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

AG RECORDS SEC.

8 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 25

Award of Silver Star.....I
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster - 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:

WILLIAM M. TAYLOR, 20802664, Technical Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Lockhart, Texas.
RAYMOND R. DIRZANOWSKI, 20802485, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Lockhart, Texas.

for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in Italy. Company F was advancing down a road when it was suddenly subjected to heavy fire from an enemy road block, and a hostile tank began shelling the friendly troops. These men spotted the tank and, acting on their own initiative, worked their way into a position from which they could direct fire on it. Although small arms fire swept the area, they calmly operated their bazooka, delivering effective fire on the enemy tank. Their first round damaged the tank's gun and the second damaged its track. As a result of the aggressiveness and courage of these men, the tank was forced to withdraw and the road block was swiftly destroyed.

EMILE DELEAU, 35227927, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 November 1944 in France. Company A was moving toward its objective when four enemy machine guns suddenly opened fire, halting the unit's advance. The 1st Platoon was assigned the mission of outflanking the hostile positions. As the platoon proceeded across an open field, it was subjected to rapid bursts of machine gun fire directed from the front and left flank. The first scout was killed and the other platoon members were forced to halt in the middle of the exposed area. Cognizant of the serious threat to the safety of his comrades, Private First Class Deleau, an acting squad leader, courageously pressed forward in an attempt to neutralize the well-entrenched position. Firing his rifle as he advanced, he killed one of the hostile soldiers and forced another to flee. Continuing forward in the face of direct machine gun fire, he hurled a hand grenade into the emplacement, destroying the weapon and killing another of the enemy. His aggressive action enabled the platoon to outflank the remaining hostile weapons and successfully complete its mission. Entered the Service from Baline, Ohio.

WALLACE W. KITE, 37626848, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944 in France. While occupying a defensive position in a recently captured town, the 1st Battalion was subjected to an intense enemy attack. A large group of hostile soldiers worked its way along a railroad embankment to a position near

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the house occupied by the antitank squad. Spotting the enemy, Private First Class Kite seized an automatic rifle and, fearlessly exposing himself in the entrance of a hall, opened fire on the hostile force. When the automatic rifle jammed, he dropped the weapon and, although he was the target for direct small arms fire, began hurling hand grenades into the midst of the charging enemy, dispersing them and temporarily delaying the assault. In the brief respite, he swiftly relieved the stoppage in his automatic rifle. Observing an enemy gunner attempting to set up a machine gun, he again opened fire, killing the soldier and destroying the gun. With his rifle he moved from room to room, firing on the hostile troops and hurling hand grenades into their midst. Although he was constantly subjected to rifle and machine gun fire, he succeeded in killing four more of the enemy and, by his calmness and courage, was largely responsible for repelling the attack. Entered the Service from Hurdland, Missouri.

SAM GALLICCHIO, 34797187, Private, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 November 1944 in France. During an attack against a hostile village, Private Gallicchio was assigned the task of checking buildings for pockets of enemy resistance. Acting on information received from French civilians, he rushed the building which housed the hostile command post. Boldly entering the house, he ordered five enemy soldiers to surrender. When an officer answered his command by opening fire, Private Gallicchio swiftly returned the fire with his automatic rifle, wounding two of the soldiers and forcing the others to surrender. Although he had suffered a painful leg wound in the exchange of fire, he valiantly refused to be evacuated and continued clearing the houses, assisting in the capture of 11 more prisoners. Ignoring the pain of his wound, Private Gallicchio searched the buildings until the town had been completely cleared. He then remained on duty for four hours until his patrol leader ordered him to the rear. Entered the Service from Raiford, Florida.

LAWRENCE J. BELT, 35763261, Private, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 November 1944 in France. Company K was assigned the mission of attacking a group of houses well-protected by barbed wire entanglements, mine fields, trenches and dugouts. When the leading platoon launched a surprise assault and forced its way through the obstacles along the road into the first few houses, Private Belt, a wireman, valiantly braved the heavy small arms, mortar and 20mm gun fire to lay a communications line to the assault platoon. Enemy troops launched a savage counterattack against the friendly force which had penetrated their defenses, and the wire line was shattered by the shellfire. Aware of the necessity for maintaining communications during this critical stage of the operation, Private Belt valiantly exposed himself to the incessant fire in order to repair the line. For three hours he worked indefatigably and fearlessly to maintain the vital communications. When the enemy began setting the buildings afire with effective shelling, Private Belt strung a new line from the beleaguered platoon through heavy small arms fire to the company command group. By his daring and skill, he reestablished contact, thereby enabling the leading platoon to call for a smoke screen and withdraw from the untenable position. Entered the Service from Wheeling, West Virginia.

