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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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Posthumous Award of Silver Star..... I
Award of Silver Star..... II

SECTION I — POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action.

JOSEPH F. GRIFFITHS, 01308814, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. Assigned the mission of establishing a vital road block, Company A advanced to a point 400 yards from its objective and there was delayed by heavy automatic weapons fire and six enemy tanks. While the company organized a temporary defensive position, approximately 400 hostile soldiers attempted to occupy a hill on the unit's left flank. Lieutenant Griffiths, weapons platoon leader, immediately moved to an exposed position from which he could observe the enemy maneuvers and there directed accurate mortar fire on the hostile troops. When a group of the enemy gained the near slope of the hill, he seized a light machine gun and fired three belts of ammunition into their midst. Lieutenant Griffiths' skill and daring were instrumental in repelling the savage attack and saving the company positions. He was killed in action in a later engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Vivian M. Griffiths (Wife), 12 Beaverdale, Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania.

SECTION 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 D. EVANS, 01294639, Captain, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 19 August 1944 in France. Captain Evans led his reconnaissance Company forward to spearhead an attack against well-fortified enemy positions. Warned by French civilians that a hostile force occupied a nearby crossroads position, he personally scouted the area and located five enemy soldiers and an antitank gun at the road junction. He swiftly stopped his column in a covered position and led one combat squad in an assault against the enemy. Moving ahead of his attacking elements, he assumed an exposed position from which he could observe and direct tank destroyer fire on the hostile emplacement. He adjusted fire on an enemy antitank gun and an ammunition truck, destroying them both. During the intense fighting Captain Evans lay in the open beside one of the tank destroyers and, although he was wounded in the hands by fire from an antitank gun, remained dauntlessly in position until friendly infantry troops moved up to engage the enemy. Entered the Service from Sand Point, Idaho.

ALBERT G. KUDZIA, 01306287, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 August 1944 in France. As leader of the 1st Platoon of Company A, Lieutenant Kudzia was assigned the mission of leading an attack against an enemy headquarters well protected by soldiers in strong defensive

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positions. He was leading his platoon forward when the enemy suddenly opened fire with rifles and mortars. Moving swiftly, he led one squad around the left flank of the hostile force, spotted the enemy concealed behind a clump of bushes and killed one of them with accurate fire from his carbine. The enemy immediately directed heavy machine gun fire at the squad. After locating the gun emplacement, Lieutenant Audzia exposed himself to the hostile fire to hurl hand grenades into the position, silencing the machine gun. On the following morning, he led his platoon as a combat patrol against the headquarters group and captured 45 prisoners and many valuable maps and documents. Entered the Service from Milwaukee, Mich.

LINLEY W. GERRINGER, 01168246, First Lieutenant, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 12 September 1944 in France. Lieutenant Gerringer, platoon leader in the Reconnaissance Company, was leading his men forward in an attack when sudden enemy small arms and mortar fire stopped the platoon's advance. After an attempt to by-pass the strong point had failed, Lieutenant Gerringer crawled forward to a position from which he could observe the hostile force. Although the increased intensity of enemy fire forced him to withdraw to a place of cover, he soon returned to his exposed position and called for artillery support. Ignoring the heavy concentration of mortar fire directed at him, he adjusted effective artillery shelling on the enemy emplacements. He was painfully wounded by a hurtling shell fragment but, mastering the pain of his wound, maintained his position until he had neutralized the hostile fire and forced the enemy to withdraw. Entered the Service from Greensboro, North Carolina.

PHILIP A. RAFFERTY, 01181416, Second Lieutenant, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 21 June 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Rafferty was attached to the 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, as forward observer for his artillery battalion. He was ordered to leave his position with the reserve company of the battalion and join one of the two leading companies which had been subjected to a savage enemy counterattack. Lieutenant Rafferty led his section forward through incessant artillery, mortar and small arms fire toward the hill on which the company was fighting. Although he could have taken cover at the base of the hill, he pressed on to the top and established his observation post in an exposed position from which he could observe and direct fire on enemy targets. Heavy hostile shellfire was blasting the surrounding area, and there had been no time for digging fighting holes. When three enemy tanks charged his position, Lieutenant Rafferty calmly adjusted effective artillery fire on them, disabling two. He then shifted his fire to hostile infantrymen moving forward in the attack and inflicted heavy casualties on them. When the enemy reorganized for another assault, he courageously maintained his hazardous position and continued directing fire on them, contributing materially to the repulse of the attack. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

PAUL M. LIS, 33167852, Technical Sergeant, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Lis led his platoon as a combat patrol to clean up enemy resistance in a valley. While attacking a well defended enemy headquarters, the platoon was subjected to heavy machine gun and rifle fire. Cognizant of the necessity for immediate action, Sergeant Lis led a squad around the left flank of the position where he spotted the hostile machine gun. Taking careful aim, he fired a rifle grenade into the emplacement, knocking out the gun. Then, leading the squad in an assault, he killed two of the enemy and, with the aid of his men, captured three prisoners. His quick thinking and courage resulted in the destruction of the hostile strong point and enabled his platoon to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Reading, Pa.

