savage fight with strong enemy troops, only the normal command post administrative section remained to protect the battalion command post. As the numerically superior enemy pushed forward, the command post position became perilous. Major Andrews, battalion commander, displayed outstanding leadership and courage when he quickly placed every available man in advantageous positions where the maximum use of weapons and ammunition was assured. Fearlessly exposing himself to the heavy enemy artillery and tank fire, he moved among the men, encouraging them by his intrepid example. During the course of the intense fighting, enemy tanks penetrated to within 200 yards of the command post, but Major Andrews' brilliant leadership prevented the hostile force from overrunning the position and contributed materially to the capture of a large number of prisoners. Entered the Service from Caldwell, Texas.

SECTION V -- RESCINDING OF AWARD

So much of General Orders Number 340, cs, this Headquarters, as posthumously awards a Silver Star to CHESTERFIELD BALLARD, 34621656, Private, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, is rescinded, this being erroneous duplication of previous award.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

CHARLES H. OWENS
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


HENRY B. NEWTON
Major, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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