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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

4 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 61

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 C. GENTLE, 0296048, Major, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 August 1944 in France. Major Gentle was assigned the mission of leading a task force consisting of Company G and four tank destroyers to reduce enemy fortifications blocking a vital supply route. After completing a reconnaissance of the area under small arms fire, he led the tank destroyers forward to smash an initial road barrier and directed their fire against the strong point. Although he was the target for hostile fire, he personally led his infantry elements in an assault against the enemy position. Swiftly deploying the company, he directed his men in surrounding the fortification without a single casualty to the friendly troops. As a result of his skillful and aggressive leadership, 40 enemy soldiers were captured and the important supply route was opened. Entered the Service from Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.

STANLEY M. MICHALAK, 01316182, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 September 1944 in France. While on a reconnaissance mission, Lieutenant Michalak, his runner and a fellow officer were trapped in a house by the forward elements of three enemy companies. As two hostile soldiers entered the house, Lieutenant Michalak and his companions captured one and forced the other to flee. The enemy troops withdrew a short distance and opened fire with automatic weapons, machine guns, mortars and bazookas. Lieutenant Michalak volunteered to remain in position and delay the hostile troops while the other officer escaped with his prisoner and adjusted artillery and mortar fire on the enemy. By his intrepidity and resourcefulness, he contributed materially to the rout of the hostile force. Entered the Service from Dearborn, Michigan.

WILLIAM H. HEATHERINGTON, 35229886, Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 February 1945 in France. As the 2d Squad of the 1st Platoon started across a road covered by enemy fire, two of the soldiers were wounded, and Sergeant Heatherington immediately ran to their assistance. Hearing a hostile patrol approaching along the street to his left, he ran forward and, by hurling hand grenades into the midst of the enemy group, wounded one of the soldiers and dispersed the remainder. Then, after crossing and re-crossing the road to see whether he would draw fire, Sergeant Heatherington decided it was safe and returned to help carry the wounded men back across the road to a place of safety. His unselfish action, at the risk of his own life, assured his injured comrades of immediate medical attention and prompt evacuation. Entered the Service from Bellaire, Ohio.

ZACK BARACK, 35276036, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Fort Hayes, Ohio.

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ROBERT K. SINK, 33099371, Sergeant, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

for gallantry in action on 30 September 1944 in France. These men voluntarily entered a wooded area to eliminate hostile snipers who had been harassing their company. After killing one sniper, they approached a house surrounded by a stone wall. They killed both guards with rifle fire and, swiftly scaling the wall, charged the building, firing their rifles as they ran. Their bold and aggressive action forced the startled enemy command post group within the house to surrender. Four of the enemy soldiers were killed and twelve were captured. The seizure of the building resulted in the cessation of enemy activity in the sector because the officer who had been directing hostilities was among the prisoners. The quick-thinking and daring initiative of the above-named men reflect great credit upon themselves and their organization.

LEWIE R. HOLLAND, 34170306, Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 in France. When a large hostile force threatened to overrun the Company B defensive positions, Sergeant Holland, leader of a mortar squad, delivered mortar fire on the enemy troops. Hostile soldiers charged his position, firing rifles and machine guns, but Sergeant Holland remained determinedly with his weapon. In spite of heavy enemy artillery shelling, he calmly manned his mortar and frustrated the attack. Then, as the enemy renewed the attack from the flank, he repelled the second assault with his effective fire, killing six of the hostile soldiers and wounding two. By his skill and courage, Sergeant Holland prevented his company from being overrun by the enemy. Entered the Service from Gneiss, North Carolina.

JOE F. KOISHOR, 36479305, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 in France. Private First Class Koishor, an automatic rifleman in the 2d Platoon, was occupying an outpost on his unit's left flank when a large hostile force launched a determined attack. Holding his fire until the enemy soldiers were in view, he suddenly opened fire on the startled foe, killing four and wounding four or five others. Although subjected to machine gun and rifle fire, he continued operating his weapon and, even when wounded in the arm, remained in the hazardous position. In spite of the pain of his injury, he loaded magazines for his assistant gunner and, when the weapon jammed, swiftly cleared the stoppage. His valor and determination contributed materially to the repulse of the assault. Entered the Service from Granite City, Illinois.

RALPH E. PACE, 37697310, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 in France. Private First Class Pace, assistant automatic rifleman in the 2d Platoon, was occupying an outpost position on his unit's left flank when a large hostile force launched a determined attack and charged to within 25 yards of the outpost. The automatic rifleman was wounded by small arms fire, and Private First Class Pace began operating the weapon. Delivering rapid, accurate bursts of fire, he killed three enemy soldiers, wounded three and pinned six others to the ground until they were captured. When the automatic rifle jammed, he seized a rifle and continued firing until a comrade cleared the stoppage. Again opening fire with the automatic rifle, he repelled the assault in his sector and secured his platoon's flank. Entered the Service from Muscatine, Iowa.

