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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

19 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 37

Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I  
Award of Silver Star, Missing in Action.....II  
Award of Silver Star.....III  
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster - Silver Star.....IV

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

ROBERT E. CASSADY, 36481128, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 November 1944 in France. Company B, in which Sergeant Cassady was a squad leader, was advancing abreast of another rifle company in an attack against stubbornly defended enemy positions. Sergeant Cassady noticed a widening gap between his company and the adjoining unit. In order to maintain contact, he swiftly maneuvered his squad to the left. Courageously moving beyond his men, he pressed forward to scout the enemy-infested area. Entering a thicket, he located a well-concealed machine gun and observed the six-man crew preparing to deliver flanking fire on the unsuspecting friendly troops. Sergeant Cassady immediately opened fire on the machine gun nest and killed the gunner with an accurate shot. The other five soldiers, startled by the suddenness of his action, surrendered. By his daring initiative and fearlessness, he prevented the enemy from inflicting heavy casualties on the assault company adjoining his own unit and dispelled a serious threat to the entire battalion effort. Sergeant Cassady was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Elizabeth Cassady (Mother), Route #1, Blackstone, Illinois.

II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSING IN ACTION. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals, missing in action, for gallantry:

ALFRED E. JONES, 33268159, Staff Sergeant, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 August 1944 in France. At a time when the 2d Battalion was fighting desperately to avoid encirclement by hostile troops, Sergeant Jones was ordered to place his mortar squad in position on the battalion's exposed right flank and to protect it against enemy infiltration. Almost immediately a large hostile force launched a savage attack. Without a thought for personal safety, he braved heavy tank and automatic weapons fire in order to obtain better observation and to direct the fire of his men. He constantly moved among them, distributing ammunition and encouraging them to hold their position. The initial assault was repelled, but, throughout the day, the enemy launched repeated attacks against the sector. Sergeant Jones killed and wounded a large number of the enemy with his rifle and skillfully directed effective mortar fire on the hostile troops. He remained dauntlessly in his exposed position until he

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was seriously wounded by shell fragments. His outstanding leadership and personal daring prevented an enemy breakthrough on the battalion's right flank. Sergeant Jones was reported missing in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Jane L. Jones (Mother), Box 205, Roscoe, Pennsylvania.

KENNETH W. SUTTON, 39558081, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 November 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon, assigned the mission of seizing a strategically important hill, was subjected to machine gun and rifle fire as it approached its objective. Although fully aware of the dangers involved, Sergeant Sutton volunteered to direct his squad in forming a base of fire while the other two squads maneuvered to the enemy's flank. In order to reach an advantageous position from which he could deliver effective fire on the hostile force, he crossed 100 yards of flat, barren terrain under direct enemy observation. Although he was the target for heavy small arms fire, he pressed dauntlessly forward to an exposed position and, operating his automatic rifle, directed rapid bursts of fire into the midst of the hostile emplacement. He killed one of the crew members and wounded the other. As the two flanking squads approached the top of the hill, he valiantly led his men forward in an assault against the enemy position and personally captured the wounded soldier. His courage and aggressiveness enabled his platoon to complete its important mission. Sergeant Sutton was reported missing in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Harmon H. Sutton (Father), 921 South Pannes, Compton, California.

HORACE O. SONJU, 37585703, Private, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 November 1944 in France. The 1st Platoon of Company K was ordered to attack around the right flank of stubbornly defended enemy positions. Private Sonju, the platoon runner, was advancing well forward with the scouts and platoon leader when the enemy suddenly opened fire with machine guns and rifles. The hostile weapons, firing at close range, pinned down the leading elements of the platoon. Although seriously wounded, Private Sonju immediately returned the hostile fire with his rifle. Fearlessly braving continuous small arms fire and grenade explosions, he diverted the enemy's attention from the remainder of the platoon and attracted the hostile gunners to his own position, enabling his comrades to escape from the trap. Ignoring the intense pain of his wound, he maintained his hazardous position and continued firing until the remainder of the platoon members had withdrawn to a more advantageous location from which they could direct effective fire on the hostile emplacements. Only then did Private Sonju crawl back to rejoin his platoon. Later in the day he was reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Ottelia Sonju (Mother), Route #1, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

III. 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:

RALPH B. FEULMAN, 32992922, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 October 1944 in France. The 2d Platoon was assigned the mission of leading an attack against a well-defended enemy hill. The initial objective was a strong point consisting of two machine guns protected by riflemen. As the attackers advanced across the open stretch of terrain in front of the hostile positions, the platoon leader was wounded by small arms



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fire. Acting entirely on his own initiative, Private First Class Feuerman assumed command of the platoon and, by skillful maneuvering, forced the enemy soldiers from their positions. Swiftly reorganizing the platoon, he courageously led his men in the face of direct fire to the hill and directed them in capturing several prisoners and securing the objective. After darkness, he took his platoon around the left flank and completed the mission by establishing a road block. As a result of his fearlessness and aggressive leadership, his company was able to occupy the strategically important hill. Entered the Service from Rockaway Beach, New York.

