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Authority NND 35017

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16 May 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 180

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:

RENE J. DELMEZ, 37141557, Technical Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 October 1944 in France. As Company F advanced against strongly defended enemy positions the men were halted by intense machine gun and rifle fire. In the face of heavy small arms fire Sergeant Delmez, the platoon sergeant worked his way forward to an exposed position, spotted an enemy sniper and killed him with one shot. He continued to move forward until he could observe a hostile machine gun and, with one well-aimed rifle grenade, killed all three of its crew. At this time a concentrated barrage of self-propelled gun fire was directed at the friendly troops, inflicting many casualties, and a withdrawal was ordered. Although Sergeant Delmez had been painfully wounded, he courageously reorganized his platoon, supervised the evacuation of four wounded soldiers, and led his men in an orderly withdrawal through a mile of thick underbrush and heavily wooded terrain. Entered the Service from Pittsburg, Kansas.

QUENTIN D. BARRINGTON, 2009660, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Company M, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 August 1944 in France. In the absence of the section leader Sergeant Barrington volunteered to act as observer for the 81mm mortars. Despite an enemy counterattack and intense fire from two tanks, he crawled forward to an exposed position from which he could observe the hostile troops. He immediately directed heavy mortar fire which dispersed the enemy force. The enemy re-grouped and renewed the attack, but Sergeant Barrington's accurately directed mortar fire again disorganized the hostile force. Although wounded by shrapnel from a bursting shell, he gallantly remained at his post and continued to direct fire for half an hour until a relief observer arrived. When the friendly troops seized their objective, more than 100 enemy dead or wounded were found in the area where he had concentrated his mortar fire. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

JAMES R. NELSON, 36055123, Technical Sergeant, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 February 1945 in France. When a 12-man combat patrol was subjected to intense fire from four enemy machine guns and the patrol leader and two of the men were separated from the remainder of the group, Sergeant Nelson immediately assumed command. He skillfully reorganized the patrol's positions and, exposing himself to the machine gun crossfire, moved among his men, directing their fire and encouraging them to hold their ground. He personally silenced one of the German guns with accurate fire and hand grenades. Later, with almost all the ammunition gone, he directed the patrol in a successful withdrawal. By his personal courage and heroic leadership, he was able to locate the German gun positions, contributing greatly to the success of a

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later attack. Entered the Service from Salem, Illinois.

CHARLES BOROS, 33081232, Technical Sergeant, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

ROBERT S. BASTIAN, 33501503, Technical Sergeant, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Northumberland, Pennsylvania.

for gallantry in action on 27 November 1944 in France. After repeated attempts to take a strongly defended hill, these men successfully led their small group of 10 men in seizing the objective. With their ammunition almost gone and six men wounded, an enemy counterattack forced them from the hill. They were preparing again to assault the hill, when the company commander arrived with reinforcements and led an attack which retook the position. After an intense mortar and artillery barrage, the enemy counterattacked and inflicted many casualties. Although the above men were wounded, they continued to direct their men in the defense of the position, and moved about under the intense enemy fire securing additional ammunition and caring for the wounded. Their gallant and untiring efforts aided materially in seizing and holding the strongly defended position.

GERALD R. CREEHAN, 33440179, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 March 1945 in Germany. As the 3rd Platoon was attacking a hill in the Siegfried Line defenses, the men were subjected to enemy machine gun fire from the right flank. Private First Class Creehan observed the machine gun firing from a trench about 70 yards away. He immediately organized his squad and led them down the same trench to a point 15 yards from the German position. Opening fire with his rifle, he killed the three members of the crew, and silenced the machine gun. Private First Class Creehan's gallant and aggressive act enabled his platoon to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Castle Shannon, Pennsylvania.

CARL S. MC CLUGGAGE, 34366767, Corporal, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 16 March 1945 in France. During an attack by friendly troops supporting armor was being delayed by mines on the road, and the enemy was subjecting the position to small arms fire. Corporal McCluggage volunteered for the hazardous mission of removing the mines. While the enemy directed small arms fire at him and mortar shells burst in the area, he worked steadily until he had cleared eight antitank mines from the road. As he removed the last mine, he stepped on an anti-personnel mine and was seriously wounded. As a result of his magnificent courage and determination, Corporal McCluggage cleared the road for supporting armor and materially aided in the success of the attack. Entered the Service from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

DOY J. PRUNTY, 35535198, Corporal, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Lorain, Ohio.

ARTHUR J. STEIN, 32236636, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

DALE E. MURDITH, 35791383, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Dayton, Ohio.

