

1945

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

2 April 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 113

Award of Silver Star.....I  
Commendation For Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct.....II

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:

MARTIN L. BALL, JR., 01289026, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 September 1943 in Italy. The 3d Battalion was subjected to heavy artillery and mortar fire directed from an enemy observation post in a steeple, and a sniper was harassing friendly troops from the same vantage point. Captain Ball, battalion S-2, located an abandoned antitank gun and, with the help of a hastily organized crew, moved it into position behind a wall. Ordering his men to take cover, he personally manned the gun to clear a field of fire, blasting off the top of the wall with three well-placed shots. Then, in spite of enemy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire, he knocked out the observation post and the sniper with five direct hits on the steeple. Later, while leading a group of men through the enemy lines, he was attacked by a German soldier whom he killed in a brief hand-to-hand battle. His valor and aggressiveness in a critical situation were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Ft. Myer, Virginia.

CONRAD MANDINO, 34075286, Staff Sergeant, Company M, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 10 to 15 February 1945 in France. As leader of a heavy machine gun section during the intense fighting in a strongly fortified town, Sergeant Mandino directed the fire of his two guns with extreme accuracy. When the building which housed his guns was destroyed, he led his men through heavy small arms and mortar fire to a new position and opened fire to disorganize the enemy attackers. During a strong attack against friendly positions around a railroad station, Sergeant Mandino held his fire until the Germans were within close range, then suddenly delivered effective fire into the midst of the hostile troops, repelling the attack. His skillful and aggressive leadership was responsible for inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy with a minimum of casualties to the friendly troops. Entered the Service from Gayle, Louisiana.

EMILIO ADELCHI, 32223037, Private First Class, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 June 1944 in Italy. Upon learning the whereabouts of enemy snipers who were harassing the friendly troops from nearby wine cellars, Private First Class Adelchi and two companions voluntarily went forward to eliminate them. They approached one of the cellars, and Private First Class Adelchi demanded that the enemy surrender. When the hostile

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soldiers came out fighting, he hurled a hand grenade into their midst, killing two and wounding two others. As he pulled the pin from a second grenade, the remaining snipers charged him. He ducked to avoid an enemy grenade, and his own grenade exploded, seriously wounding him. Inspired by Private First Class Adelchi's display of courage, his comrades captured or killed the rest of the enemy group. Entered the Service from Long Island, New York.

LOUIE D. PUTMAN, 3e037247, Private, Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 February 1945 in France. As French troops advanced to relieve elements of the Antitank Company, the enemy opened fire with machine pistols, machine guns, mortars and artillery. Realizing that the relief of his unit could not be effected until the hostile guns were silenced, Private Putman dashed across open terrain under heavy enemy fire to assault a railroad station occupied by hostile troops. Rushing in, he killed two enemy soldiers and then moved to an exposed position to support a comrade in attacking a pill box. Although he was the target for heavy enemy fire, he remained in position, expending all of his ammunition, and, after securing an additional supply, continued firing until his companion returned. As a result of the quick-thinking and daring of Private Putman and his comrade, the French troops were able to relieve the company with less risk of casualty. Entered the Service from Sulphur Springs, Texas.

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:

WILLIAM E. BAKER, 37181643, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 443d AAA AW Battalion (SP), for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 15 to 29 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Baker was the only representative of the battalion supply section to land on D-day in the invasion of Southern France. During this period he was solely responsible for drawing essential supplies and delivering them to the various units as they were needed. Although the battalion platoons and sections were scattered over a wide area during the swift pursuit of the enemy army and there was never more than one truck at his disposal, Sergeant Baker assured the units of a prompt and efficient delivery of all needed supplies. In spite of the long supply lines and his unfamiliarity with the terrain, he continually distinguished himself by the high caliber of his accomplishments. Entered the Service from Carl Junction, Missouri.

JOE H. BALL, 6970759, Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 25 September 1944 in France. Sergeant Ball, chief of an artillery liaison section, was operating an observation post in a building subjected to enemy sniper fire. Aware that the snipers were harassing the infantry elements, he determined to withdraw and place artillery fire on the area. He directed the men of his section to cross two open areas under heavy hostile fire. Although he was carrying a heavy radio and knew that he would be the target for enemy snipers, Sergeant Ball courageously exposed himself to cross the open terrain. He then directed artillery fire on the position he had just vacated, neutralizing hostile troops in the area. Entered the Service from Charlotte, North Carolina.

