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AG RECORDS SEC

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

13 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 216

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:

NATHANIEL KAPLAN, 01297047, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 March 1945 in Germany. Company C, mounted on tanks, was spearheading the advance against a town in the Siegfried Line defenses when the men were suddenly subjected to an intense concentration of artillery and rocket fire. Lieutenant Kaplan, the commanding officer, with only half his company left, deployed these remaining men and rallied them to move forward with him in the attack. Although painfully wounded by shell fragments, he led them, in the face of intense machine gun fire from the front and flank, across 600 yards of open ground. After three gallant attempts, he succeeded in crossing the exposed terrain and seizing the town. Lieutenant Kaplan's magnificent courage and outstanding leadership inspired his men to overcome the formidable enemy resistance and accomplish their mission. Entered the Service from Camden, New Jersey.

WILLIAM J. JAHNS, JR., 42069388, Technical Sergeant, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. While attacking through a wooded area, the 2d Platoon encountered heavy machine gun fire from an enemy bunker to the front. After deploying one of his squads to lay down a base of fire, Sergeant Jahns, the platoon sergeant, valiantly dashed toward the German strong point, firing his sub-machine gun as he ran. Upon reaching the fortification, he hurled a hand grenade inside, wounding two of the enemy and forcing five others to surrender. Then, spotting two Germans in a nearby machine gun emplacement, he charged this position and captured both of the enemy soldiers. His bold and aggressive actions eliminated a serious threat to his comrades and enabled his platoon to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Great Kills, New York.

FRANK D. TOBY, 33326511, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 March 1945 in Germany. Assigned the mission of clearing an enemy pillbox which was delaying the platoon's advance, Sergeant Toby skillfully placed his men in position to lay down a base of fire. He then dashed forward alone, braving the heavy fire directed at him to reach the side of the pillbox. He hurled two smoke grenades through an aperture in the fortification and then, when the enemy did not surrender, threw three fragmentation grenades inside. Three German officers and seven enlisted men came out of the pillbox and surrendered to Sergeant Toby. His quick-thinking and aggressiveness

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eliminated a threat to his men and enabled his platoon to continue forward and seize its objective. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

HOWARD F. LUCAS, 36900909, Private First Class, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 March 1945 in Germany. When Company F was halted by intense automatic weapons and rifle fire from an enemy pillbox, Private First Class Lucas was given the mission of cutting a passage through the barbed wire entanglements which blocked the approaches to the fortification. Although he was the target for heavy enemy fire, he crawled dauntlessly forward to the barbed wire and, with bullets hitting within inches of him, cut a large gap through the entanglements. Then, instead of returning to his squad after completing his mission, he dashed to the side of the pillbox and, although subjected to fire from other enemy strong points, hurled three hand grenades through an aperture of the fortification, forcing its occupants to flee. As three Germans attempted to take up a new position, he killed them with accurate rifle fire. His valiant actions cleared the enemy strong point and enabled his company to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Davenport, Iowa.

MANUEL DIAZ, 39588673, Private First Class, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 March 1945 in Germany. When the 2d Platoon's advance was halted by intense automatic weapons fire from a Siegfried line pillbox, Private First Class Diaz, boldly exposing himself to the hostile fire, continued dauntlessly forward, crawling over felled trees and through barbed wire entanglements toward the strong point. Although he became the target for an enemy mortar concentration and for small arms fire from nearby pillboxes, he cut his way through the last barbed wire entanglement and crawled over trenches to a position beside an aperture in the pillbox. He swiftly hurled two phosphorous grenades into the fortification, forcing its eight occupants to surrender. His aggressive action opened the way for his company to flank the remaining pillboxes and complete its mission. Entered the Service from Montebello, California.

GUADALUPE LARA, 38051120, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. When attempts to clear a strongly fortified Siegfried line pillbox were frustrated by intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire, Private First Class Lara was given the mission of placing a beehive charge against the door of the fortification. After advancing to within approximately 70 yards of his objective, he became the target for heavy automatic weapons fire from nearby pillboxes, but he crawled dauntlessly forward across the open terrain with the explosive cradled in his arms. Finally reaching the pillbox, he placed the charge against the door and set it off. The explosion blew open the door, wounded four Germans and forced all twelve occupants to surrender. Private First Class Lara's determination and aggressiveness were an inspiration to all his comrades. Entered the Service from Angleton, Texas.

