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

AG RECORDS SEC.

3 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 59

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:

VICTOR R. KOZLECAR, 01294677, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Waukeegan, Illinois.

FRANK J. WILARY, 36690288, Staff Sergeant, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Cicero, Illinois.

LE ROY F. JACOBSON, 36258927, Staff Sergeant, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Tomah, Wisconsin.

WINFIELD E. FLAGEOL, 35839035, Private First Class, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Indianapolis, Indiana.

for gallantry in action on 2 December 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon of Company K was assigned the mission of attacking and securing an enemy-held hill. These men advanced in an assault on the hostile defenses and captured six prisoners. After seizing their objective, they established a hasty defense. For three and a half hours the enemy directed heavy artillery and mortar concentrations on the platoon's position, inflicting a number of casualties. When the barrage lifted, approximately 35 enemy soldiers launched a violent attack with grenades and automatic weapons, and the platoon was ordered to withdraw from the untenable area. They courageously volunteered to remain on the crest of the hill and delay the attackers while the wounded were evacuated. Although outnumbered eight to one, they dauntlessly held their ground for over an hour, employing automatic rifles, rifles and grenades to slow the enemy's advance. Only when all the wounded had been evacuated would these men leave their hazardous position on the hill and rejoin their platoon. Their valor and intrepidity contributed materially to the safe withdrawal of the platoon and to the prompt evacuation of the wounded.

LINDELL D. SCOTT, 20837722, Technical Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 January 1945 in France. Company A was ordered to attack and seize an enemy-held hill, and Sergeant Scott, acting platoon leader, was assigned the mission of flanking the hostile positions. When heavy artillery shelling and small arms fire delayed the frontal assault, he led his men through direct enemy fire toward the hostile emplacements. Although painfully wounded in the hand by small arms fire, he pressed determinedly forward, maintaining complete control of his platoon and encouraging his men to charge the enemy. Effecting a skillful flanking maneuver, he led his platoon in overrunning the hostile positions. As a result of the intense fire fight, eight enemy soldiers were killed and 20 were captured. Despite his injury, Sergeant Scott refused medical aid until he had organized a strong defense of the hill. Entered the Service from Delta, Colorado.

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JOAQUIN VENEGAS, 20802354, Technical Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 May 1944 in Italy. During an attack against a strategically important enemy stronghold, Company E was subjected to heavy tank fire which delayed its advance and threatened it with disorganization. Realizing the necessity for aggressive action, Private First Class Venegas voluntarily climbed to an exposed position on a bank and opened fire with his grenade launcher. The enemy spotted him, and he became the target for direct fire from the hostile tanks. Undaunted by the heavy fire, he remained steadfastly in position and continued operating his weapon. His accurate fire disabled one of the tanks and forced the others to withdraw. Private First Class Venegas returned to his platoon and, after swiftly reorganizing it, established a defensive position. His gallant and aggressive action was responsible for preventing many casualties among the friendly troops and for saving his platoon from becoming disorganized. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

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DANIEL RICCIARDI, 32222418, Staff Sergeant, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 October 1944 in France. Sergeant Ricciardi was assigned as forward observer for his mortar platoon. During a violently contested assault against strong enemy defenses, he proceeded across an open field under direct fire from machine guns and rifles, laying a wire line as he advanced. Moving through wooded areas where he was constantly imperilled by tree bursts from hostile artillery and mortar shelling, he pressed forward to the leading elements of the supported rifle company and established his observation post in a spot which afforded the best observation of the hostile force. Although his position was subjected to direct small arms fire and the surrounding area was blasted by incessant artillery and mortar concentrations, he valiantly maintained his post and calmly adjusted effective fire on the enemy weapons which were delaying the advance of the rifle elements. When his communications were shattered by the hostile shellfire, Sergeant Ricciardi crawled across the fire-swept area to repair the line. Displaying unusual skill and determination, he repelled a hostile counterattack and enabled the rifle company to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

THEODORE R. BARKER, 33747255, Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 October 1944 in France. Sergeant Barker was assigned the mission of leading a five-man patrol to check a wooded area for hostile troops and to outpost the far edge of the woods. In his advance through the area, he captured 18 enemy soldiers who were occupying dug-in positions and killed two who attempted to resist. After marching the prisoners to the rear, he led his men forward again to complete the mission. With a captured non-commissioned officer to guide him, Sergeant Barker continued on toward his objective. When the enemy directed an artillery barrage on the area, he was painfully wounded by a hurtling shell fragment but, disdaining surrender, led his men dauntlessly forward. In the course of the advance, the prisoner pointed out a hostile strong point, and five more enemy soldiers were captured. After returning these prisoners to the rear, Sergeant Barker led his patrol to the objective and, making certain that there were no more enemy troops within the sector, established a four-man outpost, thereby securing the company's right flank. Entered the Service from Washington, D. C.

