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

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GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 487

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.

MARLIN L. BUTLER, 34709435, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 August 1944 in France. The Combat Platoon of the 2d Battalion was assigned the mission of reducing an enemy road block protected by mortars and machine guns well-emplaced in a nearby house. When tanks destroyed the road block, they drove forward to eliminate the strong point in the house. The battalion commander followed the tanks into the fire swept area, and Sergeant Butler, platoon sergeant, voluntarily braved the heavy machine gun and mortar fire to afford protection for the officer. As two enemy soldiers stood up to surrender and moved toward the tanks, the battalion commander walked from behind the tanks and started forward. Sergeant Marlin selflessly thrust himself in front of the officer to provide cover. When a third hostile soldier opened fire from a well-concealed position, Sergeant Butler, valiantly shielding his commanding officer, was mortally wounded by the machine pistol fire. His unselfish regard for the safety of the battalion commander and his heroic sacrifice inspired all who witnessed his deed. Next of kin: Mrs. Nancy L. Butler (Mother), Route #1, Arab, Alabama.

JOHNNIE KONARIK, 38026870, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Konarik, a squad leader, was assigned the mission of protecting the left flank of his platoon sector. When a strong hostile force attempted to infiltrate through a densely wooded area to the left of his position, Sergeant Konarik, acting entirely on his own initiative, left his prepared defense to lead a counterattack against the enemy. He swiftly placed his men in advantageous positions on the enemy flank, then crawled forward to a spot within 15 yards of the hostile force. As he began hurling hand grenades into the midst of the enemy, his squad opened fire. Although he became the target for direct machine gun and rifle fire, he pressed dauntlessly forward, hurling hand grenades as he advanced. The hostile group hastily withdrew, and, as Sergeant Konarik led his squad in pursuit, he was mortally wounded by an enemy-hurled grenade. As a result of his heroic sacrifice, a grave threat to his unit's safety was eliminated. Next of kin: Mrs. Rosie Holly (Sister), Route #5, Hallettsville, Texas.

ROY L. BOND, 35633156, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 November 1944 in France. Company G was subjected to a violent enemy counterattack, and intense small arms, mortar and rifle grenade fire inflicted heavy casualties on the friendly troops. When the rifle protection for the machine gun section was withdrawn to strengthen another sector, Sergeant Bond, the machine gun section sergeant, worked his way under the rapid bursts of hostile fire to the company command post and there secured a supply of hand grenades. He swiftly returned to the machine gun positions and distributed the grenades among

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his men, retaining several for himself. When he spotted a group of enemy soldiers moving up to a position under a rock ledge in preparation for an assault against his gun emplacements, Sergeant Bond again braved the shelling and small arms fire to crawl forward to the ledge. From this vantage point, he hurled grenades at the enemy below, forcing them to withdraw. While bravely exposing himself in order to throw the hand grenades, he was killed by fire from an enemy sniper. Next of kin: Mr. Ephie Bond (Father), Kenninick, Kentucky.

LEBO SANFORD, 34646007, Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 November 1944 in France. Sergeant Sanford led his squad as an advance patrol along the forward slope of a mountain toward an enemy-held town. As he and his companions rounded a bend in the trail, they were subjected to heavy machine gun fire from a well-concealed position. Although he was seriously wounded in the legs and body, Sergeant Sanford courageously directed his squad in firing on the hostile emplacement. Mastering the pain of his wound, he put his sub-machine gun into action and delivered a burst of fire into the midst of the enemy group. He instantly became the target for the hostile gunners and was mortally wounded by the last spray of machine gun bullets. Before he died, Sergeant Sanford, with thoughts only for the safety of his squad, ordered his men to move out of the enemy weapon's field of fire and take up advantageous firing positions higher on the hill. Next of kin: Mrs. Nellie Sanford (Mother), East Line, Glendale, South Carolina.

ALFRED F. MORRIS, 32918645, Private First Class, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 November 1944 in France. Company G was subjected to a violent enemy counterattack, and intense small arms, mortar and rifle grenade fire inflicted heavy casualties on the friendly troops. During the savage fire fight, the supply of ammunition for the light machine guns was almost expended, and Private First Class Morris, a gunner, volunteered to make his way to the ammunition dump and secure an additional supply. Although he was exposed to hostile mortar and grenade fire, he pressed dauntlessly toward his destination, moving across 100 yards of flat, open terrain to the dump. With three boxes of ammunition he returned to the gun positions and began distributing the ammunition to the machine gun crews. While courageously moving about the fire-swept area, Private First Class Morris was fatally wounded by fragments from an enemy hand grenade. Next of kin: Mrs. Marie Morris (Mother), 121 Rutherford Avenue, Franklin, New Jersey.

