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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

7 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 67

Award of Silver Star.....I
Corrected Award of Silver Star.....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:

LAVERN W. MAXWELL, 0497312, Captain, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 5 December 1944 in France. One of the tank destroyers of Company C was disabled by a direct hit from enemy artillery, but the destroyer's gun was still in working condition. Infantry troops in the vicinity were planning an assault against an enemy-held town, but insufficient armored support prevented them from launching the attack. After making a careful reconnaissance of the hazardous area, Captain Maxwell, commanding Company C, volunteered to man the gun in the disabled tank destroyer and cover the infantry's advance. Although the enemy artillery had zeroed in the destroyer and was attempting to destroy it completely, Captain Maxwell ran across shell-blasted terrain to the vehicle and, with one of his men, operated the gun. He fired 30 rounds at hostile strong points, setting one building afire and inflicting irreparable damage on the enemy. While artillery shells crashed around him, he continued firing until he had expended his entire supply of ammunition. Largely as a result of his effective fire, the infantry troops were able to gain a foothold in the important town. Entered the Service from Galesburg, Illinois.

WALTER E. RIDENHOUR, 34679259, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1945 in France. Sergeant Ridenhour, a squad leader in Company G, was assigned the mission of defending a 400 yard gap on the company's left flank. When the attacking enemy gained a sector of the woodland which the battalion was defending, Sergeant Ridenhour realized that the darkness made it impossible to close the gap by covering it with fire. Acting entirely on his own initiative, he swiftly organized his squad and led a daring attack against the hostile troops. The startled enemy withdrew into an open field where friendly machine guns inflicted heavy casualties. By his quick-thinking and aggressiveness, Sergeant Ridenhour eliminated a serious threat to his company. Entered the Service from Richfield, North Carolina.

GILBERTO GONZALEZ, 38561310, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1945 in France. When an enemy tank, supported by two other tanks firing from a nearby road junction, attacked a house occupied by a squad of the 1st Platoon, the squad was forced to withdraw. Private First Class Gonzalez, the assistant squad leader,

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secured a bazooka and, with a companion, returned to the abandoned house. Entering the building, he and his comrade exposed themselves to fire from the tank, now only 25 yards away, in order to reach an advantageous position. Opening fire, they scored a direct hit on the turret, killing the enemy machine gunner, and disabling the tank. By his courage and aggressiveness, Private First Class Gonzalez helped eliminate a serious threat to the safety of his unit. Entered the Service from Falfurrias, Texas.

BORIS SHATKYVICH, 31189598, Technician Fourth Grade, Company C, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from New Haven, Connecticut.

PAUL MANGUM, 38039744, Technician Fifth Grade, Company C, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

GEORGE H. MUSE, 33288540, Private First Class, Company C, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

WALTER A. KELLER, 33230311, Private First Class, Company C, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Temple, Pennsylvania.

for gallantry in action on 20 November 1944 in France. When a combat patrol crossed a river and advanced into enemy territory, one man was killed and three others wounded by hostile fire. The above men, members of a litter squad, rode in a medical jeep as far as the mined bank of the river. Willingly risking their own lives to rescue the injured soldiers, they courageously forded the swollen stream and, braving direct machine gun and rifle fire from hostile positions, worked their way across 800 yards of flat, exposed terrain to the spot where the casualties were lying. After administering expert first aid treatment, they placed the most seriously wounded man on their litter and started back across the fire-swept area. Although they were the targets for heavy small arms fire, they pressed determinedly forward to the river bank. Waist deep in water, they struggled for 15 minutes against the rapid, swirling currents of the stream before they finally reached the medical jeep on the opposite bank. As a result of the courage and selflessness of the above men, a seriously injured soldier was evacuated to safety where he received prompt medical attention.

MILTON CAGAN, 31143595, Corporal, Company C, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 5 December 1944 in France. Corporal Cagan's tank destroyer was disabled by a direct hit from enemy artillery, but the destroyer's gun was still in working condition. Infantry troops in the vicinity were planning an assault against an enemy-held town, but insufficient armored support prevented them from launching the attack. When his company commander arrived in the area, Corporal Cagan voluntarily accompanied him on a hazardous forward reconnaissance. After determining the situation, he and his commanding officer volunteered to man the gun in the disabled tank destroyer and cover the infantry's advance. Although enemy artillery had zeroed in the destroyer and was attempting to destroy it completely, Corporal Cagan ran across shell-blasted terrain to the vehicle and, with his company commander, operated the gun. He fired 30 rounds at hostile strong points, setting one building afire and inflicting irreparable damage on the enemy. While artillery shells crashed around him, he continued firing until he had expended his entire supply of ammunition. Largely as a result of his effective fire, the infantry troops were able to gain a foothold in the important town. Entered the Service from New Haven, Connecticut.