CARLO A. LAFRANO, 32657661, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

THOMAS VAUSE, 14004089, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Florence, South Carolina.

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for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. The above men were assigned the mission of clearing mines from a road prior to an infantry and tank assault on an enemy-held town. Discovering a mined area approximately 250 yards from the town, they began pulling out the mines with ropes and, when this method proved too slow, took the additional risk of removing them by hand. In 15 minutes they removed 35 mines. While still advancing in front of the tanks, these men were fired on by an enemy machine gun. Returning the fire with their rifles, they silenced the weapon. Although their mission was completed, they volunteered to join the assault rifle squad in clearing the first three houses in the town. By their aggressive and courageous actions, the above men aided materially in destroying a German machine gun, capturing 10 prisoners and seizing a foothold in the town.

RAY E. WALLER, 34728044, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. During a night attack the 2d Platoon of Company K entered a mined area and was subjected to intense machine gun and mortar fire, suffering many casualties. Without hesitation Tec 5 Waller, an aid man, crawled into the minefield, feeling his way for trip wires and mines as he advanced. As mortar shells burst around him, he moved from one wounded man to another administering aid. On one occasion he crawled to within 25 yards of an enemy machine gun and carried the casualty to a position of safety. When he returned he found that his platoon leader had been wounded by an exploding mine. Tec 5 Waller again gallantly moved out into the minefield but, while he was caring for the wounded officer, he stepped on a mine and was seriously wounded. By his determined efforts, with utter disregard for his own safety, he assisted in saving the lives of many wounded comrades. Entered the Service from Jackson, Tennessee.

CHARLIE P. STREET, 34032243, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 in France. As the assault squad advanced a short distance across a mined field in the company's attack on a town, the men were subjected to intense machine gun cross fire and eight were wounded. Despite the enemy machine gun and mortar fire, Tec 5 Street, an aid man, made eight trips into the hazardous area, each time crawling out with a wounded man on his back and feeling his way for mines as he moved. After administering first aid to his patients, he again valiantly entered a minefield to remove five men who had been wounded by exploding mines. Tec 5 Street was administering aid to these additional five men whom he had gallantly carried to safety when he was himself wounded by a fragment of a bursting mortar shell and had to be evacuated. Entered the Service from Mitchell County, North Carolina.

JAMES D. FOX, 39476974, Private First Class, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 February 1945 in France. The 1st Platoon of Company K crossed 400 yards of open terrain in the face of intense machine gun cross fire and self-propelled gun fire and successfully occupied the first five houses on the edge of a town. Reinforcements were urgently needed and Private First Class Fox, a runner, volunteered for the hazardous mission of contacting the company commander. As shells burst around him and bullets splattered the dirt about his feet he dashed back across the open field to the company commander, who immediately ordered the 2d Platoon forward. Private First Class Fox was advised by his commanding officer to rest but, as he knew

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the location of the friendly forces, he asked permission to lead the men forward. He courageously moved across the fire-swept terrain with the vitally-needed reinforcements. Entered the Service from Latha County, Idaho.

ERNEST W. LOTVOLA, 37577044, Private First Class, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1945 in France. Private First Class Lotvola, an assistant squad leader, was in position with his men on the left flank of his company, approximately 400 yards from the nearest friendly troops, when he was informed that a large force of the enemy was approaching. He deployed his men and ordered them to hold their fire until the enemy was close. They then directed intense and accurate fire on the hostile force. During the fire fight, Private First Class Lotvola was seriously wounded, but he refused to be evacuated. He remained in position and fired 20 rifle grenades at the enemy, inflicting five casualties and forcing four others to surrender. When the hostile threat had been eliminated, largely through Private First Class Lotvola's outstanding initiative and magnificent courage, he was evacuated for medical treatment. Entered the Service from Ogema, Minnesota.

FOX HILL, 34729451, Private First Class, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1945 in France. In a night attack on a town the 1st Platoon had approached the main intersection when an enemy machine gun opened fire. All members of the platoon were forced to seek cover from the low grazing fire and the advance was halted. Private First Class Hill dashed across the street, directly in the line of fire of the machine gun, using a covered route of approach worked forward to within 15 feet of the enemy position. He threw a hand grenade over the wall, silencing the gun and killing a member of the crew. He then rushed the position and two enemy soldiers attempted to flee, he killed them both with fire from his rifle. Private First Class Hill, by his magnificent courage and outstanding aggressiveness, destroyed the enemy strong point and enabled his platoon to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Memphis, Tennessee.

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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