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

GENERAL ORDERS

11 November 1944

NO. 437

Posthumous Award of Silver Star
Posthumous Award of Oak Leaf Cluster
Award of Silver Star
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster

SECTION 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.

RICHARD W. BATT, 37675770, Private First Class, Company E, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 September 1944 in France. Company E was attacking hostile positions on a strategic hill when a large enemy force flanked the unit and cut it off from the remainder of the battalion. The 1st Platoon was ordered to clear the hostile elements from the area, and the squad in which Private First Class Batt was automatic rifleman led the assault. Although outnumbered by the hostile force, the squad seized a key terrain feature which protected the company's rear. Private First Class Batt put his weapon into action and faced the full force of the enemy attack. His accurate fire inflicted heavy casualties on the hostile soldiers as they charged his position. He courageously maintained his position alone and held the terrain feature until the remainder of the platoon arrived. During the intense fire fight which ensued, Private First Class Batt was killed by an enemy sniper. Next of kin: Mrs. Beula B. Batt (Mother), 314 McGregor Street, Algona, Iowa.

SECTION II -- 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.

EUGENE OATLEY, 15302111, Private, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 September 1944 in France. During an attack against well-fortified enemy positions, Private Oatley was assigned as orderly and bodyguard to the battalion commander. Incessant small arms fire directed at an attic window in a building discouraged its being used as an observation post. Private Oatley boldly climbed to the window and, exposing himself to the enemy fire, began operating his sub-machine gun. His accurate bursts of fire silenced the enemy and enabled his companions to join him at the window. During a later phase of the operation he again directed fire against enemy snipers who were harassing a second house used as the battalion and artillery observation post. Although he suffered minor cuts from glass shattered by enemy fire, he continued operating an automatic rifle until the hostile soldiers were forced to withdraw. Private Oatley was killed in action in a later engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Samuel J. Oatley (Father), 734 Cheshbrough Street, Toledo, Ohio.

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SECTION 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.

WILLIAM I. SIEBOLD, 01316790, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. Lieutenant Siebold, leader of a machine gun platoon, led one of his sections in support of an attack against a hostile stronghold. As they advanced in the assault, the friendly troops were subjected to heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire which blasted the avenues of approach. Lieutenant Siebold swiftly led his men to a place of safety, then, braving the incessant hostile fire, reconnoitered the area for advantageous machine gun positions and possible routes of approach. While returning to his men, he was wounded in the arm and leg by hurtling shell fragments and was rendered momentarily unconscious by the concussion of the explosion. As soon as he regained consciousness he struggled on to reach his men. Then, ignoring the intense pain of his wounds, he led them to the position he had selected and would not consent to be evacuated until he was sure the mission would be successfully completed. Entered the Service from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

ANTHONY J. VIGNOLA, 01170402, Second Lieutenant, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 21 June 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Vignola was attached to the 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, as forward observer for his artillery battalion. He was ordered to join Company A in relieving a unit which was occupying strategic positions on a hill. While climbing over rocky, difficult terrain toward the top of the hill, the troops were subjected to heavy artillery and mortar shelling and were pinned to the ground. Lieutenant Vignola voluntarily led his section forward beyond the infantrymen to the crest of the hill. There he set up his radio and began adjusting artillery fire on the enemy guns, momentarily neutralizing them. In the brief respite the infantry troops proceeded up the hill and moved into position. Almost immediately the enemy directed a heavy artillery and mortar barrage at Lieutenant Vignola's observation post. A nearby shell explosion wounded five soldiers, hurled Lieutenant Vignola to the ground and smashed his radio. He crawled to the injured soldiers and administered first aid until the aid men arrived. He then braved the incessant hostile fire to lay a telephone line from the company command post to his observation post so that he could resume his fire missions. When he spotted two enemy tanks charging the friendly troops, he directed accurate fire on them, disabling one and forcing the other to withdraw. His effective artillery shelling inflicted heavy losses in equipment and personnel on the hostile force. Entered the Service from Wilmington, Delaware.

WILLIAM G. BOWLES, 33525309, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 August 1944 in France. After landing on D-day in the invasion of Southern France, Company L, advanced to its objective in an enemy-held town and took up a defensive position. Private First Class Bowles and a companion were awakened at daybreak by the sound of a machine gun firing across the street from their position. They cautiously crossed the street, located the building which housed the enemy machine gun and crawled alongside the building until they were directly under the hostile fire. A hand grenade hurled through the window silenced the gun. Proceeding down the street, they met a member of the French irregulars who informed them of the location of the enemy command post. They immediately made their way to the building which the Frenchman had described, kicked the door open and fired their rifles as they entered the command post. Their sudden unpinning action surprised the five enemy soldiers who occupied the building into surrender, and Private First Class Bowles and his companion captured this center of hostile operations and completely disrupted their

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communications. Entered the Service from Richmond Virginia.