RALPH A. BURT, JR, 36419951, Private First Class, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1944 in France. When a large hostile force launched a determined counterattack against Company C's position, Private First Class Burt, a radio operator, was sent back to contact a tank destroyer and guide it into position to support his unit. Working his way over 400 yards of terrain subjected to heavy artillery, mortar and nebelwerfer fire, he reached the tank destroyer and issued instructions to its crew. As he started back toward his company's position, enemy infantrymen who had infiltrated the friendly lines attacked the tank destroyer with bazookas. Private First Class Burt discovered a disabled automatic rifle. Disassembling it in the dark, he swiftly made the necessary adjustments and put the weapon back into action. He directed effective bursts of fire into the midst of the hostile troops, killing at least four and wounding several others. Although he was the target for direct fire, he valiantly maintained his position and continued operating his automatic rifle until elements of his company arrived to assist him in driving back the enemy force. Entered the Service from Ann Arbor, Mich.

IV. AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - SILVER STAR. 1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the second Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

GEORGE N. HARTWELL, 0424333, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 November 1944 in France. The 2d Battalion was assigned the mission of attacking through a strategically important pass and forcing an entry to the plain below. The organization launched its assault at midnight, with Company E in the lead. Captain Hartwell, commanding Company E, found control so difficult in the complete darkness that it was necessary for him to lead the first scout and, at the same time, to act as liaison officer, supervising the movement of the supporting tanks. As he moved aggressively down the road, enemy soldiers were often driven from their fighting holes at the point of a bayonet; and, in the hand-to-hand fighting, several prisoners were taken. By going from man to man to insure coordination and returning to the tanks to insure adequate support, Captain Hartwell was largely responsible for the progress of the attack. In spite of rain, which made the advance difficult, and heavy mortar, machine gun and rifle fire, which threatened to delay the assault, he pressed determinedly forward, always at the head of his company, and succeeded in driving the enemy back, killing and capturing those who remained to fight. Early in the morning, after clearing several hundred yards of hostile positions along the main road, Captain Hartwell was seriously wounded by enemy antitank fire. Entered the Service from Madera, California.

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SHELBY SPEIGHTS, 14194309, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 December 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon of Company C was assigned the mission of clearing enemy-held houses and of rescuing a Company B outpost which had been surrounded by hostile troops. Sergeant Speights, a squad leader in the 3d Platoon, led his men from house to house, driving a stubbornly resisting enemy from each building until he contacted the outpost. Almost immediately, the platoon was subjected to direct, rapid bursts of machine gun fire from the crest of a nearby railroad embankment. Sergeant Speights swiftly moved into the house occupied by the Company B outpost and, fearlessly exposing himself to the hostile fire, located the gun position. Taking careful aim, he fired a rifle grenade into the midst of the enemy emplacement, destroying the weapon, wounding several of the crew members and forcing the remainder to withdraw. As a result of his courage and resourcefulness, the platoon was able to occupy the high ground of the railroad embankment and observe all enemy activity to the front. Entered the Service from Poplarville, Mississippi.

2. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a second Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the third Silver Star is awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action:

FRANCIS CULOTTA, 01320437, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 and 28 November 1944 in France. Although he was a platoon leader in the Cannon Company, Lieutenant Culotta volunteered to lead an infantry patrol into enemy territory to determine the hostile strength and disposition in the area. Under his skillful leadership, the patrol inflicted several casualties on the enemy and returned to the friendly lines with valuable information. On the following morning, Lieutenant Culotta commanded a task force with the mission of penetrating the hostile defenses and capturing a strategically important mountain. Although the task force was subjected to almost continuous artillery and small arms fire, he refused to take cover in a self-propelled mount and advanced on foot. When three 75mm guns opened fire on the task force, Lieutenant Culotta skillfully maneuvered his self-propelled mounts into position and directed a heavy barrage on the weapons, destroying the three guns, killing three of the enemy and forcing the others to flee. He then led his task force through small arms fire to the top of the mountain. Upon encountering a road block of three concrete pill boxes, he guided one of his mounts into position and, from an exposed spot outside the mount, directed effective fire on the strong points, destroying one and forcing the 11 occupants of the other two pill boxes to surrender. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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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