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

AG RECORDS SEC.

21 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 42

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:

ROY E. NELSON, 36752493, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon of Company C was assigned the mission of crossing a canal and capturing an area which had been converted into an island by flooding. Sergeant Nelson, leader of the 3d Squad, led his men under harassing artillery and small arms fire to the crossing point and directed his squad in shuttling a three-man rubber boat across the canal. When the entire platoon had crossed the swollen, swift-flowing stream, the unit was swiftly reorganized and missions were assigned to each squad. The 2d and 3d Squads were instructed to secure and hold a powerhouse on the left side of the island and to reduce all enemy strong points along their route of advance. Valiantly moving to the front of his squad, Sergeant Nelson led his men through direct small arms fire toward the objective, skillfully maneuvering them in smashing all hostile resistance and in forcing the enemy to withdraw. As he and his men advanced across 50 yards of open terrain in an assault on the powerhouse, the enemy began sweeping the area with rapid bursts of machine gun fire. Swiftly placing his automatic rifle team in an advantageous position to furnish fire support, he valiantly led his men through the hostile fire to the objective. Simultaneously charging the powerhouse, the 2d and 3d Squads overwhelmed the hostile troops, capturing one officer and 39 enlisted men. Sergeant Nelson's daring, aggressive leadership enabled his squad to attain its objective in a minimum of time. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

LUIS M. PLUMMER, 38297536, Staff Sergeant (then Private), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 August 1944 in France. The antitank platoon of the 3d Battalion was part of a task force assigned the mission of establishing a road block along the enemy's route of withdrawal. After seizing four houses near the main highway, the platoon, supported by several riflemen, was subjected to a series of hostile tank and infantry attacks. When friendly troops on the right flank of the platoon withdrew from the seemingly untenable area, the antitank positions were completely exposed to enemy action. The gunner on the No. 1 gun was killed during the first hostile thrust, and Private Plummer, the assistant gunner, immediately took his place and kept the weapon in action. During the 14 hours of fighting, he made frequent trips under heavy enemy fire to his gun position, firing on hostile targets whenever they were spotted. On one occasion, when two tanks charged his position, Private Plummer fearlessly manned the gun and, at a distance of 150 yards, scored a direct hit on one of the tanks, then forced the

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other to withdraw. With an enemy self-propelled weapon firing directly into his position, he encouraged his crew to remain with the gun and continue firing. By his daring and determination, he delayed the advance of the hostile force and inflicted irreparable damage on the enemy troops. Entered the Service from Searcy, Arkansas.

RALPH J. CARTWRIGHT, 33588321, Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon of Company C was assigned the mission of crossing a canal and capturing an area which had been converted into an island by flooding. Sergeant Cartwright, leader of the 1st Squad, led his men under harassing artillery and mortar fire to the crossing point. By using a three-man rubber boat in establishing a shuttle system, the platoon effected a successful crossing. The unit was swiftly reorganized, and missions were assigned to each squad. The 1st Squad was ordered to secure the road leading off the opposite end of the island and to reduce hostile strong points in the nearby buildings. The squad encountered initial resistance in a burned factory. Skillfully directing the fire of his men, Sergeant Cartwright forced the enemy to withdraw. Driving relentlessly forward, he maneuvered his squad in assaulting a well-defended air raid shelter, capturing 26 prisoners. Upon reaching the last building to be cleared, the squad was subjected to rapid bursts of fire from a machine gun emplaced in the house. Heavy small arms fire directed against the hostile position forced the gun crew to withdraw behind an embankment, and Sergeant Cartwright crawled forward and silenced the weapon with a hand grenade. His outstanding leadership enabled his squad to accomplish its mission, and the entire island was taken within a short period of time. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

CHARLES W. LEADINGHAM, 33715052, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Leadingham was the leader of the 2d Squad of the 3d Platoon when that platoon was assigned the mission of crossing a canal and capturing an area which had been converted into an island by flooding. He led his men under harassing artillery and small arms fire to the crossing point and piloted the first boat-load across the swollen, swift-flowing stream. When the entire platoon had crossed the canal, the unit was swiftly reorganized and missions were assigned to each squad. The 2d and 3d Squads were instructed to secure and hold a powerhouse on the left side of the island and to reduce all enemy strong points along their route of advance. Courageously moving to the front of his squad, Private First Class Leadingham led his men in the face of direct small arms fire toward the objective, skillfully maneuvering them in smashing all hostile resistance and in forcing the enemy to withdraw. Although painfully wounded in the leg by a hurtling fragment from a hand grenade, he directed his squad in clearing the last building and then led the assault across 50 yards of open, fire-swept terrain to the powerhouse. Fighting valiantly against strong resistance, the 2d and 3d Squads overwhelmed the hostile troops and captured 40 prisoners. Largely as a result of Private First Class Leadingham's determination and aggressiveness, his squad accomplished its mission, and the entire island was taken within a short period of time. Entered the Service from Monaca, Pennsylvania.

