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

AG RECORDS SEC.

9 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 75

- Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I
- Award of Silver Star.....II
- Posthumous Award of Oak Leaf Cluster - Silver Star.....III

I. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

NELSON W. LE SIEUR, 37400186, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 June 1944 in Italy. As Company B, advancing in a column, moved up a hill, a group of enemy soldiers suddenly opened fire with an automatic weapon and rifles. The company was pinned to the ground, unable to return the hostile fire. Fearlessly exposing himself, Sergeant LeSieur crawled from his position into a thicket 15 yards away in an attempt to flank the enemy emplacement on the hill above. After moving cautiously through the underbrush to a spot from which he could direct effective fire on the hostile strong point, he determined the exact position of the automatic weapon and killed the gunner with a well-aimed shot. His effective fire completely disorganized the enemy soldiers and forced them to flee. His quick-thinking and daring enabled his company to continue its advance and seize its objective. Sergeant LeSieur was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Joseph E. LeSieur (Father), Portage Des Sioux, Mo.

HARRY U. OESTERLEN, 33135947, Private First Class, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 30 October 1944 in France. When it became necessary to reconnoiter and clear a minefield so that artillery units could occupy the area, Private First Class Oesterlen and a companion volunteered to make the hazardous reconnaissance. In spite of intermittent mortar shelling, they carefully observed and taped off the mined sections of the field. After the reconnaissance was successfully completed, they directed a mine clearing detail in removing the mines. Ignoring the mortar fire, they worked calmly and skillfully until one of the mines was detonated. Both Private First Class Oesterlen and his comrade were mortally wounded by the explosion. Their heroism and devotion to duty were a source of great inspiration to the members of their organization. Next of kin: Mr. Fred Oesterlen (Father), 2106 East Berges Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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:

JOSEF C. DINE, 0418284, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 September 1944 in France. Company F was assigned the mission of

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clearing enemy resistance from a well-defended town. Skillfully maneuvering his company in eliminating hostile road blocks along the route of advance, Captain Dine led his men through small arms, mortar and artillery fire to the outskirts of the town. The assault platoon occupied a house on the edge of town and was subjected to heavy machine gun, rifle and mortar fire from a building approximately 200 yards to its front. In spite of the hostile fire, Captain Dine worked his way forward to the leading platoon in order to determine the situation. He personally adjusted effective mortar fire on the hostile positions and directed his platoon in eliminating the enemy strong point and in killing a large number of hostile soldiers. His personal courage and brilliant leadership were responsible for attaining the company's objective and were a source of great inspiration to his men. Entered the Service from Worcester, Mass.

LEON G. PIERCE, 01180296, First Lieutenant, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 29 September 1944 in France. Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, was assigned the mission of defending an important hill. Lieutenant Pierce, artillery forward observer attached to the company, courageously established his position with the forward infantry outpost in order to render more effective artillery support. When a large hostile force launched a strong attack, he began directing artillery fire on the enemy troops. Although he was subjected to artillery and mortar shelling, he remained in his exposed position and brought the fire closer as the hostile soldiers advanced. The attackers drove forward, sweeping the area with small arms and automatic weapons fire. Undaunted by the intensity of the fire fight which raged around him, Lieutenant Pierce adjusted artillery shelling to within 50 yards of his own position. He maintained his post for two hours, directing accurate artillery fire on the enemy until the assault was repelled. His skill and courage were responsible for inflicting heavy casualties on the hostile force and contributed materially to the repulse of the attack. Entered the Service from Honorville, Alabama.

MORTON BEERMAN, 32992178, Technical Sergeant, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Beerman was assigned the mission of leading an eight-man patrol, supported by a tank, in attacking hostile positions which had delayed the advance of two rifle companies. As he and his men started across a field subjected to heavy artillery, small arms and bazooka fire, the gun on the friendly tank jammed, leaving them without fire support. Although intense fire was directed at him and his patrol, Sergeant Beerman rallied his men and pressed forward in the attack. Skillfully maneuvering his men, he directed them in laying down a base of fire which neutralized the hostile weapons. Moving bravely from man to man, Sergeant Beerman kept his squad under control and led the group in overrunning the enemy positions. As a result of his daring, aggressive leadership, 27 of the hostile soldiers were captured and many others were killed or wounded. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

OLIVER P. CONNOLLEY, 36321182, Technical Sergeant, Company M, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 February 1945 in France. During an attack against a well-fortified enemy town, Sergeant Connolley, platoon sergeant of the 2d Platoon, led a section of heavy machine guns in support of the rifle troops. By skillfully placing his guns in advantageous firing positions, he contributed materially to the capture of the battalion objective. The enemy counterattacked the unit's defenses, and a self-propelled gun scored a direct hit on the building which housed Sergeant Connolley's machine gun positions. A

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gunner was killed and several crew members were wounded. Sergeant Conolley swiftly moved the gun to another position and opened fire on the enemy attackers, killing seven, wounding approximately fifteen, and stopping the attack in his sector. His gallant actions, in the face of heavy enemy fire, contributed materially to the repulse of the assault. Entered the Service from Mt. Pulaski, Illinois.

