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

RECORDS SEC

1 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 56

- Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I
- Posthumous Award of Oak Leaf Cluster - Silver Star.....II
- Award of 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 V. HOYLE, 34037456, Staff Sergeant, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 2 to 4 January 1945 in France. Sergeant Hoyle, forward observer for his mortar platoon, was assigned the mission of establishing an observation post with a rifle company. A large hostile force launched a violent counterattack against the friendly troops. Not satisfied with the observation afforded by his position within the rifle company lines, Sergeant Hoyle courageously worked his way beyond the company area to a spot within 75 yards of the enemy lines. From this vantage point he skillfully adjusted effective mortar fire on the hostile positions. During the entire three days of the attack he maintained his post, constantly transmitting fire orders to his mortar platoon. He frequently braved heavy artillery and sniper fire to repair his communication lines when they were shattered by the hostile shelling. On the day he was relieved from his post, Sergeant Hoyle, although fatigued by his previous exertions, volunteered to lead a new observation post team across a mined, shell-blasted field to the position. While advancing toward the objective, he was killed by hurtling fragments from an artillery shell. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary J. H. Hoyle (Mother), Sylva, North Carolina.

THOMAS A. VOLTERO, 31301199, Sergeant, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 November 1944 in France. Company G was assigned the mission of attacking stubbornly defended positions on important high ground. Sergeant Voltero, advancing at the head of his men, led the assault squad of the 3d Platoon. An enemy machine gun suddenly opened fire, sweeping the area with rapid bursts and inflicting heavy casualties on the attackers. Aware of the necessity for immediate, aggressive action, Sergeant Voltero, moving under direct enemy observation and machine gun and sniper fire, crawled to the rear of his platoon and obtained a grenade launcher. He returned to his original position and, while his squad remained pinned to the ground, crawled dauntlessly forward to a point within 50 yards of the hostile gun emplacement. Although he was the target for heavy, direct fire, he took careful aim and fired two rounds into the enemy position, completely destroying the machine gun. His quick-thinking and daring saved his unit from suffering many casualties and enabled the company to hold its position. Private Voltero was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Alexander Voltero (Brother), 48 Chestnut Street, Chelsea, Massachusetts.

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ARTHUR E. HERTEL, 16062591, Sergeant, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 13 and 14 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Hertel, a squad leader in Company A, was instructed to lead his men as infantry troops and was assigned the mission of defending a sector of a strategically important hill. A heavy enemy artillery and mortar barrage preceded a savage hostile assault. Although faced with numerically superior forces, Sergeant Hertel fought valiantly, skillfully directing the machine gun and rifle fire of his men and finally driving back the attackers. Later, after a four-hour artillery preparation, the hostile troops launched another violent attack. Aware of the importance of holding back the enemy in his squad's sector, Sergeant Hertel exposed himself to the hostile fire to move among his men, encouraging them to maintain their positions in the face of the hostile onslaught. Confronted with superior fire power, he disdained withdrawal and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy as they charged his position. Driving relentlessly forward, the hostile soldiers overran his squad's defenses, and Sergeant Hertel was killed in the close-range fighting. As a result of his determination to hold his sector until the last, other friendly troops were able to withdraw to new defensive positions and check the hostile assault. Next of kin: Mr. Charles Hertel (Father), 4691 Montclair, Detroit, Michigan.

VICTOR F. CASARETTI, 32208975, Corporal, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 September 1944 in France. Corporal Casaretti was a gunner in the mortar platoon of Company H. His platoon was in position on high ground to support a friendly force in attacking an important enemy stronghold. While firing on hostile troops in the town, Corporal Casaretti spotted a large group of enemy soldiers approaching stealthily through the brush within ten yards of the mortar positions. Although aware that, by exposing himself, he would become the target for hostile fire, he unhesitatingly jumped to his feet and shouted a warning to his comrades. He then whirled and, facing the onrushing enemy, started to open fire with his pistol. Before he could fire a shot, he was mortally wounded by bullets from a hostile machine pistol. However, his timely warning enabled his companions to repel the assault with heavy casualties to the enemy troops. His heroic and selfless sacrifice was a source of great inspiration to all the members of his unit. Next of kin: Mr. Alfred Casaretti (Father), 122 Avenue C, Brooklyn, New York.

ERNEST C. BODDYE, 39163524, Technician Fifth Grade, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Next of kin: Mrs. Verda Boddye (Mother), Beloit, Kansas.

DAVID LA LICATA, 32683840, Technician Fifth Grade, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary LaLicata (Mother), 100-02 Northern Boulevard, Corona, New York.

FRANCIS C. BERCHEM, 37566150, Private First Class, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Next of kin: Mrs. Fiedas Berchem (Mother), 1002 East 3d Street, St. Paul, Minnesota.

NIS NIELSEN, 37197752, Private First Class, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Emergency Addressee: Mr. Alfred Nissen (Cousin), RFD #2, Harlan, Iowa.