JOHN L. YUSKO, 32407328, Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 and 28 September 1944 in France. When Headquarters Company was ordered to leave a defensive area and re-

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join the 1st Battalion, Sergeant Yusko led the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon as a point for the company. Advancing aggressively toward the battalion's position, he surprised six fully armed enemy soldiers and forced them to surrender before they could open fire on the column. Upon reaching the battalion, Sergeant Yusko and seven of his men were assigned the mission of evacuating two seriously wounded comrades to a previously designated collecting point. He left his men to protect the injured soldiers and proceeded on a lone reconnaissance of the route of evacuation. The area was subjected to harassing artillery fire and was patrolled by the enemy. Ignoring the dangers which confronted him, he carefully reconnoitered the area and, returning to his men, led them in evacuating the wounded to the collecting point. Entered the Service from Port Chester, New York.

TRWILLO JESUS, 38441737, Private First Class, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 October 1944 in France. Private First Class Jesus, an acting squad leader, advanced at the extreme point of his company, moving across high ground which overlooked an important enemy stronghold. After advancing 1000 yards, the company was ordered to halt and organize a defensive position. Private First Class Jesus occupied an outpost in advance of the other elements of his company and remained constantly on the alert throughout the night for enemy patrol action. When a group of hostile soldiers approached his position, he cleverly tricked them into advancing into a trap. The enemy patrol moved unwittingly toward friendly soldiers waiting in well-concealed positions. Although he was exposed to small arms fire from his own men as well as from the enemy, Private First Class Jesus bravely ordered his men to open fire. As a result of his resourcefulness and courage, the hostile patrol was completely disorganized, two of the enemy soldiers were killed, one was captured and several were wounded. Private First Class Jesus was seriously injured during the engagement and was forced to be evacuated. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

JOHN E. GESNALDO, 31382590, Private, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 31 October to 5 November 1944 in France. Private Gesnaldo volunteered to assist his squad leader in establishing an observation post in a building 500 yards beyond the friendly lines. Although the house was under direct enemy observation and was subjected to heavy artillery and mortar concentrations, he dauntlessly remained in position for four days and three nights. Utilizing both wire and radio communications, he observed and reported enemy activity in a nearby village and on high ground across the valley, skillfully adjusting artillery and mortar fire on all targets. The accurate shelling destroyed numerous hostile buildings and two horse-drawn vehicles and forced two self-propelled mounts to withdraw. Although the enemy was aware of the existence of the observation post and was blasting the area with incessant shellfire, Private Gesnaldo valiantly maintained his position until a direct hit set the house afire and he was seriously wounded. Entered the Service from Hartford, Conn.

RICHARD L. CALLIHAM, 35779670, Private, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon of Company C was assigned the mission of crossing a canal and taking an area which had been converted into an island by flooding. By employing a three-man rubber boat in establishing a shuttle system, Private Calliham, a rifleman in the 2d Squad, and his companions crossed the canal under harassing artillery and small arms fire.

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The platoon was swiftly reorganized, and missions were assigned to each squad. The 2d and 3d Squads were instructed to secure and hold a powerhouse on the left side of the island and to reduce all enemy strong points along their route of advance. Driving relentlessly forward, Private Calliham and his comrades smashed hostile resistance in nearby buildings and pushed on toward their objective. They advanced across 50 yards of terrain swept by rapid bursts of machine gun fire and assaulted the powerhouse. Overwhelming the enemy defenses, the 2d and 3d Squads captured 40 hostile soldiers. Private Calliham was assigned the task of guarding the prisoners. When an enemy group attempted to free the prisoners, he swiftly opened fire with his rifle, killing one and wounding another of the hostile soldiers and forcing the remainder to flee in disorder. His daring and determination contributed materially to his squad's success in attaining and holding its objective. Entered the Service from Greenup, Kentucky.

DANIEL C. CAMPBELL, 33885577, Private, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1944 in France. Private Campbell was an automatic rifleman in the 3d Squad of the 3d Platoon when that platoon was assigned the mission of crossing a canal and taking an area which had been converted into an island by flooding. By employing a three-man rubber boat in establishing a shuttle system, he and his companions crossed the canal under harassing artillery and small arms fire. The platoon was swiftly reorganized, and missions were assigned to each squad. The 2d and 3d Squads were instructed to secure and hold a powerhouse on the left side of the island and to reduce all enemy strong points along their route of advance. Pressing dauntlessly forward, Private Campbell furnished his squad with invaluable fire support. As he approached each house to be cleared, he would move to a forward, exposed position and force the enemy to withdraw with his accurate bursts of automatic rifle fire. While advancing across a 50 yards stretch of open terrain in an assault on the powerhouse, the squad was subjected to heavy machine gun fire. Swiftly moving to an advantageous firing position, he returned the hostile fire, enabling his comrades to charge the powerhouse and capture 40 enemy soldiers. Private Campbell was assigned the task of guarding the prisoners. When a hostile group attempted to free the prisoners, he killed one and wounded another of the enemy soldiers, forcing the remainder to flee in disorder. By his resourcefulness and courage, he contributed materially to the success of his squad in attaining and holding its objective. Entered the Service from Monaca, Pennsylvania.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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