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ROBERT E. MC KEE, 34208780, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 September 1944 in France. Sergeant McKee was leader of a five-man patrol sent forward to investigate two houses which were thought to be occupied by the enemy. In order to reach one of the buildings it was necessary to cross a clearing 200 yards long. While two of the patrol members remained in position to cover the advance, Sergeant McKee led his other two toward the house across terrain open and swept by hostile machine gun fire. They reached the building, killed two hostile soldiers and forced two others to flee, then returned the hostile fire so that their comrades could cross the clearing and rejoin them. These soldiers were killed before they could reach the house. When the enemy launched an assault, Sergeant McKee held his position as long as possible, then, as the hostile soldiers rushed the house from two sides, he and his companions were forced to withdraw into the woods. Although he was the target for heavy fire which killed another of his comrades, he succeeded in reaching the friendly lines with his valuable report on the enemy's disposition. Entered the Service from Jacksonville, Florida.

HARLAN W. VOLTMER, 32787921, Staff Sergeant, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Voltmer, a squad leader, was assigned the task of defending the left flank of a road block which was protecting an important bridge. Moving under cover of dense woods, a large hostile force approached to within 100 yards of the road block and launched a savage assault. Aware that a swift, aggressive action might rout the enemy, Sergeant Voltmer ordered his squad to apply its maximum fire power and boldly led the advance in the face of point blank small arms and mortar fire. During the intense fighting which ensued, he spotted an enemy officer in a concealed position near some of his comrades. He fired a burst from his sub-machine gun which killed the officer. When he located a group of enemy soldiers who were harassing his men, he opened fire again and wounded several of them. Under his forceful leadership the squad overwhelmed the hostile force, so that when he called to them and demanded their surrender, the disorganized enemy had no alternative. Approximately 80 prisoners were captured and four enemy soldiers killed. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

JOHN YBARBO, 38026352, Staff Sergeant, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 August 1944 in France. While the 2d Platoon of Company K was assaulting a well-organized enemy strong point, the attackers were pinned to the ground by heavy hostile small arms, mortar and artillery fire. Sergeant Ybarbo was assigned the mission of leading his squad to the rear of the enemy position in order to relieve the pressure on the remainder of the platoon. He skillfully maneuvered the men to the left rear of the strong point and there built up a line of fire. When he realized that his squad's fire power was insufficient to dislodge the well-entrenched enemy, Sergeant Ybarbo swiftly organized his men and led a bold and determined assault. Using his bayonet, rifle and grenades in the intense fighting which followed, he alone killed three of the hostile soldiers, wounded two and captured six prisoners. Although he was painfully wounded, Sergeant Ybarbo directed his men in overcoming the resistance, thereby enabling his platoon to continue its advance and achieve its objective. Entered the Service from Victoria, Texas.

PAUL J. TURPIN, 20805035, Sergeant, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Stephenville, Texas.

STEPHEN F. STEPHONAC, 33437663, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Washington, Pennsylvania.

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For gallantry in action on 30 September 1944 in France. After Company L had seized and occupied the western slope of an important hill, these men proceeded to investigate the immediate vicinity of their position, patrolling 300 yards to the front to assure their platoon's security. During the reconnaissance they observed enemy activity in the valley below them and located an artillery battery, an occupied bivouac area, a motor pool and a truck column. Although they were subjected to a heavy barrage from the hostile artillery, these men found an artillery radio operator and remained in the impact area to relay information and direct effective fire on the enemy targets. Their accurate artillery shelling scored hits on all three gun positions, inflicted heavy casualties on troops in the bivouac area, damaged many of the vehicles and completely disorganized the hostile force.

ELZEA R. ROBINSON, 35277392, Corporal, Company H, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. When Corporal Robinson, mortar gunner, put his weapon into action against enemy transports, he immediately became the target for heavy fire from two hostile tanks. Ignoring the dangers to which he was exposed, he courageously remained in position and continued blasting the enemy force with his accurate mortar fire. When the incessant tank fire inflicted several casualties near him, he was told to leave his mortar and take cover. But, contemptuous of personal safety, Corporal Robinson continued firing until the enemy was forced to withdraw. His skill and daring resulted in heavy casualties to enemy personnel, the destruction of a truck and an antiaircraft gun and irreparable damage to other vehicles. Entered the Service from Zanesville, Ohio.

JOHN E. LOGAN, 33440163, Private, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 August 1944 in France. During an attack against strong enemy positions, Private Logan was first scout of the leading squad in the 3d Platoon. While crossing an open field, the platoon suddenly became the target for heavy enemy fire directed from a cluster of houses. Immediately cognizant of this serious threat to the safety of his comrades, Private Logan ran 75 yards across open, fire-swept terrain toward the nearest enemy position, firing his rifle as he advanced. He killed two of the enemy soldiers and forced the remaining eight to surrender. His quick-thinking and daring enabled the other platoons of the company to advance and clear the entire sector of enemy resistance, inflicting heavy casualties on the hostile troops. Entered the Service from Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

by command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

JOHN J. ALDRIGHT
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff:

OFFICIAL:


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