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

AG RECORDS SEC

16 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 86

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. REULAND, 0480406, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 December 1944 in France. When hostile troops threatened to overrun the defenses of his seriously depleted company, Lieutenant Reuland took one of the supporting Cannon Company mounts and, exposing himself to enemy artillery, mortar and nebelwerfer fire, personally led it into position to fire on hostile targets. Despite his perilous position, he remained with the mount and directed fire on an enemy machine gun crew and riflemen who were attacking his platoons. Only when the hostile targets had been neutralized did he lead the mount back to reestablish contact with his company. Although he was seriously wounded during the engagement, his bold and fearless leadership inspired his men to fight with renewed aggressiveness, repelling the attack and capturing 80 prisoners. Entered the Service from Aurora, Illinois.

ALVIS JEFFREY, 01998722, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1944 in France. When a strong enemy counter-attack penetrated Company C's defense and disrupted communications within the unit, Lieutenant Jeffrey, exposing himself to heavy rifle and machine gun fire, skillfully deployed his platoon to protect the company's exposed flank. He then made a personal reconnaissance of the dangerous area to contact other elements of Company C. After the hostile attackers had been driven back, Lieutenant Jeffrey led his platoon through bitter house-to-house fighting to clear the remainder of the stubbornly defended town. His aggressive leadership and personal courage were largely responsible for the rout of the hostile force. Entered the Service from Quitman Wood, Texas.

LOUIS M. CICCOTTI, 32370376, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 17 to 19 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Ciccotti was assigned the mission of leading a patrol into a town to hold the right flank as his company prepared to attack. When hostile infantry opened fire with machine guns and rifle grenades, killing one man, he set up his position in a house. He held this position for two full days without food and water and under repeated enemy assaults. During the second night, crawling the first 100 yards, he led his men to elude the encircling enemy and returned to his company with information regarding the disposition of hostile troops. By skillful leadership he was able to accomplish his mission and return with information of great value to his company in their attack. Entered the Service from Rome, N. Y.

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position and fired all of his remaining rounds, pinning the enemy

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MARTIN A. WOLFE, 32294323, Staff Sergeant, Company D, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 August 1944 in France. The mortar section of Company D moved forward to relieve a task force and to support rifle elements in attacking a regimental command post. When he reached the designated area, Sergeant Wolfe, forward observer for the section, discovered that friendly riflemen had occupied all the fighting holes evacuated by the enemy. Although he was not afforded any protection from the hostile small arms and mortar fire, he valiantly remained in position to adjust mortar concentrations on the enemy force to within 75 yards of his own position, blasting a hostile dugout in the vicinity. His accurate shellfire forced the command post group to surrender, and his skill and bravery resulted in the capture of 150 enlisted men and 14 officers. Sergeant Wolfe's intrepidity and aggressiveness were a constant source of inspiration to all who witnessed his heroic deeds. Entered the Service from Catskill, New York.

FELIX HAVERES, 32902322, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 February 1945 in France. While returning at night for reinforcements to assist his platoon in an assault, Private First Class Haveres detected the presence of enemy troops to the rear of his unit. Sending his companion on to secure the reinforcements, he crawled cautiously to the edge of a fighting hole, jerked a German rifle out of the enemy's reach and threw three hand grenades into the position. He then fired three clips of rifle ammunition into the general area and forced the surrender of five enemy soldiers, two of whom were wounded. By his outstanding valor and aggressiveness, he captured the advance guard of an infiltrating force and prevented an attack against his platoon's rear. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

CARLETON S. MOCK, 37485069, Staff Sergeant (then Private), Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 August 1944 in France. When his platoon leader and platoon sergeant were both seriously wounded during the operations on D-day in Southern France, Private Mock unhesitatingly assumed command of the platoon. Displaying great courage and leadership in the face of enemy fire, he reorganized the group and led it forward in the attack. When the platoon was fired on by an enemy machine gun in a pillbox, he led his bazooka team forward and after scoring six hits on the emplacement, he and two companions assaulted the enemy machine gun killing two hostile soldiers and capturing six prisoners. By his courageous actions and display of leadership his platoon was able to continue the attack and a strong enemy position was destroyed. Entered the Service from Springview, Nebraska.

JAMES RAZEK, 35069883, Corporal (then Private First Class), Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 December 1944 in France. When Company L was surrounded by numerically superior enemy troops, Private First Class Rzek and one companion were assigned the mission of restoring communications to battalion headquarters. They had reached a ruined building when an enemy machine gun suddenly opened fire from a house 30 yards to the front, and Private First Class Rzek's comrade was killed by the first burst. Private First Class Rzek returned the hostile fire with his carbine and remained in his exposed position until, after killing four enemy soldiers and wounding several others, he had expended his entire supply of ammunition. A second hostile machine gun opened fire, and Private First Class Rzek withdrew in order to locate another route to battalion headquarters. He worked his way across the hazardous

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area to the battalion command post and completed the wire line, successfully establishing communications. Entered the Service from Cleveland, Ohio.

