

~~RESTRICTED~~
(over)

19 MAR 1945

~~RESTRICTED~~

AG RECORDS SEC.

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

3 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 60

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:

- MERVIN CROSS, 20808199, Technical Sergeant, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Caldwell, Texas.
- GENE V. MOLINO, 32239187, Corporal, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Newark, New Jersey.
- VICTOR R. GRECO, 37378115, Private, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from St. Louis, Missouri.

for gallantry in action on 7 December 1944 in France. The 2d Platoon of the Cannon Company, supporting infantry elements in an attack, captured a strategically important stronghold and established road blocks in various parts of the village. A large hostile force infiltrated through the friendly lines and attacked one of the howitzers, which was occupying a road block position, with small arms and hand grenades. Attracted by the intense fire fight, these men unhesitatingly left their places of safety at the platoon command post and started to help their outnumbered comrades in the self-propelled gun. Before they could reach the howitzer, the three soldiers were ambushed by three enemy soldiers who covered them with rifles and a machine pistol. Displaying unusual intrepidity, they assaulted the attackers, wrenching away their guns and beating them into submission. They immediately joined their beleaguered comrades in the howitzer and contributed materially to the repulse of the hostile assault. As a result of their quick-thinking and courage, one enemy soldier was killed, three were captured, and the attempt to seize the self-propelled gun was frustrated.

- FREDERICK A. BANCALARI, 39042112, Staff Sergeant, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Oakland, California.
- ROBERT E. HUNTER, 37519842, Private First Class, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from St. Joseph, Missouri.

for gallantry in action on 22 November 1944 in France. Company G had driven to within 200 yards of its objective when it was subjected to intense enemy fire which delayed its advance. The company commander called for both mortar and artillery support, but the observer's radios were out of range. The enemy suddenly launched a violent counterattack. Seizing their rifles, these men, members of the mortar observer team, opened fire on the attackers and, with the men of the rifle company, repelled the assault. After the initial counterattack had been frustrated, the enemy attempted a second assault, penetrating the company

- 1 -
(over)

~~RESTRICTED~~

10 MAR 1945

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 222

336-1,13

~~RESTRICTED~~

(GO 60, Hq 36th Inf Div, 3 March 1945, contd)

front and inflicting heavy casualties on the friendly troops. Valiantly exposing themselves, they directed accurate rifle fire into the midst of the hostile force and again contributed materially to the repulse of the attack. After a third assault had been frustrated, the company commander ordered his unit to withdraw to better defensive positions. The above named men courageously volunteered to remain behind and cover the company's withdrawal. They maintained their exposed position and directed fire on the hostile troops, enabling the riflemen to effect a successful maneuver. Only when the last man had withdrawn to safety did they leave the hazardous area and rejoin the company.

EVEL BELL, 34926968, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from New Albany, Mississippi.

FRANK E. CABLE, 33921523, Private, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Rochester, Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH VOELKER, JR., 33422497, Private, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Donora, Pennsylvania.

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. These men, members of the automatic rifle team of the 1st Squad, covered the other platoon members while they crossed the canal, under harassing artillery and small arms fire, by shuttling a three-man rubber boat back and forth. When the entire platoon had crossed the canal, 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. The above men braved direct hostile fire to operate their automatic rifle and furnish effective support for the squad members, forcing the hostile soldiers to withdraw to new positions. Upon approaching an enemy strong point in an air raid shelter, their accurate, rapid bursts of automatic rifle fire enabled the squad to capture 26 prisoners. When the enemy opened fire with a machine gun emplaced in the last building to be cleared, the above named men concentrated heavy fire on the position, killing one soldier, wounding another and enabling their squad leader to destroy the hostile weapon with a hand grenade. Largely as a result of their valor and aggressiveness, the squad's mission was successfully accomplished and the island was taken.

JOHN O. GREGORY, 33465524, Private First Class, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 November 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon of Company A was assigned the mission of attacking an important enemy stronghold. After the initial assault, the platoon was subjected to heavy machine gun fire from its right flank and was pinned to the ground. Displaying outstanding courage and initiative, Private First Class Gregory, a rifleman in the platoon, crawled forward, under rapid bursts of machine gun fire, to within a few yards of the hostile emplacement. Courageously exposing himself to direct fire, he hurled five hand grenades in rapid succession into the enemy position. By his quick-thinking and daring, he completely destroyed the hostile weapon and captured three enemy soldiers. He eliminated a serious threat to the safety of his comrades and inspired them, by his example of intrepidity, to press forward and seize their objective. Entered the Service from Shickshinny, Pennsylvania.