JOHN R. SCHELLA, 33611602, Private, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 October 1944 in France. The 2d Platoon was leading Company A in an attack against strong enemy defenses when it was suddenly subjected to heavy machine gun and sniper fire. Several of the platoon

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members were wounded. Although the enemy continued sweeping the area with effective bursts of fire, Private Schella, aid man with the platoon, fearlessly exposed himself in order to administer first aid to his wounded comrades. He willingly risked his own life to save the lives of the injured soldiers and, while so engaged, was painfully wounded by the hostile fire. Without a thought for personal safety, he valiantly continued treating the other casualties. He worked indefatigably under the incessant small arms fire, giving aid to the wounded and assisting in their evacuation, until the company commander, aware of the seriousness of Private Schella's condition, ordered him back to the aid station for medical attention. Entered the Service from Carbondale, Pennsylvania.

GEORGE E. NETTLETON, 37634443, Private, Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 December 1944 in France. Although Private Nettleton was a new replacement in Company D, it was expedient, because of the shortage of men, to make him first gunner in a machine gun squad. His squad was in position to defend a recently captured town when hostile troops attempted to infiltrate the friendly lines. Two of the squad members had been killed, several had been wounded, and a heavy artillery barrage prevented the others from assisting Private Nettleton. The other gun crew of the section had been captured by the enemy. In spite of the dangers which confronted him, Private Nettleton determinedly remained in position for more than 12 hours without relief or food. He manned his machine gun alone, remaining constantly on the alert for enemy movement. In spite of heavy shellfire and adverse weather conditions, he never relaxed his vigil, keeping the hostile troops pinned down over a wide sector and killing or wounding at least 50 of the enemy. Entered the Service from Risco, Missouri.

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

JOHN W. SMITH, 0519221, First Lieutenant, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 27 August 1944 in France. Lieutenant Smith was assigned as forward observer with Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment. The company was ambushed by enemy tanks and infantry and suffered heavy casualties as a result of intense small arms, mortar and artillery fire. Lieutenant Smith immediately adjusted friendly artillery fire on the hostile targets, destroying one of the enemy tanks and forcing two others to retreat. As the number of casualties increased alarmingly, he directed the members of his forward observer section in using their pack boards to help evacuate the wounded. Although he was ordered to withdraw from his exposed position, he courageously remained in the fire-swept area and continued directing fire on the hostile force. Aware that his radio was the only means of communication between the company and the battalion headquarters, he disdained personal safety and fearlessly maintained his position. When Company C was ordered to withdraw, Lieutenant Smith remained alone, the target for heavy enemy fire, to direct friendly artillery in covering the withdrawal. He did not leave the hazardous area until after midnight, when the movement was completed. Entered the Service from Bonham, Texas.

ROBERT A. LANG, 01178222, First Lieutenant, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 6 November 1944 in France. Company K of the 142d

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Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 November 1944 in France. While occupying a defensive position, the 1st Battalion was subjected to an intense enemy attack. The 1st Battalion worked its way along a railroad embankment to a position where it could engage the enemy. The 1st Battalion worked its way along a railroad embankment to a position where it could engage the enemy.

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Infantry Regiment had attacked and seized its objective on a strategically important hill when the enemy suddenly opened fire with a well-concealed artillery piece. Fearlessly braving the heavy barrage, Lieutenant Lang, artillery forward observer with the unit, moved forward on his own initiative and established an observation post in an exposed position which afforded excellent observation but very little cover. From this vantage point he located the enemy weapon and, working calmly while shells crashed around him, adjusted accurate artillery fire on the position, destroying the gun and eliminating a serious threat to the safety of his comrades. Remaining constantly alert for enemy activity, Lieutenant Lang spotted a company of hostile infantrymen marching up a road. He directed effective artillery fire on the group, killing 15, wounding many others and forcing the remainder to flee. Entered the Service from East Orange, New Jersey.

WILLIAM M. TAYLOR, 20802664, Technical Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 November 1944 in France. During an attack against an enemy-held hill, Sergeant Taylor located the hostile machine gun which was delaying the advance of his platoon and immediately opened fire on the enemy weapon. After several antitank grenades had failed to dislodge it, he called for a friendly tank which was supporting the attack and directed it in knocking out the machine gun emplacement. Then, advancing directly in the face of heavy small arms fire, he led his platoon in an assault against the hostile force and, with machine gun and tank fire, killed 12 of the enemy soldiers, captured 14 and completely routed the remainder of the hostile troops. By his personal courage and aggressive leadership, he enabled his unit to seize its objective. Entered the Service from Lockhart, 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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