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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

31 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 106

- Award of Silver Star.....I
- Commendation for Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct.....II
- Corrected Award of Silver Star - Posthumous.....III

I. 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:

ERNEST K. TURNER, 6893753, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1945 in France. When his platoon's advance in a town was delayed by heavy machine gun fire from a house, Sergeant Turner volunteered to find a friendly tank to support the attack. Fearlessly proceeding several hundred yards down a street which was under enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire, he located a tank and brought it to the enemy strongpoint. Sitting on the turret, exposed to the fire of an enemy machine gun, he directed the tank's fire into the house. His gallant action destroyed the enemy resistance and enabled his platoon to occupy the house and capture 25 prisoners. Entered the Service from Berwick, Pennsylvania.

JESSIE L. BYRD, 38036286, Sergeant, Company B, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Archer City, Texas.

JAMES C. FERRY, 38038661, Corporal, Company B, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Leola, Arkansas.

WALTER W. TAYLOR, 33205877, Private First Class, Company B, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Maryland.

for gallantry in action on 24 August 1944 in France. These men were members of the crew of a tank destroyer. While on a night mission, the tank destroyer was subjected to fire from an enemy artillery piece, and a direct hit on the track immobilized the vehicle. The driver and assistant driver were ordered to leave the destroyer, but the other three men courageously remained at their posts and opened fire on the enemy gun, destroying it with their first round. A machine gun began firing on the two soldiers who had left the tank destroyer. Spotting the hostile emplacement, the above men directed accurate fire on the machine gun and knocked it out. Almost immediately another enemy artillery piece opened fire on the tank destroyer. Only when their vehicle had been set on fire by the artillery shelling did the men leave the destroyer. A pile of ammunition beside the enemy gun was on fire, and the last round from the disabled tank destroyer forced the hostile soldiers to withdraw.

ARNOLD J. SWINDALL, 33659556, Private First Class, Company M, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Swindall was runner for a machine gun platoon supporting

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Company I in their attack on a town. When the expenditure of ammunition proved heavier than anticipated, he volunteered to obtain additional supplies, although it was necessary to cross 700 yards of open terrain under fire from enemy machine guns and self-propelled weapons. Private First Class Swindall made the trip five times. On several occasions he was thrown to the ground by the concussion of bursting shells, and at other times machine gun fire forced him to crawl great distances with his load. As a result of his courageous devotion to duty, the friendly troops were materially aided in taking their objective. Entered the Service from Norland, Virginia.

MANCELL MORREN, 38066054, Private First Class, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Morren was a member of a party assigned the mission of carrying supplies up a steep slope to the battalion positions on the crest of a mountain. When enemy planes bombed and strafed them, and enemy mortars followed with a 15 minute barrage, he braved the incoming shells to administer aid to one of the wounded and help another to where litter bearers could evacuate him. He then returned to his load of rations and, despite enemy small arms and artillery fire directed at the trail, continued the remaining distance up the mountain. Private First Class Morren's consideration for his wounded comrades, despite great personal danger, and his devotion to his arduous duties were an inspiration to those who worked with him. Entered the Service from Loraine, Texas.

WILLIAM B. ANDREWS, 38666152, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1945 in France. During an attack against a well-defended enemy town, a hostile tank, located near a barn, aimed its gun at the building housing a squad of Company C. Private First Class Andrews, a machine gunner in Company B, spotted the tank and swiftly put his gun into action. He delivered effective bursts of fire against the tank and forced it to button up and withdraw behind the barn before it could fire a single round. Then, with tracer ammunition, he set the barn afire, and the tank withdrew to a wooded area some distance away. By his quick-thinking and aggressiveness, Private First Class Andrews eliminated a serious threat to the safety of a friendly squad. Entered the Service from Little Rock, Arkansas.

ELWOOD K. RIFE, 33941179, Private, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 February 1945 in France. The 1st Platoon was clearing a street during an attack on a town. The 2d Squad was crossing the rubble of a ruined house when it ran into an anti-personnel minefield. At the same time enemy riflemen opened fire on them from a nearby barn. Private Rife, automatic rifleman of the 2d Squad, worked his way to the side of the barn and fired into the hostile position, killing two of the enemy and wounding one. He then attempted to assault the position before the enemy could recover, but he stepped on a mine and was seriously wounded. Private Rife's outstanding courage and aggressiveness neutralized the enemy strongpoint and enabled his squad to continue on its mission. Entered the Service from New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

II. COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-55, each of the following named individuals is commended for exceptionally meritorious conduct:

RAFAEL GUTIERREZ, 38025698, Technical Sergeant, Company D, 141st Infantry

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Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 28 May to 3 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Gutierrez was assigned the task of maintaining an ample supply of ammunition for a machine gun platoon supporting Company C in an attack against an enemy stronghold. During these critical operations the supply routes were frequently blasted by artillery and small arms fire. In spite of many dangers and difficulties, Sergeant Gutierrez never failed to furnish ammunition for the machine guns. He worked tirelessly, leading ammunition bearers forward to the gun positions and during the attack he supplied the weapons with more than 100,000 rounds of ammunition. Because of his leadership and bravery the platoon was amply supplied at all times to furnish close support for the attacking rifle companies. Entered the Service from Uvalde, Texas.

