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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

17 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 89

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:

MILNE R. JONES, 39922811, Private, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 31 October to 5 November 1944 in France. Private Jones volunteered to assist his squad leader in establishing an observation post in a building 500 yards in front of friendly lines. Although the house was under enemy observation and was subjected to heavy artillery and mortar concentrations, he remained in position for four days and three nights. Utilizing both wire and radio communications, he and his companions skillfully adjusted artillery and mortar fire on all targets, destroying numerous hostile buildings and two horse-drawn vehicles and forcing two self-propelled mounts to withdraw. In spite of heavy enemy shellfire, he valiantly maintained his position until a direct hit set the house on fire. A rescue party was unable to reach him, and Private Jones was killed in action. Next of kin: Mrs. C. M. Jones (Mother), Route #3, Blackfoot, Idaho.

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

ROBERT D. SMITH, 39716671, Private First Class, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 31 October to 5 November 1944 in France. Private First Class Smith volunteered to assist his squad leader in establishing an observation post in a building 500 yards in front of friendly lines. Although the house was under enemy observation and was subjected to heavy artillery and mortar concentrations, he remained in position for four days and three nights. Utilizing both wire and radio communications, he and his companions skillfully adjusted artillery and mortar fire on all targets, destroying numerous hostile buildings and two horse-drawn vehicles and forcing two self-propelled mounts to withdraw. In spite of heavy enemy shellfire, he valiantly maintained his position until a direct hit set the house on fire. A rescue party was unable to reach him, and Private First Class Smith was reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Mae Smith (Mother), Route #1, Box 9, Santa Paula, California.

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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:

TRAVIS SMITH, 20848763, Staff Sergeant, Antitank Company, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 September 1944 in France. When the enemy laid down a heavy artillery and mortar concentration on the 2d Platoon's road block position, the gunner on a 57mm gun was killed and several crew members were wounded, leaving two guns unmanned. Observing the action from another position, Sergeant Smith swiftly collected three men and dashed across 200 yards of open terrain under heavy enemy small arms and mortar fire to the guns. Swiftly placing a man at each gun, he moved to an exposed position and began directing their fire. Although subjected to fire from two hostile machine guns, he continued to direct accurate fire, which neutralized both weapons, disorganized a column of enemy troops, and enabled the defending forces to successfully repel the enemy attack. Entered the Service from Bangs, Texas.

RICHARD L. NICHOLS, 37721094, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 and 3 February 1945 in France. As radio operator for the battalion executive officer, Private First Class Nichols braved hostile small arms fire to accompany the officer during an attack through densely wooded terrain. On the following day, while he was operating his radio at the battalion command post, the building which housed the command post was subjected to point blank fire from two enemy tanks. Although the command post personnel sought cover in the cellar, Private First Class Nichols remained steadfastly in position and continued receiving and transmitting messages important to the success of the attack. The tanks' large guns scored eight direct hits on the house, and machine gun fire was heavy and almost continuous; but Private First Class Nichols courageously maintained the vital communications and contributed materially to the success of the attack. Entered the Service from Bethany, Missouri.

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 the following named individual for gallantry in action:

WILHELM C. STREICHER, 0380653, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1945 in France. While the 2d Battalion was engaged in an intense fire fight on its left flank, enemy infantry elements and three tanks prepared to assault the battalion from the right front. Aware of the seriousness of the threat, Lieutenant Streicher worked his way through heavy small arms fire to the two tank destroyers which were supporting his company. He skillfully maneuvered the tank destroyers into advantageous positions from which they delivered effective fire on the enemy tanks. Lieutenant Streicher encouraged the crews of the tank destroyers to remain in position in spite of direct fire from the tanks, and his inspiring leadership was responsible for the destruction of two of the tanks and the elimination of the threat to his battalion. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

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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:

SHELBY SPEIGHTS, 02006899, Second Lieutenant (then Staff Sergeant), 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 in France. When enemy troops threatened to overrun Company B's defenses, Sergeant Speights, a platoon leader in Company C, advanced with his men down a mined road under heavy enemy artillery fire to help drive back the attackers. Approaching a hostile observation post through a wooded sector, he braved heavy automatic weapons fire to direct elements of the platoon into more advantageous firing positions. After killing or wounding all the members of the observation post group, the platoon advanced to attack the well-camouflaged positions occupied by the main body of the enemy. Exposing himself to machine gun and automatic weapons fire, Sergeant Speights moved to the front of his men and directed them in firing against the hostile force. Spotting five enemy soldiers feigning death, he immediately opened fire and frustrated their attempt to ambush the platoon. Largely as a result of his skillful and aggressive leadership, 37 of the enemy were killed and 30 were captured without a single casualty to the platoon. Entered the Service from Poplarville, Mississippi.

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

SHELBY SPEIGHTS, 02006899, Second Lieutenant (then Staff Sergeant), 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 November 1944 in France. When an enemy patrol attacked elements of the 3d Platoon, Sergeant Speights, a squad leader, immediately went forward to take command of the situation. As he approached the battle area, he was suddenly attacked by the enemy patrol leader. Although unarmed, he wrested the rifle from his assailant and, using the rifle as a club, killed him. The loss of their leader disorganized the hostile soldiers, and Sergeant Speights swiftly rallied his men to repel the attack. As a result of his aggressive leadership, six of the enemy were killed, several others were wounded and the remainder forced to withdraw. Entered the Service from Poplarville, Mississippi.

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

SHELBY SPEIGHTS, 02006899, Second Lieutenant (then Staff Sergeant), 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Speights, acting guide of the 3d Platoon of Company C, was assigned the mission of establishing an outpost 300 yards beyond his platoon's position to protect the battalion's left flank against enemy infiltration. He advanced to the designated area and placed his four men in defensive positions in a house. During the night, a large hostile force stealthily surrounded the outpost and cut the communication line to the remainder of the platoon. Discovering the perilous situation, Sergeant Speights led his men in an assault against the

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enemy troops in an attempt to rejoin his unit. Upon regaining contact with the platoon command post, he immediately directed accurate artillery fire on the hostile force, disorganizing and delaying the attackers. Then, acting without orders, he guided four tanks through heavy small arms and artillery fire to a favorable position and there directed their fire on enemy strong points. As a result of his daring and resourcefulness, the hostile attempt to infiltrate the battalion's flank was frustrated and an enemy assault was repelled. Entered the Service from Poplarville, Mississippi.

5. 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:

ROY W. BIEGALSKI, 01305530, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944 in France. When a Company F platoon was overrun by enemy attackers, Lieutenant Biegalski led a squad of his antitank platoon through heavy small arms and mortar fire to outflank the hostile troops. Under his skillful and aggressive leadership, the squad assaulted the enemy with small arms fire and hand grenades, and Lieutenant Biegalski personally killed two of the hostile soldiers. As a result of his bold action, the small group completely routed the larger enemy force, inflicting heavy casualties and repelling the attack. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

NICHOLAS M. BOZIC, 01998715, Second Lieutenant, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 10 February 1945 in France. When Company B's recently captured position was subjected to an unusually severe heavy artillery barrage, the seriously depleted unit was threatened with disorganization, and the men began to withdraw. Leaving the protection of his fighting hole, Lieutenant Bozic, the artillery forward observer, braved the hostile shellfire to stop the riflemen from retreating. While shells crashed around him, he rallied the soldiers and directed them back to their former positions. By his courageous and bold action in time of crisis, Lieutenant Bozic prevented a withdrawal and enabled the company to maintain its line. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

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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