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GEORGE F. RICHARDS, 31309457, Private First Class, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 December 1944 in France. While delivering a message to his company's forward outpost, Private First Class Richards spotted a group of enemy soldiers infiltrating through the friendly lines and occupying a nearby house. After reporting the information to his company commander, he voluntarily guided several tank destroyers through artillery, mortar and sniper fire to a position near the enemy-held building. After the tank destroyers had blasted the house with accurate fire, Private First Class Richards charged the position under covering machine gun fire and hurled a hand grenade into the building. His bold and aggressive action resulted in the capture of 15 prisoners. Entered the Service from Wakefield, Massachusetts.

CHARLES L. HARRIS, 37580571, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944 in France. When the enemy launched a determined attack against a recently captured town, a large hostile force approached the house defended by Private First Class Harris and two companions. Spotting the enemy, Private First Class Harris swiftly put his automatic rifle into action in a window on the second floor. With his accurate fire, he wounded two hostile soldiers who rushed the house, forced a machine gunner to abandon his weapon and killed an enemy bazookaman. Although exposed to small arms and artillery fire, he remained steadfastly at his post by the window and continued operating his weapon until he was seriously wounded by hurtling shell fragments. His quick-thinking and daring initiative contributed materially to the repulse of the assault. Entered the Service from Park River, North Dakota.

ALLEN E. STERN, 32974966, Private First Class (then Private), Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 in France. The 2d Platoon of Company B had established a defensive position on a hill when a large hostile force launched a determined attack from the flank and rear. Private Stern, a scout in the 1st Squad, was occupying a fighting hole which did not afford a field of fire to cover the hostile troops attacking from the rear. Working his way through heavy machine gun and rifle fire, he reached a position from which he could operate his sub-machine gun against the enemy. As the hostile soldiers pressed forward, he jumped from his fighting hole and stood up in order to fire with greater effectiveness. His intrepid actions inspired his fellow soldiers, and his accurate fire contributed materially to the repulse of the assault in his sector. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

DOMENICK GALLO, 33673240, Private, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 August 1944 in France. When the 2d Battalion's attack against a tactically important, enemy-held hill was delayed by heavy fire, Company G was ordered to assault the hostile positions from the flank. Intense enemy small arms fire halted the leading elements of the company. Aware of the urgency of reducing the strong point, Private Gallo continued determinedly forward while his companions sought cover. Crawling under machine gun and rifle fire, he worked his way to within a few yards of the hostile position. He opened fire with his automatic rifle, killing six of the enemy soldiers, wounding three and capturing one. His bold and aggressive action enabled his company to push forward and attain its objective. Entered the Service from Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

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HUBERT W. AIKIN, 38629354, Private, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 in France. After Company C had completed a successful attack on a hill, the enemy directed an artillery and mortar barrage on the area. While leading a litter squad through the shellfire toward a group of injured soldiers, Private Aikin heard enemy machine gun fire to his right. Directing the litter bearers to a place of cover, he investigated and discovered a well-concealed machine gun nest which had been by-passed by the friendly troops. The hostile gunner was directing fire at the crew of a tank destroyer. Private Aikin charged the dug-out and, hurling a hand grenade into the position, wounded the hostile soldier and silenced the gun. He then returned to the litter squad and led it to the spot where his injured comrades were lying. His courage and aggressiveness resulted in the destruction of a machine gun emplacement and were responsible for the prompt evacuation of the wounded soldiers. Entered the Service from Whitesboro, Texas.

VERNON JOHNSON, 35267986, Private First Class, Battery C, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action from 11 to 15 December 1944 in France. While serving as a voluntary member of a forward observer section, Private First Class Johnson helped rescue a wounded infantryman under heavy fire, assisted in operating a forward observation post subjected to severe artillery shelling, and carried urgently needed ammunition to the front line infantry elements. On one occasion, when an enemy tank was firing at the friendly troops, Private First Class Johnson volunteered to climb to an exposed hilltop and locate the tank. In spite of heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire, he obtained information which enabled friendly artillery to drive away the hostile tank with effective fire. His courageous efforts contributed materially to the maintenance of close artillery support. Entered the Service from Sand Gap, Kentucky.

LOYD O. WELCH, 34890437, Private First Class, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 October 1944 in France. Private First Class Welch was the gunner in a machine gun squad supporting an advance through a densely wooded area. When the attack was delayed by heavy enemy fire, he swiftly put his weapon into action and fired into the midst of the hostile force. Although he became the target for machine gun and rifle fire and hand grenades, he continued operating his gun until he had emptied six belts of ammunition. On two occasions he hurled hand grenades at hostile troops who advanced to within ten yards of his position. As a result of his accurate fire, approximately 25 of the enemy were killed or wounded, and the supported rifle company was able to surround the hostile strong point. Entered the Service from Gastonia, North Carolina.

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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