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

AG RECORDS SEC.

11 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 214

Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I
Award of Silver Star.....II

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 STROMOCK, 33101073, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 February 1945 in France. Sergeant Stromock was given the mission of leading a combat patrol into an enemy-held town. As the patrol approached its objective, the scouts detected an enemy minefield. Rather than risk the lives of his scouts, Sergeant Stromock courageously moved to the head of the patrol and led his men safely across the mined area. After accomplishing its mission, the patrol started back across the minefield, and Sergeant Stromock again took the lead position. While crossing the area, he stepped on a mine and was killed. His gallant sacrifice enabled the other members of the patrol to return safely to the friendly lines. Next of kin: Mrs. Anna Stromock (Mother), RFD #2, New Alexandria, Pennsylvania.

EDWARD A. SWEENEY, 35242635, Private First Class, Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Sweeney and a comrade were assigned the mission of spearheading their platoon's attack against enemy positions along a ridge. Hurling hand grenades and advancing by fire and movement they moved across the ridgeline in the face of heavy enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire until, 75 yards past the crest of the hill, they lost contact with the remainder of their squad. Then, as bullets struck within inches and shells burst around them, they steadfastly remained in position, laying down a base of fire while their comrades worked their way up on line with them. As his comrades advanced to occupy their objective, Private First Class Sweeney was instantly killed by a bursting mortar shell. Next of kin: Mrs. Annabelle Sweeney (Mother), 161 Deleson Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio.

NOAH J. MARTIN, 33859836, Private, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 March 1945 in France. Private Martin, an automatic rifleman, was a member of a patrol assigned the mission of going forward and reconnoitering an enemy road block. Although an enemy machine gun opened fire on them and the area was heavily mined, the men worked their way forward to where they could observe the hostile positions. Private Martin surprised a German soldier behind the road block and quickly took him prisoner. With the mission accomplished, the patrol was ordered to withdraw; and Private Martin valiantly remained behind to deliver covering fire as his comrades moved back. He had observed a number of enemy riflemen starting to move up and was maneuvering to

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secure a better field of fire when he stepped on a mine and was instantly killed. His gallant sacrifice was a source of inspiration to all the members of his platoon. Next of kin: Mrs. Margaret B. Martin (Wife), Exmore, Virginia.

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:

CYRIL F. THORNBURG, 01310174, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 May 1944 in Italy. When the 3d Battalion encountered heavy small arms and artillery fire, Lieutenant Thornburg courageously made a reconnaissance alone in the face of machine gun and sniper fire and then, guiding his platoon of machine guns forward, placed his men in position. As artillery and mortar shells burst around him, he moved continuously about the position directing the fire of his men; and on three occasions during the day, as the battle progressed, he displaced his weapons to locations that offered better fields of fire. When a platoon of friendly riflemen was subjected to machine gun crossfire coming from two houses, Lieutenant Thornburg personally directed the fire of all four of his guns on the hostile positions, silencing the enemy fire and enabling the friendly troops to advance. By his courageous and aggressive leadership, he materially aided his battalion in overcoming strong enemy resistance and continuing the advance. Entered the Service from Auburn, Nebraska.

VIRGIL V. PEDERSEN, 01315203, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1945 in France. Lieutenant Pedersen was assigned the mission of taking a reinforced platoon forward and setting up a defensive line. As he led his men at night across open terrain, he observed, in the light from a group of burning buildings, about six Germans setting up two machine guns. Taking a small squad of men, he skillfully led them in a flanking maneuver across more than 300 yards of open, flooded ground to within 50 yards of the position. He opened fire, surprising the hostile soldiers and forcing them to withdraw. Lieutenant Pedersen then went ahead alone and reconnoitered the position before calling the remainder of his platoon forward. As a result of his personal aggressiveness and skillful leadership, his platoon was able to complete its mission. Entered the Service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

CHARLES W. O'DAY, 01036782, Second Lieutenant, 83d Chemical Mortar Battalion, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944 in France. When an estimated two companies of Germans overran the outpost position held by a platoon of Company B, Lieutenant O'Day, assigned the defense of the northwest section of a recently captured town, swiftly placed the men of his platoon in the most advantageous positions along the edge of town. During the enemy attack, which lasted for more than two hours, he bravely exposed himself to the hostile fire as he moved from squad to squad, controlling and coordinating the fire of his men and directing it on enemy targets. When the supply of ammunition was almost exhausted, he braved intense small arms fire to secure an additional supply and to distribute it among his squads. His personal courage and aggressive leadership were responsible for stopping the numerically superior enemy troops before they reached their objective. Entered the Service from New Orleans, Louisiana.

