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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

16 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 219

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:

BILLY TILLMAN, 33885955, Private First Class, Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. During an attack against a stubbornly defended enemy town, Private First Class Tillman, a rifleman in the 1st Platoon, fought valiantly from house to house, braving heavy enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire to throw hand grenades and fire his rifle at German strong points. When his platoon was halted by an enemy machine gun, he managed to work his way forward to a point from which he could deliver effective fire on the emplacement. With a single well-aimed shot he killed the gunner. As he rushed forward to destroy the gun and capture the crew, Private First Class Tillman was killed by an enemy mortar shell. His gallant actions were a source of great inspiration to all the members of his platoon. Next of kin: Mrs. Loyce G. Tillman (Wife), 103 Atlans Street, Norfolk, Virginia.

JOHN E. RICE, 38036521, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 May 1945 in Austria. While advancing along a highway, the leading elements of the regimental motorized column were subjected to enemy small arms fire as well as fire from an antitank gun emplaced on the slope of a hill less than 500 yards away. A tank and another vehicle were hit by the hostile fire. Private First Class Rice, a driver whose jeep was between the two destroyed vehicles, swiftly turned his jeep around to drive back and warn the remainder of the column. When he was hit by several rifle bullets, he ordered the other occupants of his vehicle to seek cover. Then, despite intense pain, he drove along the column and shouted warnings to the other men until he died of his wounds. As a result of his gallant sacrifice, the column was halted before further casualties were inflicted. Next of kin: Mr. Penn E. Rice (Father), Wichell, Texas.

JOHN J. MC MAHON, JR., 42038513, Private First Class, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 January 1945 in France. While second in command Private First Class McMahon was bringing up the rear of his squad during an advance against enemy positions when the men were suddenly subjected to heavy small arms fire and pinned down. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private First Class McMahon moved to an exposed position and opened fire on

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the enemy. Despite bullets striking around him, he continued to fire and reload his rifle as rapidly as possible, killing three Germans, wounding three others and neutralizing the hostile fire sufficiently to permit the members of his squad to reach the covered positions. As he gallantly delivered effective fire, he was hit by an enemy bullet and died before help could reach him. Next of kin: Mrs. Florence G. McMahon (Wife), 1691 Carter Avenue, New York, New York.

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:

JAMES F. BARRETT, 01032191, First Lieutenant, 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mcz), for gallantry in action on 3 May 1945 in Germany. Lieutenant Barrett was in the turret of an armored car, the leading vehicle in a task force, when an enemy bazooka shell exploded directly to the front and wounded two of the crew members. Shouting orders to back slowly out he opened fire on the bazooka team's position with his 50 caliber machine gun. The enemy immediately directed heavy machine gun and rifle fire at him, wounding him, and a second bazooka shell set the vehicle and his machine gun ammunition on fire. Despite the pain of his wound and the dangers which confronted him, he steadfastly continued to fire. Ordering his crew to seek safety, he manned his machine gun until the box of ammunition exploded, putting his gun out of action. Lieutenant Barrett then seized an automatic rifle and covered the escape of the last man, firing until an enemy bullet knocked the weapon from his hands. Entered the Service from Fort Riley, Kansas.

WILLIAM S. ROGERS, 31321964, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 March 1945 in Germany. Intense machine gun and small arms fire from an enemy pillbox and its surrounding trenches inflicted heavy casualties on the 2d Platoon. The platoon leader was killed and the group was threatened with disorganization. Swiftly assuming command, Sergeant Rogers reorganized the depleted platoon into two groups, and, while half the men attacked the left flank and the other half the right flank, he advanced alone in the center, directing both groups. Boldly exposing himself to the hostile small arms fire and hand grenades, he delivered accurate fire at the enemy positions with his sub-machine gun and, dashing forward, captured three Germans in a trench. He then hurled a grenade through the firing aperture of the pillbox, forcing the machine gunners to come out and surrender. As a result of his personal aggressiveness and daring leadership, nine Germans were captured, two were killed, and the strong point was cleared. Entered the Service from Lewiston, Maine.

WALTER G. KANETZKY, 42140665, Staff Sergeant (then Private), Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 December 1944 in France. When information was needed for a forthcoming attack, the 2d Platoon was given the mission of capturing a German soldier. Approaching the first house on the outskirts of an enemy-held town, Private Kanetzky, the lead scout, attempted to persuade the hostile group to surrender. Ignoring his demand, the enemy soldiers left the house and took up a position behind it. Private Kanetzky dashed into the building and, moving to a window on the second floor, again called to the Germans to surrender. His position immediately became the target for hostile machine gun fire. Acting swiftly, he hurled a grenade into the machine gun position, wounding three of the enemy and forcing 15 others to surrender. His valiant

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actions contributed materially to the success of the attack. Entered the Service from Schenectady, New York.