RONALD T. DAY, 32238830, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 2 and 3 January 1945 in France. Sergeant Day, operations sergeant at a forward fire direction center, was working with a group of men who were in a state of nervous tension because their former positions had just been overrun by the enemy. When a large hostile force launched a determined attack against friendly troops in the vicinity, the fire direction center was threatened by the onslaught and was subjected to artillery shelling. In spite of numerous rumors which exaggerated the seriousness of the situation, Sergeant Day continued performing his duties coolly and efficiently. By his example of fearlessness and by his well-chosen remarks, he calmed his companions and, although the hostile attack increased in intensity, insured the continued smooth functioning of the group. Accurate artillery barrages fired by this fire direction center finally stopped the assault. Entered the Service from Tea Neck, New Jersey.

WILBURN B. VIERECK, 38050413, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 29 August 1944 in France. Tec 5 Viereck, radio operator for an artillery liaison section, was forced to operate his set in an exposed position because of the proximity of several other radios in the area. Friendly tanks and tank destroyers located near his position were targets for a heavy enemy artillery barrage. Although shells were constantly blasting the terrain around him, Tec 5 Viereck courageously maintained his position and continued operating his radio. One round struck a tree only 20 feet from the radio, and fragments struck the vehicle in which the set was mounted. Tec 5 Viereck was momentarily stunned by the concussion, but he determinedly continued relaying fire missions, enabling the artillery to inflict heavy damage on the hostile troops. Entered the Service from Bellville, Texas.

VOYZE G. HARRIS, 34723661, Private, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Paris, Tennessee.

WILLIAM RAPOZA, 31421301, Private, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Fall River, Massachusetts.

HUBERT E. RIDLAN, 31319835, Private, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from North Monmouth, Maine.

for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 28 September 1944 in France. Friendly troops were crossing a long stretch of open terrain in an attempt to secure strategically important high ground when the enemy directed a heavy

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artillery and mortar barrage on the area. The attack was disorganized, and, as a result of casualties in the machine gun section, two machine guns were temporarily abandoned. A reorganization was effected immediately, and the above men courageously volunteered to recross the exposed terrain and recover the weapons. They advanced fearlessly across the area under direct enemy observation, secured the abandoned guns and returned to their unit. As a result of their daring, two valuable weapons were saved from destruction or capture by the enemy.

RALPH H. CORNELL, 13061372, Private, Battery C, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 14 to 19 December 1944 in France. Although fully aware of the danger involved, Private Cornell volunteered to accompany a forward observer party which was attached to the infantry regiment supported by his battery. When the observer party reached its destination, it was assigned to Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment. Each day for five days Private Cornell carried supplies from a recently captured town, over a road subjected to artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, to his party's position one mile away. His assistance was invaluable and greatly facilitated the effective operation of the observers. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

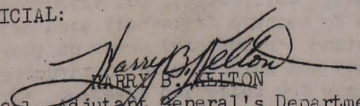
JOHN G. FOWLER, 36204034, Private, Battery A, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 27 August 1944 in France. Private Fowler was telephone operator for the forward observer detail attached to Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment. While he was occupying an observation post on the crest of a hill under direct enemy observation, the hostile troops opened fire with an antiaircraft gun, an antitank gun and small arms. In spite of the incessant shelling, Private Fowler worked tirelessly to maintain communications between the forward observer and his artillery unit, repairing the lines whenever they were broken. He calmly transmitted fire orders which resulted in the destruction of the antitank and antiaircraft guns and an ammunition dump. Entered the Service from Shullsburg, Wisconsin.

III. CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR - POSTHUMOUS. So much of Section I, General Orders 141, this Headquarters, dated 16 May 1944, as pertains to First Lieutenant JOHN M. CRUTE, JR., 01298506, Staff Sergeant JOHN A. MEEHAN, 33257665, Private First Class REGINALD J. MAGUIRE, 6629373, Private First Class EARL N. WRIGHT, 34495854, Private MATTHEW K. BURGER, 32814622, Private FRANK WEIS, 32899590, Private ROY E. WENRICH, 33508935, as reads "for gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944" is amended to read "for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944."

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:


HARRY B. MELTON

Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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