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JULIUS J. SORENSON, 38101799, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 83d Chemical Mortar Battalion, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944 in France. When an estimated two companies of Germans overran the outpost position held by a platoon of Company B, Sergeant Sorenson, assigned the defense of the northwest section of a recently captured town, alerted the squads of his platoon and placed them in buildings on the edge of the town. During two hours of intense fighting, he repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to maintain contact with his squads and to secure additional ammunition when the supply was almost exhausted. Later, when the company was preparing to attack and retake its former position, Sergeant Sorenson volunteered to lead a three-man patrol to determine enemy strength in the area. The information which he secured at great personal risk contributed greatly to the success of the attack. Entered the Service from Taylor, Texas.

EDUBIGLEN L. GONZALES, 39648814, Staff Sergeant, (then Corporal), Company M, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. When the enemy overran friendly positions, Corporal Gonzales continued to fire his 81mm mortar until he was captured by the hostile soldiers. Shortly afterward, he was released when two members of a friendly unit infiltrated and took his guards prisoner. He immediately made his way alone to a building where he knew there were several more Germans. Coming suddenly upon a sentry outside the building, he grappled with him, seized his weapon and wounded him as he attempted to flee. Another sentry then opened fire on him, but he dashed forward, firing his captured weapon as he ran, and killed the guard with two well-aimed shots. His daring and aggressive actions forced the remaining five enemy soldiers in the building to surrender and released approximately 20 friendly soldiers they were holding prisoner. Entered the Service from Tucson, Arizona.

HAROLD F. STEINKE, 36160135, Sergeant, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1945 in France. Assigned the mission of spearheading Company C's attack on an enemy-held town, Sergeant Steinke had led his squad to within 50 yards of the first house when he and his men were suddenly subjected to heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Skillfully deploying his men and ordering them to lay down a base of fire on the house, Sergeant Steinke crawled forward across muddy terrain and in the face of the hostile fire to reach the German strong point. Bravely exposing himself, he broke down the door of the house with his rifle butt and, after throwing a hand grenade into the room, opened fire with his rifle. His bold and aggressive actions killed two of the enemy, wounded two more, and resulted in the surrender of eight Germans. Sergeant Steinke then led his squad in clearing four more buildings, thereby enabling his company to gain a quick entry into the town. Entered the Service from Greenville, Michigan.

JOHN E. RICHARDS, 32767427, Corporal, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 September 1944 in France. A group of riflemen from the 1st Battalion had crossed an important river when they were subjected to intense machine gun and rifle fire which inflicted numerous casualties and halted the advance. The mortar squad in which Corporal Richards was gunner was ordered into action to relieve the pressure on the bridgehead. The mortar position was located on open ground near the river bank, and it immediately became the target for heavy enemy fire. With bullets ricocheting from the mortar tube, all the squad members except Corporal Richards and one comrade left the position and

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sought cover. With utter disregard for his personal safety, Corporal Richards continued delivering effective fire on the German machine gun. As a result of his courageous action in neutralizing the hostile fire, the rifle elements were able to maneuver and secure the bridgehead. Entered the Service from Passan, New Jersey.

WILLIAM O. KELLEY, 13076661, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 May 1945 in Austria. Assigned the mission of reconnoitering the regiment's route of advance, Private First Class Kelley was advancing at the head of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon when he was fired on by enemy riflemen. He swiftly ran back to the lead vehicle, moved it into position and, bravely exposing himself to the hostile fire, forced the enemy to flee with accurate machine gun fire. Ordered to withdraw and reconnoiter another route, Private First Class Kelley noticed enemy activity in a group of buildings. Although he was the target for a German rifleman, he boldly crossed 500 yards of open ground and captured five prisoners in these buildings. Then, with enemy bullets ripping through his clothing, he fired his machine gun until he had killed two Germans, wounded another, and completely destroyed an enemy machine gun position. His outstanding aggressiveness and daring initiative were a source of inspiration to his companions. Entered the Service from Washington, D. C.

WILMER L. MAHUGH, 37358364, Private First Class, Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 March 1945 in France. When the platoon's aid man was severely wounded by a mine explosion, Private First Class Mahugh, a rifleman, unhesitatingly ran across the mined area and, despite enemy shellfire, assisted in administering first aid and evacuating the casualty. He then took the aid man's medical supplies and carried them with him. For the next 24 hours he treated his platoon's casualties in addition to performing his regular duties as a rifleman. Without the protection given medical personnel, Private First Class Mahugh braved heavy enemy small arms and artillery fire to cross dangerous areas and go to forward positions so that he could administer immediate first aid to the casualties. During the period, although injured himself, he treated five wounded men and, by his courage and resourcefulness, assured his injured comrades prompt and effective medical attention. Entered the Service from Thompson, Wyoming.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DAHLQUIST:

JESSE B. MATLACK
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

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

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