FLOYD H. LEWIS, 31427339, Private, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Next of kin: Mrs. Edith Lewis (Mother), Dewey Avenue, Sandwich, Mass.

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for gallantry in action on 13 and 14 December 1944 in France. These men were serving as infantry troops and were assigned the mission of defending a sector of a strategically important hill. A heavy enemy artillery and mortar barrage preceded a savage hostile assault. Although faced with numerically superior forces, they fought valiantly, firing their rifles and machine guns into the midst of the enemy and driving back the attackers. Later, after a four-hour artillery and mortar preparation, the hostile troops launched another violent attack. Confronted with superior fire power, these men courageously held their ground, inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy with their effective fire. Aware of the importance of maintaining their defenses, they fought bravely against the hostile onslaught. As the charging enemy soldiers overran their positions, the above named men were killed in the close-range fighting. As a result of their determination to hold the sector until the last, other friendly troops were able to withdraw to new defensive positions and check the hostile assault.

CHARLES O. CHEYNE, 38065906, Private First Class, Company A, 111th Medical Battalion, for gallantry in action on 5 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Cheyne, an orderly on an ambulance, answered a call from an artillery battalion to aid a group of casualties wounded by exploding mines. Upon arriving at the designated area, he discovered that there were five injured soldiers lying approximately 15 yards from the road in a minefield. Without waiting for the mines to be cleared, Private First Class Cheyne took a litter from the ambulance and courageously moved down the slope from the road to aid the casualties. Fully aware of the dangers involved, he moved calmly about the mined area, administering first aid to each of the wounded men in turn. As he reached the last of the injured soldiers, he stepped on a hidden mine and was mortally wounded by the explosion. As a result of his selflessness and valor, the lives of the other casualties were saved. His noble sacrifice was a source of great inspiration to all who witnessed his deed. Next of kin: Mr. James D. Cheyne (Brother), Canyon, Texas.

II. POSTHUMOUS 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 posthumously awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action:

CHARLES R. MATTIS, 01296554, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 October 1944 in France. Lieutenant Mattis was assigned the mission of leading his platoon in destroying an enemy strong point which threatened the battalion supply and communication lines. The platoon was advancing toward its objective when the enemy directed a heavy artillery and mortar barrage on the area. Fearlessly exposing himself to direct his men to covered positions, Lieutenant Mattis waited until the barrage was lifted before again leading his men toward the hostile strong point. Almost immediately the attackers contacted a strong enemy force on their left flank and were subjected to heavy small arms fire from their right rear. Aware of the necessity for moving his platoon to a more advantageous position, Lieutenant Mattis selflessly braved the hostile fire to cover the withdrawal of his men. While protecting his platoon's movement, he was killed by direct small arms fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Clare E. Mattis (Wife), 715 South Rockwell Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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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:

WILHELM G. STREICHER, O380653, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1944 in France. Lieutenant Streicher's Cannon Company platoon was assigned the mission of supporting an infantry battalion in attacking an enemy-held town. Two self-propelled mounts preceded the infantry elements in the assault. Upon reaching the outskirts of the town, one of the mounts was destroyed by enemy antitank fire. Lieutenant Streicher immediately began leading the other mount toward a firing position on the left flank. He advanced on foot in front of the mount, braving direct small arms and 20mm gun fire to guide the vehicle into position. Still exposing himself to the incessant hostile fire, he calmly directed accurate fire from his self-propelled gun against the enemy defenses guarding the town. While in this exposed position, he was severely wounded by a burst of machine gun fire. Determinedly refusing evacuation, he mastered the pain of his injury and continued directing fire on the hostile installations. As a result of his dauntlessness and outstanding leadership, an antitank gun with a 20mm gun were destroyed, and a second antitank gun was forced to withdraw. He contributed materially to the success of the infantry assault against the town. Entered the Service from Seagoville, Texas.

ALBERT G. GILL, 36261426, Sergeant, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 November 1944 in France. Sergeant Gill's squad was leading the 3d Platoon in an attack when the enemy suddenly opened fire with rifles and machine guns well-emplaced on the crest of a hill. As Sergeant Gill skillfully maneuvered his automatic rifle team into an advantageous firing position, the hostile troops launched a savage counterattack. Although painfully wounded in the shoulder, he disdained evacuation and remained to direct his men in helping to repel the assault. The enemy withdrew for reorganization and, almost immediately, launched a second attack. When his squad's ammunition was almost exhausted, Sergeant Gill, acting on his own initiative, moved across 75 yards of fire-swept terrain to his platoon command post and secured a resupply. While working his way back to the automatic rifle position, he suffered a second severe wound. Litter bearers arrived to evacuate him, but Sergeant Gill, aware that others were in equally urgent need of evacuation, insisted upon making his own way to the aid station. Although he was wounded for a third time, he finally succeeded in reaching his destination. His selflessness and intrepidity were a source of great inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

JOHN J. ALBRIGHT
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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