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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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GENERAL ORDERS

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NO. 423

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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 each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

FRANCIS C. MC CANN, 01287035, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 and 28 September 1944 in France. While Company C was occupying a defensive position at a strategic road net, a large enemy force launched a savage attack. Without waiting for orders, Lieutenant McCann boldly moved his platoon through a densely wooded area to the enemy's flank. He led the assault against the hostile troops in the face of heavy fire and directed his men in repelling the enemy attackers before they could reach his company's position. Five days later, when his platoon was attempting to cross a road during an attack, the enemy suddenly opened fire with machine guns concealed in the woods. Lieutenant McCann worked his way forward, beyond his platoon, to locate the gun positions. He found the machine guns but, before he could return to his platoon, was killed by the hostile fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Charles B. McCann (Mother), 10 West Street, Houlton, Maine.

MAURICE W. HOWARD, 36190529, Staff Sergeant, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 January 1944 in Italy. While moving toward new defensive positions, the leading squads of Company K were subjected to heavy enemy mortar and machine gun fire. After Sergeant Howard, leader of the 2d squad, had directed his men to a place affording cover from the barrage, he was informed that one of his men had been seriously wounded and was lying in an exposed position. Immediately leaving his place of safety, he ran through the incessant hostile fire to the spot where his comrade lay. Although Sergeant Howard was wounded in both arms, he mastered the pain of his wounds and removed his comrade from the battlefield. He was killed in action in a later engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Fred B. Howard (Father), RFD #4, Ionia, Michigan.

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.

ORRIN O. MC DANIELS, 0403714, Captain, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 September 1944 in France. As executive officer of the 1st Battalion, Captain McDaniels was moving with the battalion command post on an approach march. After the leading rifle companies had successfully crossed a strategic highway, the following units were suddenly subjected to enemy machine gun fire from both flanks. The intense fire threatened to disorganize the heavy weapons company and Headquarters Company, so Captain McDaniels swiftly withdrew these

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units, supervised their reorganization and placed the remaining rifle company in support, in order that the group might rejoin the two leading rifle companies. Although he suffered a painful leg wound, Captain McDaniels continued directing the movements of the units by radio. He removed those elements of the battalion from the valley which were subjected to a heavy artillery barrage and maintained control until the battalion was reassembled. Entered the Service from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

CHARLES W. GARNHAM, 01305262, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 October 1944 in France. When Lieutenant Garnham assumed command of Company F, the organization had been seriously weakened by numerous casualties. Assigned the mission of following Company E in an attack against enemy positions in a heavily wooded area, Lieutenant Garnham moved his company into position. The assault began, and the leading elements were subjected to artillery and mortar shelling and machine gun fire. Lieutenant Garnham advanced fearlessly through the heavy barrage, leading his men forward in the attack. Although he suffered three wounds in his leg during the fighting, he valiantly continued the assault and led his company in smashing the enemy resistance and achieve the objective. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH M. DENAS, 01173585, First Lieutenant, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. While the 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, was defending the west slope of a hill, Lieutenant Denas, artillery liaison officer, was charged with coordinating the artillery fire directed against the enemy attackers. He was on duty at the battalion command post when he spotted a column of tracked vehicles, infantry and artillery approaching the command post and the rear of the battalion positions. Although darkness obscured observation, Lieutenant Denas used maps to direct artillery fire on the enemy column. For two hours, until daybreak, he stood by his radio, working in an exposed position constantly subjected to direct small arms and artillery fire. During this period friendly troops located only 100 yards from his position were captured and the enemy penetrated to within 25 yards of his post but he remained determinedly with his radio and, as the enemy pushed forward, brought an artillery concentration within the perilously close distance of 50 yards from his position. Largely as a result of his courageous and skillful performance, the enemy was prevented from over-running the rear of the battalion positions and was driven back with heavy casualties. Entered the Service from South Fork, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM P. LYNCH, 35327187, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 June 1944 in Italy. When, in the initial stages of an attack, the assault platoons of Company K were subjected to heavy enemy machine gun fire, a rifleman was wounded and lay in an exposed position, unable to move. Tec 5 Lynch unhesitatingly left his place of comparative safety and started toward his injured comrade. While he was advancing across open terrain under enemy observation, the increased tempo of hostile fire forced him to take cover. However, aware of the importance of furnishing immediate first aid treatment, he immediately arose again and continued forward, braving small arms fire directed from positions to his front and flank, until he reached the wounded man. After administering swift and effective first aid, he assisted his patient to a place of safety from which he was evacuated. A later examination revealed that, had it not been for Tec 5 Lynch's prompt treatment, the soldier would have bled to death. Entered the Service from Toledo, Ohio.