DALE E. MORRES, 39911835, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Carson City, Nevada.

MILTON E. GELLERMAN, 38558197, Private First Class, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Kerrville, Texas.

for gallantry in action on 13 December 1944 in France. These men, members of the 2d Platoon of Company K, were the contact men between their own unit and Company E, which was on the extreme right flank. When a large hostile force launched a determined attack against the left flank of Company E, they supported the unit with effective fire. The company's flank was overrun by enemy soldiers, and the 2d Platoon of Company K was forced to withdraw to a better defensive position. The above men voluntarily remained behind to cover the withdrawal. By attracting the hostile fire to themselves and by preventing the enemy troops from reorganizing and pressing the attack, they relieved the pressure on their own platoon and on Company E's flank. After maintaining their hazardous positions for over an hour, they braved direct small arms fire to rejoin their unit.

HAROLD J. MUSCHEK, 33591917, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 February 1945 in France. While clearing a group of houses in the Northwest section of a strongly fortified town, Private First Class Muschek killed two enemy bazooka men who were delaying his platoon's advance and, with his accurate fire, destroyed a second bazooka which was aimed at his companions. Continuing forward, he killed two snipers and skillfully supported his platoon in seizing the remaining houses. After the last house in the area had been taken, he spotted a hostile force advancing toward his platoon. With the help of another automatic rifleman, he fired into the midst of the enemy, killing many and delaying their advance. After night-fall, when the hostile attackers forced the platoon to withdraw to new positions, Private First Class Muschek and his companion braved heavy enemy small arms fire to remain behind and cover their unit's withdrawal, enabling their comrades to establish a new defense. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

WILLIE E. CRABREE, 34884956, Private First Class, Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1944 in France. When Company E's attack was delayed by stubborn enemy resistance, Private First Class Crabtree, an automatic rifleman, voluntarily worked his way to the right flank of the hostile strong point and opened fire with his weapon. Then, spotting an abandoned machine gun, he crawled to the gun position and delivered rapid bursts of machine gun fire into the midst of the hostile force. As a result of his bold action, the enemy soldiers were disorganized and the friendly troops were able to push forward and seize their objective. His quick-thinking and courage enabled the attacking unit to complete its mission without sustaining a single casualty. Entered the Service from Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia.

BONIFAICO A. MARQUIS, 38583228, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infan-

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try Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 November 1944 in France. During an attack against a well-defended road junction, the leading platoon was pinned down by heavy fire from an enemy tank. Acting entirely on his own initiative, Private First Class Marquis, an automatic rifleman with the platoon, crawled approximately 175 yards under intense machine gun fire to a rock formation within 25 yards of the tank. He immediately put his weapon into action, delivering rapid bursts of fire at the tank and forcing it to button up. Although he became the target for point blank enemy fire, he remained in position and continued manning his automatic rifle until he had expended his entire supply of ammunition. He then returned to his platoon and, after securing more ammunition, once again made the perilous trip to his vantage point behind the rocks. He continued to harass the tank, greatly reducing its effectiveness and enabling his comrades to maneuver out of its field of fire, until it was forced to withdraw. Entered the Service from Vaughn, New Mexico.

III. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Silver Star is posthumously awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action:

ALLEN PHILLIPS, 35258124, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 February 1945 in France. The squad of which Sergeant Phillips was leader was the forward element in his company's attack upon a town. While working his squad up through heavy enemy artillery fire to a position from which they could attack, he was hit by an enemy rifle bullet. Although severely wounded he remained to point out enemy positions to his company commander, who was thereby enabled to direct mortar and machine gun fire. Sergeant Phillips subsequently died of his wound. By his courageous devotion to duty he materially aided his company in destroying enemy resistance and continuing its advance. Next of kin: Mrs. Nora Phillips (Mother), RR #1, Waddy, Kentucky.

By command of Brigadier General STACK:

JOHN J. ALERIGHT
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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