WILLIAM C. JONES, 20818532, Sergeant, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Texarkana, Texas.

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LOUIS J. DONATELLA, 33288876, Technician Fifth Grade, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

ANTONIO V. GOMEZ, 38553225, Private, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Alice, Texas.

PAUL C. CARROLL, 34189935, Private, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Maryville, Tennessee.

for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 14 November 1944 in France. During an enemy mortar and artillery barrage a jeep was hit by a shell which killed the driver and seriously wounded the other two occupants. A medical jeep attempted to reach the casualties, but was halted by the heavy shellfire. These men then advanced to the spot where the wounded soldiers were believed to have been placed, but, after a thorough search, could not find them. After returning to the aid station they learned that the casualties were on the opposite side of a bridge that was the target of the enemy barrage. The above men unhesitatingly volunteered to go to their aid. They moved through the shellfire and, locating the wounded men, evacuated them safely to the aid station.

ELMER G. HAND, 15077132, Corporal, Civil Affairs Section, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 September 1944 in France. Corporal Hand was posting curfew and circulation regulations in a town just evacuated by the enemy and not yet occupied by friendly infantry. He looked up from his work to see one of our light observation planes fly by, dipping its wings. As it passed down over the road in the direction of enemy machine gun positions, he observed an object thrown from the plane, fall to the ground. Without hesitation Corporal Hand mounted his jeep, drove down the road almost to the enemy position and retrieved the object. It proved to be a message concerning the location of an enemy pocket of resistance at a nearby airfield. Corporal Hand immediately drove back to deliver the message to a friendly infantry patrol approaching the town. By his alertness and daring he contributed to the advance of our troops. Entered the Service from Columbus, Ohio.

JIMMY LUKSOVSKY, 20803568, Technician Fifth Grade, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 15 August to 18 September 1944 in France. Tec 5 Luksovsky, transportation corporal of Company L during the campaign in Southern France, was not only largely responsible for the prompt delivery of supplies and troops to his company but also supervised the hauling of troops to other units when they were short of trucks. Although company locations were constantly changing and the dumps were seldom in the same place for two consecutive nights, he managed to get food, water, ammunition and gasoline to the troops as soon as they were needed. Much of the driving was done at night and the trucks frequently broke down because there was no time for maintenance, but the supplies arrived, even though the supply routes were frequently subjected to enemy fire. Entered the Service from Waunder, Texas.

ZED O. JOHNSON, 20813364, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 12 November 1944 in France. A weapons carrier, with six soldier passengers,

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veered from the road and overturned into the icy waters of a flooded river. Tec 5 Johnson, with several companions from Headquarters Battery, helped five of the men to reach the shore. When he learned that one soldier was still missing, Tec 5 Johnson tied a rope around his waist and unhesitatingly plunged into the swift currents of the river. He swam to the wrecked vehicle and, slasming open the tarpaulin which covered the truck, searched the interior for the missing man. After making certain that he was not there, Tec 5 Johnson continued searching the water in the vicinity of the truck for some trace of the soldier. He then swam back to shore and, although wet and chilled, searched both banks of the river for several hundred yards downstream in a final attempt to locate the man. Entered the Service from Plainview, Texas.

JAMES J. AMBROE, 6973936, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 15 September to 12 November 1944 in France. Tec 5 Ambroe was assigned the task of driving a litter jeep for the 1st Battalion aid station. He frequently drove his vehicle over roads subjected to enemy shellfire in order to speed the evacuation of casualties between the aid station and the front lines. On many occasions he drove litter bearers beyond the point considered safe for vehicles and carried them almost to their destinations. Because of his selfless regard for the safety of his comrades, he bravely faced many hazards to assure the men of speedy evacuation and prompt medical attention. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

JOHN WROSKO, 13057910, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

HARRY N. MC NELLY, 32267602, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from New Castle, Delaware.

for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 15 August to 18 September 1944 in France. These men were truck drivers with Company L during the assault landing on the coast of Southern France and the swift pursuit of the enemy army to the north. The rapid rate of advance stretched supply lines to an incredible length, and the routes were frequently subjected to heavy enemy artillery shelling and small arms fire. In spite of the many difficulties and dangers, they drove indefatigably for long periods without rest or sleep to insure their company of a prompt delivery of vital supplies. They frequently shuttled troops of other units during the critical operations and, in spite of adverse conditions of weather and terrain, never faltered in performing their important duties.

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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