

1945

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

AG RECORDS SEC

30 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 236

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

I. AWARD OF SILVER STAR - MISSING IN ACTION. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to the following named individual, missing in action, for gallantry:

PASQUALE PATUTO, 31435012, Private, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. As Company L started to cross a river with the mission of determining enemy strength, the men were subjected to a heavy mortar and artillery barrage and became disorganized. Private Patuto, a scout, successfully led his squad across the river and then volunteered to lead a patrol to a nearby house. Crossing an open field in the face of machine gun fire from both flanks, he encouraged his men to follow him in assaulting the position. On nearing the house a fierce fire fight developed and Private Patuto killed two Germans while the other members of the patrol killed another German and captured three prisoners. As a result of his magnificent courage and aggressive leadership, the patrol successfully accomplished its mission. Private Patuto has been reported missing in action from a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary DeRubeis (Sister); 41 Lincoln Road, Newton, Massachusetts.

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:

EDWARD R. MAI, 02056284, First Lieutenant, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division Artillery, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. Lieutenant Mai, air observation pilot for the 36th Division Artillery, was adjusting artillery fire on a large enemy convoy attempting to escape up the Rhone Valley when he was wounded by fire from an anti-aircraft gun. Despite the pain of his wound, he continued directing accurate artillery fire on the enemy troops. He flew over hostile territory for two hours and twenty-five minutes and, by alternately shifting fire from personnel attempting to repair a bridge across the Drome River, to the convoy itself, he succeeded in destroying most of the convoy and preventing the rest from escaping. Entered the Service from Wakeeney, Kansas.

JOHN F. SULLIVAN, 31369385, First Sergeant (then Technical Sergeant), Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1945 in France. As the 1st Platoon approached the edge of a town, the men were suddenly pinned down by grazing fire from an enemy machine gun. Sergeant Sullivan, the platoon sergeant, immediately rushed toward the position, firing his sub-

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machine gun as he ran. By his bold action he killed one German, wounded another and forced the remaining enemy soldiers to abandon their position. He then led his men in an assault on the first two houses. Leaping through a window of the second house, he killed a German who had been firing a machine pistol at friendly troops. With the first two houses taken, he reorganized his platoon and skillfully maneuvered the squads in clearing the remaining houses in his sector. Under his valiant and aggressive leadership, the men captured 18 prisoners and destroyed another machine gun. Entered the Service from Lawrence, Massachusetts.

FARRELL R. HUFFINE, 44040793, Private First Class, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 March 1945 in France. During an attack on a town, several men of Private First Class Huffine's squad were wounded by machine gun fire as they attempted to cross the open ground between two houses. From his position at an upper window, Private First Class Huffine observed the location of the enemy weapon. On his own initiative he left the building and crawled across the exposed terrain toward the machine gun. When he had approached within 20 yards, the Germans saw him and turned their guns in his direction. Without hesitation, he dashed forward, firing his rifle from the hip; and, before the Germans could open fire, he wounded two members of the crew and captured all three. As a result of his gallant and aggressive actions, valuable information was obtained concerning enemy dispositions in the town and Private First Class Huffine's squad was able to advance without further casualties. Entered the Service from Johnson City, Tennessee.

IGNAC J. WASKOWIAK, 37466124, Private First Class, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Waskowiak and a companion were assigned the mission of reestablishing communications between the company command post and a platoon which had been cut off by hostile troops. Braving heavy small arms and mortar fire, they infiltrated through the German lines and located the break in the communications wire. After repairing the break they started back to the company command post when they were fired on by an enemy machine gun and a squad of riflemen. Private First Class Waskowiak's comrade was instantly killed by the hostile fire. From a shallow ditch Private First Class Waskowiak killed the machine gunner and one rifleman, and continued firing until his ammunition was exhausted. Only then did he return to the command post. His valor was a source of inspiration to the entire company. Entered the Service from Ashton, Nebraska.

