

RESTRICTED

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

GENERAL ORDERS

INTOUSA ORIGINAL ORDER

16 November 1944

NO

444

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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.

ERVIN K. MATHES, 36320347, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 August 1944 in France. Company L was occupying a defensive position in a former enemy stronghold. Private First Class Mathes, a rifleman, joined a combat patrol with the mission of clearing the enemy from the southern part of the town. While advancing toward their objective, the patrol members were subjected to heavy machine gun fire from a hostile pillbox. Private First Class Mathes was seriously wounded by the enemy fire before he could reach a covered position. In spite of the intense pain of his wound, he refused evacuation and, from his exposed position, fired a full clip of rifle ammunition into the pillbox, thereby enabling his comrades to move to more advantageous positions. While he was reloading, another burst from the enemy gun killed him instantly. Next of Kin: Mrs. T. Mathes (Mother), 5604 South May Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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.

RICHARD M. BURRAGE, 0407025, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 August 1944 in France. Because the 1st Battalion was assigned the defense of a wide sector, it was necessary to leave a gap between the positions of Companies A and B. While Captain Burrage was moving the battalion command post into position behind Company B, a large enemy force launched a savage attack. Aware that the heavy machine gun, mortar and tank fire threatened to disorganize the company, Captain Burrage swiftly directed his command post group into position to return the enemy fire. He then collected the men of Company B, reorganized the unit and established a defense against the hostile attackers. He led the battalion's reserve company forward to help repel the attack and called for support from tank destroyers. The tempo of enemy fire increased, but Captain Burrage courageously placed the tank destroyers in an advantageous position from which they destroyed an enemy tank. His daring and ingenuity were largely responsible for the repulse of the attack. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

Citation amended by Lt. # 478 - Dec. 10, 1944
JAMES R. LOWERY, 01101301, Captain, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 22 to 26 October 1944 in France. Company K was assigned the mission of protecting the left flank of the 3d Battalion during an attack

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Against a well-defended enemy stronghold. In the approach march, the company was delayed by heavy machine gun and rifle fire. Captain Lowery, battalion S-3, had joined Company K in the assembly area and now, exposing himself to the small arms fire, halted the column and reconnoitered the area to his front in an attempt to locate the enemy positions. When the order was given to continue the advance, Captain Lowery led his men forward through a densely wooded area until sunset, then, with the battalion halted for the night, prepared his plan of attack for the following morning. He personally led the company in the assault and was successful in seizing a hill which overlooked the hostile stronghold. Later, while accompanying the battalion commander on a reconnaissance to the outskirts of the enemy-held town, he was wounded by the hostile fire. Ignoring the pain of his wounds, Captain Lowery assisted in establishing defenses within the town when it was liberated by the friendly troops. On 26 October ^{September} he led the battalion to a new area and, while supervising the organization of the defenses, was seriously wounded during a heavy artillery barrage and was evacuated to the rear. Entered the Service from Cheboygan, Michigan.

ELBERT E. ALBERTY, 01295483, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 September 1944 in France. Lieutenant Alberty led his Weapons Platoon in support of the leading platoon of Company I in an attack against a town. He advanced along the streets of the former enemy stronghold with the assault platoon in order to spot targets for his guns. The attack was temporarily delayed by fire from two enemy howitzers. While a bazookaman knocked out one of the guns, Lieutenant Alberty ran back to his platoon, set up his mortar and, without assistance, silenced the second gun and killed seven of the crew members with his accurate fire. He then pressed forward beyond the advance elements of the company, entered a house occupied by the enemy and, single-handed, killed four of the soldiers and captured seven. Later in the day, when he spotted a large hostile force on a hill outside the town, he directed effective mortar fire on them, completely routing the enemy soldiers. Entered the Service from Searsville, Missouri.

JAMES P. HOLLOWAY, 01299047, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 August 1944 in France. Lieutenant Holloway was assigned the mission of forming a point for leading a task force through strong enemy defenses to a position in the rear of the hostile force. If this infiltration were successfully accomplished, the task force could close a trap on enemy troops in the area. Lieutenant Holloway personally led a squad forward through the darkness as point for the task force. As he moved toward the hostile positions, he was halted by a sentry. He instantly closed with the enemy soldier and, after a brief struggle, disarmed and silenced him without waking hostile troops sleeping nearby. He continued to lead his men forward through the enemy lines, moving cautiously past machine guns and antitank guns which covered the road and extended 350 yards in depth. Lieutenant Holloway was halted by another sentry who threw a hand grenade at him. The grenade exploded at his feet, he instantly retaliated, killing the sentry with an accurately hurled grenade. He then led the task force safely into position, thereby enabling friendly troops to capture over 300 enemy soldiers in the area. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

PETER LARSON, 0384739, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 October 1944 in France. The 1st Battalion of the 143d Infantry Regiment was unable to contact the 141st Infantry Regiment on