ALFRED M. WILLIS, 38518597, Private First Class, Company E, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 October 1944 in France. When Company E was stopped by heavy enemy fire, Private First Class Willis, first scout of the 2d Platoon, heard the sound of soldiers digging approximately 150 yards away. Acting on his own initiative, he crawled cautiously forward under machine gun and sniper fire and located an enemy antitank crew digging in their gun. Opening fire with his rifle, he killed one of the enemy soldiers, wounded a second and forced the remaining eight to surrender. After marching his prisoners back to his unit's position, he returned to the hostile gun and, with his platoon loader's assistance, destroyed it with a grenade. His quick-thinking and aggressiveness were responsible for eliminating a serious threat to the safety of his company. Entered the Service from Ruston, Louisiana.

DOMINICK B. CHIONO, 33763466, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1944 in France. While Private First Class Chiono was attached to a rifle company platoon, the building which housed the unit was attacked by an enemy tank at short range. Heavy fire inflicted several casualties in the house and adjacent courtyard, and Private First Class Chiono administered aid to the wounded despite the continuing fire. When his platoon was forced to withdraw by a superior enemy force, he went to the aid of a wounded man in the exposed courtyard and carried him 100 yards across an open field to a position of comparative safety. Here he directed the evacuation of the wounded under severe enemy shellfire. By his courage and skill in the face of great personal danger Private First Class Chiono succeeded in administering first aid to many wounded and in evacuating them to safety. Entered the Service from Crenshaw, Pennsylvania.

JOHN C. BAUM, 15107288, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 November 1944 in France. Private First Class Baum, a radio operator for Headquarters Company, was temporarily attached to Company E during operations against enemy defenses on the crest of a mountain. While returning to his unit, he learned that Company E's radio had failed. Rejoining the company, he maintained communications for the leading elements throughout the day. At nightfall, he braved enemy shellfire to accompany a small group 500 yards beyond the company's objective. When he and his companions encountered a hostile strong point, he crawled forward under machine pistol fire and hurled hand grenades into the position. His bold and aggressive action resulted in the capture of eight enemy soldiers. Entered the Service from South Bend, Indiana.

MICHAEL G. FELDBAUER, 33434180, Private First Class, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1945 in France. Private First Class Feldbauer manned his light machine gun in defense of the 2d Platoon's sector along the east bank of a canal. When hostile troops threatened to encircle the friendly positions, the platoon leader ordered the machine gunners, as well as his own men, to withdraw. Although he had only half a belt of ammunition left, Private First Class Feldbauer climbed to the bank of the canal, stood in full view of the enemy less than 200 yards away, and fired into the midst of the attackers. In spite of hostile small arms fire, he remained in position and fired all of his remaining rounds, pinning the enemy to the ground

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and enabling the platoon to effect a successful withdrawal. His valor and aggressiveness were a source of great inspiration to all who witnessed his deed. Entered the Service from St. Marys, Pennsylvania.

JOHN E. FINNERTY, 35060979, Private First Class, Battery B, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 5 December 1944 in France. While laying wire lines, a soldier from Battery B left the road to take a short cut to his unit and, at a point approximately 15 yards from the road, stepped on an anti-personnel mine. Fully aware that the entire area was mined, Private First Class Finnerty courageously ran to the aid of the injured soldier. While he was applying a tourniquet to the casualty's shattered leg and placing him on a litter, another soldier who had entered the minefield exploded a second mine, and Private First Class Finnerty was painfully wounded by hurtling fragments. Neglecting his own wounds, he skillfully applied a tourniquet to the second casualty. Medical personnel reached the area, and three more soldiers exploded mines. Although wounded by fragments from three explosions, Private First Class Finnerty continued to work, administering emergency treatment to his injured comrades and carrying the wounded from the hazardous area. Imperilled by the exploding mines and weakened by his own wounds, he never faltered in performing his self-imposed mission until all the casualties had been evacuated from the minefield. Only then would he allow the aid men to treat his own painful wounds. Entered the Service from Cleveland, Ohio.

OMER YOUNKIN, 35627415, Private First Class, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 January 1945 in France. Private First Class Younkin was a member of a light machine gun section assigned the mission of supporting a combat patrol in its advance through hostile territory. While moving across a small draw, the patrol was subjected to small arms and artillery fire and was forced to withdraw to high ground. Spotting a rifleman who had been seriously wounded and left behind during the withdrawal. Private First Class Younkin seized a sub-machine gun and ran back to rescue his comrade. While exposed to hostile fire, he killed two of the enemy soldiers. Reaching the injured man he carried him 300 yards through direct small arms fire up the hill to safety. His courageous and unselfish action, at the risk of his own life, was a source of great inspiration to all who witnessed the deed. Entered the Service from Columbus, Ohio.

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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