ROBERT E. POLING, 35783073, Private, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 March 1945 in Germany. Private Poling was in a pillbox on the bank of a river when he suddenly observed a German officer and enlisted men covering the guard at the rear door with their pistols. The Germans opened fire and Private Poling instantly returned their fire with his rifle. With one well-aimed shot he seriously wounded the enemy officer and struck the pistol from his companion's hand. He then rushed to the door and saw six enemy soldiers preparing to assault the pillbox in an attempt to clear a route of escape across the river. Returning to his post, he began firing his rifle and dropping grenades through the apertures of the fortification, holding off the enemy until reinforcements arrived to repel the assault. By his courage and initiative, he aided materially in killing three of the enemy and capturing five others. Entered the Service from Elkins, West Virginia.

III. AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - SILVER STAR. 1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the second Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

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THOMAS P. CORWIN, 01110431, Captain, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Boonville, New York.
VIRGIL R. COLEGROVE, 16062651, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Milford, Michigan.
JAMES D. WHITE, 16062625, Sergeant, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.

for gallantry in action on 22 and 23 March 1945 in Germany. When Company A was assigned the mission of blowing a path through the Dragon's Teeth in the Siegfried Line, these men volunteered for the hazardous task. Starting immediately after dark from an explosives dump 200 yards from their objective, each man carried 100 pounds of explosive. As they advanced, the enemy threw up flares and directed harassing artillery fire on the area, and 30 yards from the Dragon's Teeth they were fired on by a machine gun and forced to seek cover. When the machine gun fire temporarily ceased, they valiantly continued forward and set their charges. Although repeatedly subjected to machine gun fire, they worked steadily throughout most of the night, making seven trips to carry their heavy burdens across the hazardous area before detonating their charges. As a result of their courage and determination, a path was cleared for armor to support the infantry troops during their attack on the Siegfried Line fortifications.

ANTHONY J. VIGNOLA, 01170402, First Lieutenant, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 27 August 1944 in France. While Lieutenant Vignola was manning an artillery observation post with a rifle company, hostile troops launched a fierce counterattack supported by a heavy artillery and mortar barrage. As a result of Lieutenant Vignola's skillful fire direction, the enemy suffered numerous casualties and the attack was repelled. When the hostile force reorganized and launched a second attack, Lieutenant Vignola was severely wounded by mortar shell fragments. Despite intense pain, he moved his observation post to another position and continued directing artillery fire on the attackers. Although subjected to intense artillery, mortar and small arms fire, he remained in position until he was hit by machine pistol bullets and was forced to be evacuated. His valiant actions were largely responsible for the repulse of two enemy attacks. Entered the Service from Wilmington, Delaware.

CLEVELAND L. THOMPSON, 20808672, Technician Fifth Grade, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 and 29 August 1944 in France. When enemy forces were caught in a trap in the Rhone River valley, Tec 5 Thompson and seven comrades were manning a self-propelled 105mm cannon placed near a highway with the assigned mission of halting a breakthrough by an enemy armored division. The enemy attacked in great strength, cutting them off from other friendly units, but they remained steadfastly in position. While some of the group protected the flanks of the position, Tec 5 Thompson and three comrades operated the 105mm cannon and, as bullets and shrapnel ricocheted from their mount, delivered heavy and effective fire, destroying a German tank and twelve vehicles, killing over 100 Germans and wounding many more. By their gallantry and determination, they withstood the full force of the enemy attack and caused the surrender of many Germans to friendly troops who arrived in support. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

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2. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a second Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the third Silver Star is awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action:

CHESTER W. JONES, 31374966, Staff Sergeant (then Private), Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 October 1944 in France. Private Jones was assigned the mission of taking four men and establishing an outpost 300 yards in advance of friendly lines. After moving forward approximately half the distance, he set out alone to reconnoiter the terrain. At a turn in the trail, he suddenly discovered a large German patrol approaching. Remaining quietly in position until the hostile soldiers were only a few yards away, he opened fire with his sub-machine gun, killing three of the Germans and wounding three others. As the enemy patrol was too large to be engaged by his small group, Private Jones skillfully directed the fire and movement of his men in returning to friendly lines. By his daring and aggressiveness, he inflicted many casualties upon the enemy and gained information on the disposition of the hostile troops. Entered the Service from Manchester, New Hampshire.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DAHLQUIST:

JESSE B. MATLACK
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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