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its left flank because of a large enemy pocket well entrenched in the intervening area. Lieutenant Larson, platoon leader, was assigned the mission of smashing the resistance. After making a personal reconnaissance and acquainting his non-commissioned officers with his plan of attack, he led his platoon forward in the assault. When they had advanced for 200 yards, they were suddenly subjected to heavy machine gun and rifle grenade fire. Lieutenant Larson swiftly put down a base of fire, then led a maneuvering element to the enemy's flank. Displaying unusual intrepidity and ingenuity, he directed his men in silencing the two machine guns and routing the hostile riflemen. After proceeding 200 yards further, the platoon encountered the main enemy force. During the ensuing fire fight, which lasted for two hours, Lieutenant Larson valiantly led his men in the face of machine gun and mortar fire. Under his inspiring leadership the platoon dislodged the 35 enemy soldiers, killed two and wounded six, thereby enabling the battalion to contact the regiment on its flank. Entered the Service from Omaha, Nebraska.

GILBERT M. PARDUE, JR., 34775974, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 September 1944 in France. Tec 5 Pardue, aid man, was attached to a rifle platoon of Company E during an attack against a well-defended enemy stronghold. Heavy machine gun and rifle fire directed from a ridge line to the unit's front and right flank delayed the assault and inflicted several casualties on the attacking troops. Tec 5 Pardue advanced in the face of the hostile fire and moved from one wounded soldier to another, administering expert first aid. A savage enemy counterattack from the right flank forced Company E to withdraw to more advantageous positions. Tec 5 Pardue assisted one of the seriously wounded men to safety, then returned to the area which the friendly troops had just left to aid other injured soldiers. Fearlessly exposing himself to incessant machine gun and rifle fire which swept the terrain, he treated the wounds of four patients and evacuated them from the area. After sunset he thought that he heard the cry of a wounded man in the area between the friendly and the hostile lines. He valiantly left his place of safety and, although he became the target for enemy small arms fire, carefully searched the area until he was certain that no wounded soldiers remained. Entered the Service from Boonville, North Carolina.

STERLING R. WENDELL, 35212795, Technician Fifth Grade, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 September 1944 in France. The 3d Battalion had fought all day before an enemy stronghold and, after nightfall, prepared to assault the town. Tec 5 Wendell was assigned the mission of leading a three-man patrol into the town to ascertain enemy strength and locate gun positions. He moved boldly from house to house, hurling grenades and firing his weapon in order to draw hostile fire. He then led his patrol back to the battalion, reported the locations of the enemy guns and volunteered to lead the attack into the town. During the intense fight which followed the assault, Tec 5 Wendell advanced at the head of his organization and worked his way from house to house, braving the heavy hostile fire which swept the streets. When he encountered three enemy soldiers, he emptied his sub-machine gun into their midst, killing one and wounding the other two. He fought valiantly for seven hours until the hostile force was completely routed and the objective secured. Entered the Service from Charleston, West Virginia.

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SECTION III - AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

CHARLES J. DENNOLA, 021293, Lieutenant Colonel, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. Lieutenant Colonel Dennola, commanding the 2d Battalion, was assigned the mission of seizing a strategically important hill and closing the trap on enemy troops in the area. After organizing his battalion, he led his company commanders on a reconnaissance over unknown terrain to select routes of approach for the night attack. When the assault was launched, he moved forward over a slippery, precipitous trail in order to check the disposition of his advance elements. Suddenly a strong enemy force of infantry and tanks launched a desperate counterattack. Lieutenant Colonel Dennola ordered his men to engage the hostile infantry elements and move immediately toward high ground so that another battalion could direct artillery fire on the enemy tanks. Aware that the units of his battalion were deployed and had been scattered by enemy infiltration, he valiantly remained in the area, driving heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, to insure the safe withdrawal of his men to higher ground. After he had made certain that the entire organization had left the shell area, he led his battalion to the high ground and seized this secondary objective. Just before daybreak he was ordered to withdraw from the ridge and attempt to regain the position he had occupied on the previous day which had since been taken by the enemy. He led Companies F and G through hostile territory in a brilliant maneuver to the rear of the enemy positions and forced the hostile troops into a pocket where several hundred were killed and captured. Entered the Service from Poughkeepsie, New York.

LENIQUE L. GARCIA, 38025734, Technical Sergeant, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Garcia, commanding a 60mm mortar section, was assigned the task of supporting an attack against an enemy stronghold and protecting the right flank of the assaulting unit. Heavy fire from four hostile tanks forced an antitank gun crew to abandon their weapon and withdraw to a place of safety. In spite of the hostile fire which swept the area, Sergeant Garcia valiantly crawled across exposed terrain to the gun position and, with the assistance of a comrade, manned the gun. He directed effective fire on the charging tanks, destroyed one and forced the remaining three to withdraw, thereby preventing an enemy breakthrough. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

By command of Major General DANIELSON:

JOHN J. DANIELSON
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart
VINCENT M. LOCKHART

Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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