JOHN D. FRENCH, 34925532, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. When a demolition squad was halted by intense enemy fire from Siegfried line positions, Private First Class French, with a 40 pound beehive charge cradled in his arms, crawled dauntlessly forward toward the pillbox which was his

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squad's immediate objective. Although he was the target for small arms fire from other pillboxes in the vicinity, he bravely exposed himself to crawl over trees and through barbed wire entanglements, never faltering until he reached the German strong point. He swiftly placed his charge against the door of the pillbox and set it off. The explosion blew open the door, wounded one German and forced seven others to surrender. As a result of Private First Class French's courage and aggressiveness in eliminating this key strong point, the battalion was able to flank the remaining pillboxes and complete its mission. Entered the Service from Mobile, Alabama.

DOUGLAS M. ROLLINS, 34150838, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. When the 2d Platoon was halted by intense enemy fire from a Siegfried Line pillbox, Private First Class Rollins, a rifleman, dashed across 50 yards of exposed terrain in the face of hostile fire to reach the German strong point. Crawling to the top of the fortification, he dropped several grenades into the open door, wounding two Germans. Then, boldly moving in the direct line of enemy fire, he crawled to a ventilator on the side of the pillbox and dropped another grenade down the shaft. Although he was the target for an enemy sniper, he valiantly remained on top of the fortification and, by dropping grenades in front of the firing apertures, neutralized the hostile fire. His quick-thinking and courage enabled his platoon to charge the position, killing one German, wounding two and capturing three, and then continue its advance. Entered the Service from Zachary, Louisiana.

HUGH M. OSBORNE, 35689390, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. During an attack against a sector of Siegfried Line defenses, the assault platoon was halted by heavy machine gun fire from a German pillbox. As his companions sought cover, Private First Class Osborne, acting on his own initiative and with complete disregard for his personal safety, dashed across 75 yards of open terrain in the face of the hostile fire. Upon reaching the side of the pillbox, he climbed to the top and, although his position afforded no cover, began dropping hand grenades through the door of the fortification. By his bold action he killed two Germans, silenced the machine gun and captured the other three occupants, eliminating the strong point and enabling his company to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Taylorsville, Kentucky.

JOHN C. BECKWITH, JR., 33921874, Private, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 March 1945 in Germany. When the 2d Platoon was halted by heavy enemy small arms fire from a trench and pillbox to the immediate front, Private Beckwith, acting on his own initiative, dashed forward in the face of the hostile fire. He assaulted the trench and, firing at almost point blank range, killed one German and forced three others to surrender to him. Then, with enemy bullets hitting all around him, he ran to the side of the pillbox and hurled a grenade through one of the apertures. Although the Germans occupying the strong point immediately began throwing concussion grenades which burst within five feet of him, Private Beckwith hurled another grenade into the pillbox, wounding two enemy soldiers and forcing all ten of the occupants to surrender. As a result of his gallant actions, an enemy strong point was eliminated and his

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platoon was able to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Kittanning, Pennsylvania.

FRANK J. PETRIGAC, 35061924, Private, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1944 in France. When a German machine gunner assaulted his position, Private Petrigac valiantly stood his ground and, with his accurate fire, killed the enemy soldier. A few minutes later the position held by his machine gun section was completely surrounded by the hostile troops. The enemy directed heavy artillery concentrations on the route to the rear in an effort to prevent aid from reaching the friendly force. Though fully aware of the dangers involved, Private Petrigac volunteered for the hazardous mission of breaking through the German lines and obtaining help. He moved alone through the woods and, despite machine pistol and sniper fire and the artillery shells which were crashing all around him, continued dauntlessly on his mission. Finally, after crossing an open field that was known to contain enemy mines, he reached the company command post. By his valiant actions, Private Petrigac secured help in routing the enemy from the positions which endangered the machine gun section. Entered the Service from Cleveland, Ohio.

RALPH M. GANNON, 35882205, Private, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 September 1944 in France. While attacking across an open field, the squad of which Private Gannon was second scout was subjected to heavy enemy small arms fire which killed the lead scout and pinned the squad to the ground. Immediately taking the place of the first scout, Private Gannon informed his squad leader of the situation and then worked his way to a position behind a well which afforded excellent observation. While he attracted most of the enemy fire, the remainder of his squad was able to take cover in buildings to the rear. A German four-man patrol approached along a draw and assaulted his position. Although bullets were hitting all around him, Private Gannon fought with such valor and determination that three of the enemy were killed or wounded and the fourth was forced to flee. He remained in this precarious position, delivering harassing fire at the hostile force and passing back information to his squad leader, until the enemy withdrew. Entered the Service from Newport, Ky.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DAHLQUIST:

JESSE B. MTLACK
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Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

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

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