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CHARLES MARTIN, 35794910, Private First Class, Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 August 1944 in France. Private First Class Martin's heavy machine gun squad advanced in close support of a rifle platoon moving forward in the attack. When enemy tanks and riflemen suddenly opened fire, the rifle platoon built up a defensive line around the machine gun. Private First Class Martin assisted his comrades in putting the gun into action and furnishing an ample supply of ammunition for it, and then he exposed himself to aimed rifle fire in order to reach a position from which he could return the enemy fire. Using rifle grenades and his carbine, he inflicted several casualties on the hostile force. An enemy tank charged the friendly troops, but he remained staunchly in position and fired rifle grenades at it, contributing materially to its final destruction. Entered the Service from Cincinnati, Ohio.

WILLIAM KEENER, 38036425, Private First Class, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 August 1944 in France. Private First Class Keener was a wireman in the 60mm mortar section of Company A. When a savage enemy infantry and tank attack threatened his company's newly won position, he realized the need for a communications wire between the mortar positions and the observation post so that accurate mortar fire could be directed on the hostile troops. His platoon leader warned him not to attempt the hazardous mission, but Private First Class Keener courageously started to string wire across the flat, open field which separated the mortars from the observation post. The terrain offered no cover or concealment from the sweeping machine gun fire, but he pressed forward until he was struck down by bursts of machine gun fire. He was unable to complete his mission because of severe back and shoulder wounds. Entered the Service from Merkel, Texas.

DEVIEY GALLOWAY, 34592921, Private First Class, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 August 1944 in France. Private First Class Galloway was advancing with the leading platoon of his company when the enemy suddenly opened fire from well entrenched positions. Heavy machine pistol fire cut away the gas mask from his back; but he dauntlessly helped to quiet the machine pistol which had protected the entrance to an enemy dugout housing eight hostile soldiers. With this danger eliminated, he assaulted the position with fixed bayonet and, upon entering the dugout, subdued the enemy and forced them to surrender. As a result of his daring and aggressiveness, a hostile strong point was eliminated and the company was able to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Lake Toxaway, South Carolina.

JOSEPH JANOWITZ, 12058617, Private First Class, Company H, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 September 1944 in France. Private First Class Janowitz, gunner in a heavy machine gun squad, was riding on a weapons carrier with his squad when an enemy machine gun suddenly opened fire, inflicting several casualties on the friendly troops. Private First Class Janowitz and his companions sought cover in a ditch by the side of the road and were pinned down by rapid bursts of fire which discouraged the slightest movement. Aware of the necessity for immediate action, Private First Class Janowitz left the ditch alone, removed a machine gun from the weapons carrier and put it into action against the enemy. Without assistance he returned the hostile fire, silenced the enemy gun and enabled his companions to retrieve their weapons and continue the attack. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

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WILLIAM B. SMILEY, 34893321, Private, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 September 1944 in France. As gunner in a light machine gun section, Private Smiley was advancing with Company K in an attack against an important hostile stronghold. When a sudden enemy flank assault threatened to disorganize the company, the 1st Platoon, on the company's right flank, established a hasty defense in an attempt to repel the counterattack. Aware of the need for increased fire power, Private Smiley seized his machine gun, worked his way alone over 100 yards of exposed terrain swept by heavy enemy fire and put his gun into action on line with the 1st Platoon. He directed accurate fire on the hostile force and maintained his hazardous position without assistance until the attackers were forced to withdraw. By his skill and aggressiveness he contributed materially to the repulse of the assault and personally killed at least ten enemy soldiers. Entered the Service from Belmont, N. C.

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 the following named individual for gallantry in action.

JAMES E. SEELEY, 35276657, Technical Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 and 28 September 1944 in France. During Company B's attack over wooded, hilly terrain, Sergeant Seeley was assigned the task of leading the assault platoon. When the enemy suddenly opened fire with artillery and small arms, inflicting several casualties on the attackers, Sergeant Seeley moved among his men and issued clear, concise orders which prevented confusion and disorganization. A group of hostile soldiers assaulted the company from the rear, and Sergeant Seeley was ordered to smash the resistance. In spite of the heavy shelling and small arms fire, he fearlessly led his men against the enemy, maintaining excellent control within the platoon, and directed them in repelling the hostile force, inflicting several casualties and capturing six prisoners. With this threat eliminated, he again led his platoon forward in the attack, overcame minor resistance, achieved his objective and organized a defensive position. When the enemy launched a counterattack, Sergeant Seeley directed the fire of his men and completely routed the attackers. While performing these deeds, he was seriously wounded by the hostile fire. Entered the Service from Peninsula, Ohio.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

CHARLES H. OWENS
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


HENRY B. NELSON
Major, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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