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GEORGE E. FIDLER, 33832110, Private First Class, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 December 1944 in France. Under cover of darkness, approximately 60 enemy soldiers infiltrated into a recently captured town and placed a machine gun in position to fire at the 3d Platoon Command Post. As Private First Class Fidler, a jeep driver bringing a hot meal to the command post, approached the area, the enemy launched a savage assault. From a position of cover, Private First Class Fidler spotted two of the hostile soldiers attempting to steal his vehicle. He swiftly attacked them, hurling hand grenades and firing his pistol as he ran, and succeeded in killing one and wounding the other. Almost immediately the enemy began blasting the area with a heavy artillery barrage. Private First Class Fidler ran toward his jeep in the face of direct machine gun and rifle fire, but, before he reached it, the vehicle was disabled by direct hits. Undaunted, he continued forward to the jeep and rescued a bazooka from the damaged vehicle. Aware that enemy machine guns placed at the exits of the platoon command post had prevented the soldiers from leaving the position, Private First Class Fidler courageously crawled across 50 yards of open street toward the command post. Although his bazooka had been damaged by a shell fragment and failed to operate, he valiantly remained in the fire-swept area and attracted the enemy's attention while friendly troops opened fire and forced the hostile group to withdraw. Entered the Service from Reading, Pennsylvania.

FRANK F. CAPPOLA, 32898818, Private First Class, Company D, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 December 1944 in France. At dusk Private First Class Cappola was guarding his heavy machine gun, emplaced near a strategically important crossroads, when his position was subjected to heavy artillery and mortar concentrations. Enemy infantry elements, firing machine pistols and rifles, charged his emplacement. He operated his machine gun unaided until the hostile soldiers attacked from the rear and his line of fire was cut off by piles of rubble. Determinedly maintaining his position, he hurled hand grenades into the midst of the enemy soldiers only 5 yards away. He inflicted several casualties on the hostile group and forced the remainder to withdraw. By his courage and aggressiveness, he repelled a counterattack and saved a vital crossroads position. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

PAUL W. GREGG, 35148002, Private First Class, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 August 1944 in France. One platoon of Company G, crossing an open field was subjected to hostile machine gun, artillery and tank fire. Private First Class Gregg recrossed the field under fire to direct the other three platoons along a covered route. Faced by a numerically superior enemy, Company G established a defensive position. From a vantage point, Private First Class Gregg helped direct artillery fire which silenced two enemy mortars. Later, when a large hostile force counterattacked the company defense and the order to withdraw was given, he risked capture to help a wounded comrade and was among the last to leave the untenable position. Because there was no contact with battalion headquarters, he led a patrol through hostile territory to contact the battalion commander and obtain vitally needed supplies for his unit. Throughout the entire engagement he distinguished himself by his resourcefulness and intrepidity in performing many hazardous assignments. Entered the Service from Gary, Indiana.

II. CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR. So much of General Orders 42, this Headquarters, dated 21 February 1945, as awards a Silver Star to TRUJILLO JESUS, 38441737, Private First Class, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, is rescinded

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and the following substituted therefor:

"Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action:

"JESUS TRUJILLO, 38441737, Private First Class, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 October 1944 in France. Private First Class Trujillo, an acting squad leader, advanced at the extreme point of his company, moving across high ground which overlooked an important enemy stronghold. After advancing 1000 yards, the company was ordered to halt and organize a defensive position. Private First Class Trujillo occupied an outpost in advance of the other elements of his company and remained constantly on the alert throughout the night for enemy patrol action. When a group of hostile soldiers approached his position, he cleverly tricked them into advancing into a trap. The enemy patrol moved unwittingly toward friendly soldiers waiting in well-concealed positions. Although he was exposed to small arms fire from his own men as well as from the enemy, Private First Class Trujillo bravely ordered his men to open fire. As a result of his resourcefulness and courage, the hostile patrol was completely disorganized, two of the enemy soldiers were killed, one was captured and several were wounded. Private First Class Trujillo was seriously injured during the engagement and was forced to be evacuated. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas."

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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