DONALD J. MC CONKEY, 33674459, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 November 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon of Company L was advancing along a wooded draw, leading the attack against enemy defenses on an important hill, when hostile machine gun, rifle and mortar fire directed from all sides cut it off from the remainder of the company. One machine gun, well-emplaced on the lower ridge overlooking the draw, was sweeping the entire platoon with deadly bursts of fire, threatening to inflict heavy casualties on the group. Private First Class Mc Conkey, an acting squad leader, determined upon a course of immediate action. He courageously led his men forward in an attempt to destroy the machine gun position. Moving calmly in the face of point blank fire, he skillfully deployed his squad and advanced to within 50 yards of the hostile emplacement. After placing his men in advantageous firing positions, he courageously exposed himself in order to direct their fire with greater effectiveness. He immediately became the target for the enemy gunners and was killed by the machine gun fire. As a result of his daring and aggressiveness, the hostile position was eliminated and the company was able to continue its advance. Next of

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kin: Mrs. Anna Mc Conkey (Mother), Route #1, Dunbar, Pennsylvania.

BERTRAND D. VINCENT, 37539552, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 November 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon of Company L was advancing along a wooded draw, leading the attack against enemy defenses on an important hill, when hostile machine gun, rifle and mortar fire directed from all sides cut it off from the remainder of the company. One machine gun, well-emplaced on the lower ridge overlooking the draw, was sweeping the entire platoon with deadly bursts of fire, threatening to inflict heavy casualties on the group. Private First Class Vincent, an acting squad leader, valiantly led his men forward in an attempt to destroy the gun position. Moving calmly in the face of point blank fire, he skillfully deployed his men and led them to within 50 yards of the hostile emplacement. He placed the squad members in advantageous firing positions and fearlessly exposed himself to direct their fire. He immediately became the target for the enemy gunners and was killed by the machine gun fire. Inspired by his intrepidity and selflessness, the squad successfully destroyed the hostile position, enabling the company to continue its advance. Next of kin: Mr. Burl O. Vincent, Route #1, Jasper, Missouri.

DANIEL J. KLAFF, 35289947, Private First Class, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 September 1944 in France. Company G advanced along the slopes overlooking an important town, neutralizing all enemy resistance in the woods and along the road leading into the town. Private First Class Klaff, acting as assistant squad leader, was assigned the mission of leading two men along the road as a flank protection for the unit. While moving through the woods, he approached an open clearing which afforded no cover or concealment. In order to determine whether the enemy would fire on his men when they crossed the clearing, he advanced fearlessly, moving into the open under direct hostile observation. As he continued across the clearing, the enemy directed rapid bursts of machine gun fire at him, and, before he could reach cover, he was hit several times by the hostile fire. Although mortally wounded, he valiantly crawled back to his men and, displaying extraordinary selflessness, ordered one of them to report the location of the enemy weapon to the company, so that it could be silenced before inflicting more damage on the unit. Private First Class Klaff died before he could be evacuated. Next of kin: Mrs. Sophie Klaff (Mother), 13412 Edgewood, Cleveland, Ohio.

HOMER E. BARNES, 32679562, Private First Class, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 September 1944 in France. Just before dawn on 22 September, a large group of enemy soldiers infiltrated behind the friendly lines, overpowered the guard and assaulted Company A's command post. Bitter hand-to-hand fighting ensued, and Private First Class Barnes, guarding his radio, struggled with several of the enemy. When one of the hostile soldiers opened fire at close range with a machine pistol, he was mortally wounded by the burst of fire. Aware of the peril to other friendly units should his radio fall into enemy hands, Private First Class Barnes determined to destroy it. Although partially paralyzed by his wound, he grasped a hand grenade, placed it under the radio and exploded it, successfully destroying the radio before he died. Next of kin: Mrs. Jean Barnes (Mother), 120 North Highland Avenue, Ossining, New York.

RAY M. STARR, 37723037, Private, Company E, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 October 1944 in France. During an attack against enemy positions on a hill, Private Starr was assigned the mission of maintaining contact

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between his own company and Company F. The two units were separated by 75 yards of hilly and heavily wooded terrain which contained numerous, well-concealed hostile emplacements. Although he was the target for direct machine gun and rifle fire, Private Starr pressed dauntlessly onward, maneuvering back and forth between the flanks of the two companies. The area was subjected to heavy barrages of mortar and artillery fire, but he ignored the dangers which confronted him and continued maintaining contact with Company F. He did not once falter in performing his important mission and moved fearlessly across the shell-blasted and fire-swept terrain until he was mortally wounded by the hostile fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Velma L. Starr, (Wife), 700 Buchanan, Topeka, Kansas.

FRANK WILLIAMS, 33666870, Private, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 September 1944 in France. The 1st Platoon of Company G smashed an enemy road block and pressed forward toward its objective. While advancing approximately 25 yards from the road, the platoon was subjected to heavy machine gun fire directed from well-concealed positions on both sides of the road. Aware of the serious threat the enemy guns presented to the safety of his comrades, Private Williams courageously left his place of cover and moved toward the hostile emplacement to his immediate front. By creeping and crawling part of the distance, then by running from tree to tree, he worked his way to an advantageous position near the enemy gun. Although he was the target for point blank machine gun fire, he calmly opened fire, killing one of the hostile soldiers and taking another prisoner. While in this exposed position he was wounded by fire from the enemy gun across the road. His daring and aggressiveness were responsible for eliminating one of the hostile guns, thereby enabling the remainder of the platoon to maneuver more freely and destroy the other emplacement. Private Williams died of wounds received in a later engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Julia Farmer (Mother), River Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

JOHN J. ALBRIGHT
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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