ROBERT B. ARMSTRONG, 35826014, Sergeant, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. Although fully aware of the hazards involved, Sergeant Armstrong volunteered to accompany a captured enemy noncommissioned officer into hostile territory to attempt persuading other Germans to surrender. Almost immediately he was subjected to small arms fire and artillery and mortar concentrations; but, by dodging from tree to tree and crawling through the dense underbrush, he and the prisoner worked their way as close as possible to the enemy pillboxes. With the German acting as interpreter, Sergeant Armstrong persuaded 15 more of the enemy to surrender. His valiant action was responsible for eliminating three German strong points. Entered the Service from Cloyd's Landing, Kentucky.

ANTHONY T. HLAVAC, 32704164, Private First Class, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Long Island City, New York.

RONALD H. WARD, 31352816, Private, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Cutler, Maine.

for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. During the intense fighting in the Siegfried Line, six men from Company A, carrying demolitions and grenades, advanced with infantry elements to clear a well-defended sector of pillboxes. When it was learned that two of the men were wounded, these men volunteered to go forward and take their places. Although enemy artillery and mortar concentrations covered the approach to their objective, they ran 600 yards to reinforce the squad which, at that time, was under heavy enemy small arms and shellfire. Without stopping for rest, they each picked up a 40 pound beehive charge and four hand grenades and, moving to the head of the squad, proceeded to clear the German strong points. Bravely exposing themselves to the intense hostile fire, they neutralized three pillboxes by throwing hand grenades into the openings. Their aggressive actions aided materially in penetrating the Siegfried defenses.

MURDOCH J. HERTZOG, 36474482, Private, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 March 1945 in France. Private Hertzog had just surprised three Germans and taken them prisoner when he observed a wounded comrade lying in the open exposed to enemy small arms fire. He immediately went to the aid of the wounded man despite heavy fire from both friendly and enemy troops. Boldly exposing himself, Private Hertzog stepped into the open where he could be seen. The friendly troops quickly ceased firing; and, although still subjected to the enemy fire, he removed his wounded comrade to a covered position. After again exposing himself to search the open space for other wounded men, he evacuated the casualty to an aid station. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.

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:

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WILLIAM A. HAWKINS, 01303883, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 September 1944 in France. Captain Hawkins was leading Company C in an attack to seize an enemy-held hill when the men were halted by heavy rifle, machine gun and mortar fire. He quickly reorganized the company, called for supporting artillery fire and, with three soldiers, moved out in a flanking maneuver. After crossing a minefield and approaching within 100 yards of the enemy position, they were fired on. Captain Hawkins ordered the three men to cover him and, without hesitation, rushed forward in the face of the enemy fire, firing his sub-machine gun as he ran. By his bold action, he captured the German noncommissioned officer in charge and forced the surrender of the hostile troops in the immediate vicinity. As a result of Captain Hawkins daring and aggressive action, the enemy, confronted by an attack from both the front and rear, were forced to withdraw from the area and the company was able to secure the high ground. Entered the Service from Mebane, North Carolina.

WILLIAM S. ROGERS, 31321964, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 March 1945 in Germany. Assigned the mission of leading the 2d Platoon as a combat patrol to clear a German town, Sergeant Rogers personally captured a hostile soldier on the edge of the town and, by questioning him, learned that approximately 180 of the enemy were occupying positions close by. The platoon was suddenly subjected to heavy machine gun and rifle fire from these positions. Swiftly deploying his platoon, Sergeant Rogers exposed himself to the hostile fire to move from squad to squad, check his men's positions and direct their fire. His personal valor and outstanding leadership enabled his platoon to hold back the numerically superior enemy until the remainder of his company arrived and the hostile force was routed. Entered the Service from Lewiston, Maine.

MARTIN A. BERBRICK, 42043937, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 March 1945 in Germany. When Company B's attack on an enemy-held town was delayed by heavy fire from a German pillbox, Sergeant Berbrick, a squad leader, dashed forward alone in the face of the hostile fire. Upon reaching the pillbox, he threw several hand grenades into the firing aperture and commanded the Germans to surrender. Almost immediately eight enemy soldiers filed out of the strong point with their hands raised. By his quick-thinking and daring, Sergeant Berbrick reduced an enemy pillbox and enabled his company to continue forward and seize the town. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DAHLQUIST:

JESSE B. MATLACK
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

William T. Steger
WILLIAM T. STEGER
1st Lt, Adjutant General's Department
Asst Adjutant General

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