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AG RECORDS SEC

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

24 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 98

- Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I
- Posthumous Award of Oak Leaf Cluster - Silver Star.....II
- Award of Oak Leaf Cluster - Silver Star - Missing in Action.....III
- Award of Silver Star.....IV

I. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded to the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

ISAAC M. CLARK, 36066125, Corporal, Antitank Company, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 September 1944 in France. When the enemy laid down a heavy artillery and mortar concentration on the 2d Platoon's road block position, the gunner on a 57mm gun was killed and several crew members were wounded, leaving two guns unmanned. Observing the action from another position, Corporal Clark dashed across 200 yards of open terrain under heavy small arms and mortar fire to reach one of the guns. Two German machine guns opened fire on his position. Loading and aiming the 57mm gun by himself, he fired a tree burst directly over one of the machine guns, killing the two gunners and neutralizing the weapon. Still subjected to fire from the remaining machine gun, Corporal Clark fired a second tree burst which killed the crew members and silenced the weapon. His outstanding courage, coolness under fire, and aggressive vigor were an inspiration to all members of his company. He was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Grace Clark (Mother), 1101 Herbert Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

CHARLES R. GANT, 34890507, Private First Class, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 and 15 September 1944 in France. Assigned the mission of supporting rifle elements in attacking a town, Private First Class Gant, gunner in a machine gun squad, entered a building and set up his weapon in a window which faced the main street. Spotting two enemy soldiers approaching his position, he wounded one with an accurate burst and, after a brief exchange of fire, forced the other to flee. Almost immediately, he saw an enemy officer and two enlisted men moving cautiously down the street. Suddenly opening fire, he killed the officer and drove back the two startled soldiers. Although he was subjected to heavy machine gun and antitank fire, he valiantly remained in position and continued firing on the hostile troops. Private First Class Gant was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Bernice L. Gant (Mother), Route #1, Burnett Cove, North Carolina.

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BEN L. BRAY, 38581429, Private First Class, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 February 1945 in France. When enemy infantry elements, supported by tanks, launched an attack from the rear, Private First Class Bray, an automatic rifleman, opened fire on the hostile troops from the window of a house. Although he became the target for heavy small arms fire, he maintained his post by the window and continued firing into the attackers. One of the hostile tanks fired at the house and scored a direct hit with the second round, severely wounding Private First Class Bray. When the order to withdraw was given, he refused to be evacuated, insisting that his comrades leave him to save themselves. His heroic sacrifice, which cost him his life, was a source of great inspiration to all the members of his organization. Next of kin: Mrs. Mae Bray Smith (Mother), General Delivery, Portales, New Mexico.

GERALD A. BULLIS, 32035464, Private, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 13 and 14 December 1944 in France. When his company was employed as an infantry unit, Private Bullis volunteered to occupy a forward outpost within a few yards of the hostile positions. Although the unit on his company's right flank was forced to withdraw in the face of a determined enemy attack, Private Bullis remained steadfastly in position and skillfully directed his company's fire into the flank of the attacking troops. His quick-thinking and aggressiveness contributed materially to the repulse of the assault. On the following morning, during a heavy artillery barrage, Private Bullis maintained his post until he was seriously wounded. Unwilling to imperil the litter bearers, he worked his way across the shelled area to a place of cover where they could reach him without danger to themselves. On the following day he died of his wounds. His valor and determination were a source of great inspiration to the members of his organization. Next of kin: Mr. Hulbert Bullis (Brother), Tuscarara Street, Lewiston, New York.

II. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the second Silver Star is posthumously awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action:

ARTHUR TRUMAN, 35443467, Corporal, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 30 October 1944 in France. When it became necessary to reconnoiter and clear a minefield so that artillery units could occupy the area, Corporal Truman and a companion volunteered to make the hazardous reconnaissance. In spite of intermittent mortar shelling, they carefully observed and taped off the mined sections of the field. After the reconnaissance was successfully completed, they directed a mine clearing detail in removing the mines. Ignoring the mortar fire, they worked calmly and skillfully until one of the mines was detonated. Both Corporal Truman and his comrade were mortally wounded by the explosion. Their heroism and devotion to duty were a source of great inspiration to the members of their organization. Next of kin: Mrs. Annie L. Truman (Mother), 119 Church Street, Beckley, West Virginia.

III. AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - SILVER STAR - MISSING IN ACTION. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the second Silver Star is awarded to the following named individual, missing in action, for gallantry:

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RAYMOND A. HOPKINS, 36241736, Corporal, Battery A, 59th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 4 January 1945 in France. Corporal Hopkins was driving the radio jeep for his battery's forward observer who was operating with the leading elements of an infantry battalion. When an enemy ambush party suddenly opened fire with machine guns and rifles, he and his officer left the vehicle and took cover in a nearby ditch. Heavy enemy fire forced infantry elements to withdraw, and the radio jeep was endangered. Realizing the necessity for getting the radio to a point where it could be used to adjust fire on the enemy, Corporal Hopkins unhesitatingly left his covered position and, running through small arms fire to his jeep, drove it a safe distance down the road. While he attracted the enemy fire, the officer, who had sprained an ankle, was able to escape down the ditch. As a result of Corporal Hopkins quick-thinking and courageous action, the forward observer was able to adjust effective artillery fire on the hostile strong point, enabling the infantry troops to resume their advance. Corporal Hopkins was reported missing in action from a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Hopkins (Mother), 926 Blaine Street, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

IV. 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:

CHARLES E. O'BRIEN, 02055984, Second Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1945 in France. When enemy troops started to close in on the factory building occupied by his platoon, Lieutenant O'Brien spotted five hostile soldiers behind a shed preparing to rush the platoon's position. As the enemy soldiers started forward, Lieutenant O'Brien moved to an exposed position under small arms fire and threw a fragmentation grenade into their midst. This aggressive action killed one of the enemy, wounded another and forced the other three to surrender. By his splendid courage, Lieutenant O'Brien discouraged other enemy troops in the vicinity and broke up a hostile counterattack. Entered the Service from Des Moines, Iowa.

WILFRED O. ALFORD, 38628472, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Alford was assigned the mission of leading a combat patrol, composed of a reinforced squad, to destroy two houses which were being used by the enemy for defensive positions and shelter. He skillfully guided his men across mined terrain to the objective. As the patrol approached the houses, the enemy opened fire with rifles, machine guns and antitank grenades. Undaunted by the strong resistance, Sergeant Alford led his men in assaulting the hostile positions. Hurling hand grenades as they charged, he and his men completely routed the hostile force. Sergeant Alford's aggressive leadership was responsible for capturing three enemy soldiers, killing one, wounding another, and securing the important objective. Entered the Service from Mexia, Texas.

RUSSELL E. PIERCE, 35719228, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 January 1945 in France. During the 1st Platoon's attack against a tactically important hill, Sergeant Pierce, acting squad leader, led the 3d Squad in protecting his unit's right flank in the advance up the hill. Heavy enemy rifle and machine gun fire temporarily delayed the attackers. Spotting several soldiers who had become separated from their own squad, Sergeant Pierce swiftly organized them into his squad and skillfully

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deployed his men in an assault formation. After an intense fire fight which lasted for 30 minutes, he led his men in charging the hostile positions. As a result of his aggressive leadership, his squad seized five enemy dugouts, killed five of the hostile soldiers and captured eight. Entered the Service from Terre Haute, Indiana.

BARTON PRICE, 38036794, Sergeant, Company H, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1945 in France. As squad leader of a heavy machine gun squad, Sergeant Price was assigned the mission of protecting Company F's right flank in the defense of an important town. When the enemy counter-attacked, he personally operated the gun, delaying the attackers with his effective fire. A self-propelled gun scored a hit on his gun position, and he and his assistant gunner were both wounded. Despite intense pain, Sergeant Price continued firing and prevented the enemy from extending his area of infiltration. When the section on his right had been overrun and his machine gun could no longer be used effectively, he opened fire on the enemy with a rifle from a second-story window. By his aggressiveness and determination, he contributed materially to limiting the enemy's area of penetration. Entered the Service from Palestine, Texas.

DOMINICK PAZZAGLINI, 32945261, Private First Class, Company M, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 February 1945 in France. When the building which housed the mortar observation post was destroyed by fire from an enemy self-propelled gun, the sergeant observer started back to the aid station. Private First Class Pazzaglini, a radio operator, crawled out of the rubble with his radio intact and, seeing that the self-propelled gun was still firing on the friendly troops, began directing mortar fire on the enemy gun. Although no cover was available and he was completely exposed to the hostile fire, he adjusted the mortars with such accuracy that the enemy gun was forced to withdraw. By his courage and determination, he eliminated a serious threat to a rifle company and enabled the unit to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Endicott, New York.

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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