~~RESTRICTED~~

19 MAR 1945

(over)

~~RESTRICTED~~

19 MAR 1945

RESTRICTED

(GO 60, Hq 36th Inf Div, 3 March 1945, contd)

ANTHONY J. CIOTOLA, 32867141, Private First Class, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 December 1943 in Italy. When Company G, attacking an important hill, met determined enemy resistance and suffered heavy casualties from small arms, mortar and artillery fire, a defensive position was taken. Aware that many seriously wounded men were in urgent need of emergency treatment and immediate evacuation, Private First Class Ciotola, a rifleman, unselfishly volunteered to assist in evacuating the injured soldiers. Creeping and crawling under the incessant hostile fire, he worked his way across 200 yards of shell-blasted terrain to the 1st Platoon. He improvised a litter and, with three companions, started down the icy, treacherous slope of the steep hill with one of the most severely wounded men. The enemy directed a heavy mortar barrage on the area, and two of the other litter bearers were seriously injured by the shell explosions. After administering swift first aid treatment and making the men as comfortable as possible, he made his way back to the platoon and secured the help of two other soldiers. Starting again down the precipitous slope, he and his companions, after carrying the casualties for almost a mile, contacted a litter team and turned the wounded men over to them. Private First Class Ciotola's quick-thinking and courage contributed materially to saving the lives of several injured soldiers. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

JOHN F. LUNDGREN, 37590756, Private First Class, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 January 1945 in France. Company A was occupying a defensive position when a large hostile force launched a violent attack. As the enemy charged the friendly defenses, Private First Class Lundgren opened fire with his automatic rifle. Although he became the target for direct small arms fire, he continued operating his weapon, sweeping the attackers with rapid, accurate bursts of fire. When hostile soldiers surrounded his position and advanced to within 10 feet of his fighting hole, he disdained withdrawal and fired his pistol into their midst. Undaunted by the enemy onslaught, he valiantly held his ground, killing two of the hostile soldiers, wounding several and scattering the remainder with his effective fire. By his steadfastness and intrepidity, he completely disrupted the enemy assault in his sector. As the hostile troops withdrew, Private First Class Lundgren was severely wounded by small arms fire. His heroic actions were a source of great inspiration to his comrades and contributed materially to smashing the hostile assault. Entered the Service from St. Paul, Minnesota

RAYMOND M. MADRIGAL, 39562558, Private First Class, Battery C, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 2 January 1945 in France. Private First Class Madrigal, was a member of an observation party for his artillery battery assigned the mission of supporting infantry troops in a recently captured town. He accompanied a rifle company in a successful attack against hostile positions on a nearby hill. Moving to the crest of the hill, he set up his radio and checked into his net. As he was completing this task, the enemy simultaneously directed a heavy artillery barrage on the hill and launched a savage attack against friendly troops in the town. Artillery observers in the town called for fire but were unable to contact the base set. Without a thought for personal safety, Private First Class Madrigal remained in his exposed position, without any cover or concealment, for more than an hour, relaying calls for fire from other observers. While artillery shells crashed around him, he stayed determinedly with his radio and maintained his post until the attack on the town was repelled. As a result of his courage and dauntlessness, he contributed

336-1.13

336-1.13

~~RESTRICTED~~

(GO 60, Hq 36th Inf Div, 3 March 1945, contd)

materially to the repulse of the hostile assault. Entered the Service from Wilmington, California.

CLYDE F. MARTIN, 36319276, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 December 1944 in France. Private Martin and another wireman were assigned the mission of repairing the wire line from the 2d Battalion switchboard to Company F. While they were moving toward the rifle company, checking the line as they advanced, the enemy suddenly launched a violent counterattack against the friendly positions. Heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire forced the other wireman to seek cover, but Private First Class Martin, aware of the urgency of restoring the vital communications, pressed dauntlessly forward to complete his mission. Although the terrain afforded little cover and was frequently exposed to hostile observation, he continued on for two miles, repairing three breaks in the wire. At one point, he crawled through an arbor of grapevines where his slightest movement attracted a volley of sniper fire. Without a thought for personal safety, he worked indefatigably until the vital communications were restored, thereby contributing materially to the repulse of the assault. Entered the Service from La Moille, Illinois.

WILLIAM H. DOWNS, 33561406, Private First Class, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1944 in France. During an intense enemy counterattack, Private First Class Downs was assigned the mission of guiding a relief unit to a platoon which had been cut off and almost surrounded by infiltrating hostile troops. With artillery and mortar shells blasting the terrain and heavy small arms fire directed at him, he pressed dauntlessly forward to contact the beleaguered unit. Upon reaching the area and directing the relief troops to the platoon position, he saw that a nearby tank destroyer was being attacked by hostile soldiers with bazookas and hand grenades. Although his vision was obscured by darkness, he located one of the enemy who was preparing to fire his bazooka. Taking careful aim, Private First Class Downs killed him with his accurate fire and then wounded another soldier who was about to throw a hand grenade at the tank destroyer. As a result of his quick-thinking and aggressiveness, the attackers were forced to withdraw and the threat to the tank destroyer was dispelled. Private First Class Downs was largely responsible for preventing a major enemy breakthrough of Company C's line. Entered the Service from Princess Anne, Maryland.

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

DISTRIBUTION "E"

- 4 -

~~RESTRICTED~~

19 MAR 1945

(over)

~~RESTRICTED~~