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VERNON L. ANDREWS, 39863772, Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944 in France. During a savage enemy counterattack against a recently captured town, the 1st Squad of the 2d Platoon was assigned the mission of contacting a platoon from another company which had been surrounded by hostile troops and of clearing all enemy resistance along the route of advance. Courageously moving to the front of his men, Sergeant Andrews led his squad across open fields toward the objective. Each time hostile soldiers, attempting to maintain their position, opened fire with rifles and machine guns, he skillfully directed his men in driving the enemy back. After pressing forward to within 100 yards of the beleaguered platoon, the squad was subjected to intense small arms and automatic weapons fire which delayed its advance. Fearlessly exposing himself to the hostile fire, Sergeant Andrews determined the enemy's location and immediately directed his men into advantageous positions. As a result of his quick-thinking and aggressive leadership, five hostile soldiers were killed and 31 captured during this engagement. Spotting an enemy bazooka team preparing to fire on friendly tanks, he swiftly deployed his men and directed them in eliminating this threat. He then led his squad forward and contacted the platoon in a minimum of time, successfully accomplishing his difficult mission. Entered the Service from Glendale, Arizona.

MELVIN T. NEALIS, 37580248, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Nealis was assigned the mission of leading a combat patrol into hostile territory to attack and seize an enemy strong point on a well-defended knoll. Although aware that the road to his objective was heavily mined and bounded on both sides by water, he deployed his patrol in the attack formation and courageously advanced along the only available route. He skillfully directed his men through three mined road blocks and, as he approached the knoll, led his patrol forward in an assault. In order to maintain complete control, he necessarily exposed himself to heavy rifle and machine gun fire. Contemptuous of personal safety, he advanced straight in the face of the hostile fire toward his objective. He kept his patrol moving forward and directed his men in completely overrunning the enemy positions. As a result of his daring, aggressive leadership, three hostile soldiers were killed, nine were captured and three machine guns were destroyed. Entered the Service from Hallock, Minn.

STANTON A. WHITE, 32652811, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private First Class), Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 November 1944 in France. Elements of the 1st Battalion were fighting from house to house in an important enemy stronghold when their advance was delayed by a well-defended road block. When a sergeant of Company A was critically wounded in the vicinity of the road block, Private First Class White, an aid man, unhesitatingly volunteered to attempt to rescue him. Although aware that the area was subjected to incessant small arms and self-propelled gun fire, he valiantly dashed across the exposed terrain to within 20 yards of the road block. Picking up his injured comrade, he carried him to the comparative safety of a nearby house. While he was administering expert emergency treatment to his patient, the building received several direct hits from a self-propelled gun. Realizing the seriousness of the casualty's condition and his urgent need for prompt evacuation, he jumped from a second story window of the house and again braved

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direct hostile fire to secure a litter and an assistant litter bearer from the aid station. In spite of his selfless and heroic efforts, the wounded man died before his evacuation could be effected. However, Private First Class White's dauntless intrepidity and aggressive vigor inspired the respect and confidence of the supported troops, assuring them of immediate medical attention under the most adverse and hazardous conditions. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

HUGH T. STUBBLEFIELD, 39848134, Private First Class, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Stubblefield, with a companion, was assigned the task of guarding the rear of his platoon command post. When two enemy soldiers worked their way to within 15 yards of his position, he tried to put an automatic rifle into action, but the weapon, clogged with mud, misfired. As the hostile soldiers charged, Private First Class Stubblefield delayed them by hurling his field glasses, which the enemy mistook for a hand grenade, into their path. Hesitating only for a moment, the attackers rushed forward, assaulting him and his companion with knives. Although he suffered painful knife wounds, Private First Class Stubblefield managed to escape. He ran to a nearby cellar, secured a rifle and, with thoughts only for the safety of his comrade, returned to rescue him from the attackers. Opening fire with his rifle, he killed both of the enemy soldiers, thereby saving the life of his companion and frustrating an assault against the command post. Entered the Service from Yuma, Arizona.

THEODORE W. KARAU, 37269569, Private, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1945 in France. When the 2d Platoon of Company L was ordered to eliminate two enemy self-propelled weapons which were threatening the 3d Battalion Command Post, Private Karau volunteered to serve as a bazooka man in the assault on the guns. He pressed forward until he reached an advantageous firing position in a building near the weapons. Although one of the hostile guns scored two direct hits on the house, he remained steadfastly in position, knocking out one of the self-propelled weapons and killing its crew with two accurate rounds. The other gun was forced to withdraw. Then, spotting two hostile soldiers running down the street, Private Karau again opened fire and killed one of them with a direct hit. By his daring and aggressiveness, he destroyed a serious threat to the safety of the battalion command post. Entered the Service from Rochester, Minnesota.

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

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