LION J. MAHAR, 32834658, Private First Class, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 September 1944 in France. The 2d Platoon of Company F was assigned the mission of preceding the remainder of the company into an enemy-held town. Private First Class Mahar, an automatic rifleman, advanced with the platoon across open terrain swept by machine gun and rifle fire and was among the first to enter the town. He moved cautiously from building to building until he found an advantageous position on a balcony which overlooked the town's most important thoroughfare. Although he became the target for heavy enemy anti-aircraft fire, he courageously remained on the balcony and directed fire against the hostile vehicles on the road below. When a prime mover approached his position, he killed the driver and, later, killed the driver of a cargo carrier as it moved down the road. He maintained his perilous position for over eight hours, operating his automatic rifle against the enemy until the town was liberated. Entered the Service from Rochester, New York.

MILLARD BRESIN, 42069779, Private, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 September 1944 in France. Private Bresin was a member of a live-man patrol sent forward to investigate two houses which were thought to be occupied by the enemy. In order to reach one of the buildings it was necessary to cross a clearing 200 yards long. While two of the patrol members remained in position to cover their movements, Private Bresin and two companions ran toward the house across open terrain swept by machine gun fire from the left flank. They reached the house, cleared it of the enemy and returned the hostile fire so that their two comrades could cross the clearing and rejoin them. These two soldiers were killed before they could reach the house, and, almost immediately, the enemy launched a determined counterattack. After holding their position as long as possible, Private Bresin and the two remaining patrol members were forced to withdraw into the woods. Although he was the target for heavy fire which killed another of his comrades, Private Bresin succeeded in reaching the friendly lines with his valuable report on the enemy's disposition. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

FRANK A. GOLWITZER, 36568146, Private, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 August 1944 in France. Private Golwitzer was a member of a machine gun squad ordered to support an assault against an enemy stronghold and protect the right flank of the attacking unit. When four enemy tanks charged the company's flank, direct fire forced an antitank gun crew to abandon their weapon and withdraw to a place of cover. In spite of heavy, incessant tank fire which swept the area, Private Golwitzer, with a comrade, crawled across the exposed terrain to the antitank gun position. Displaying unusual skill and courage, he manned the gun and directed effective fire on the tanks, destroying one and forcing the other three to withdraw. Entered the Service from Flint, Michigan.

SECTION IV -- 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 awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

LEON D. ROBERTSON, 02055839, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 26 to 29 August 1944 in France. Captain Robertson, commanding Company L, was assigned the mission of attacking well-fortified enemy positions

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on high ground. As he led the company toward its objective, an intense fire fight commenced. Captain Robertson boldly exposed himself to the incessant small arms, mortar and artillery fire to urge his men forward and direct them in routing the enemy and achieving their objective. He swiftly reorganized his depleted force, established a strong defensive position and repelled a savage counterattack. On 29 August the company was ordered to attack strongly defended positions on a nearby hill. Captain Robertson led his men forward and directed the assault so skillfully that the objective was taken without a single casualty to the friendly troops. He immediately crawled beyond his company's position and established an observation post within 50 yards of an enemy road block. From here he observed a motorized column moving up the valley below him and directed effective artillery fire on the enemy column, contributing materially to the destruction of two tanks, 120 vehicles and the capture of approximately 800 prisoners. Entered the Service from Merkel, Texas.

HERAM F. FENTON, 01703044, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 September 1944 in France. When, during an attack against enemy defenses, the leading platoon of Company B was delayed by fire from two hostile machine guns, Lieutenant Fenton voluntarily led his platoon to the right flank. Ignoring the rapid bursts of machine gun fire, he directed his men in returning the hostile fire so effectively that the enemy was forced to withdraw. After advancing approximately 800 yards farther, the company again encountered hostile resistance. Lieutenant Fenton, moving directly in the face of heavy small arms fire, ran toward the front of his platoon to ascertain the situation and formulate a plan of attack. As he moved forward, he returned the enemy fire, wounding a soldier operating a machine pistol. He then led the platoon against the hostile force, routed the enemy and enabled the company to reach its objective. On 17 September, while attacking through a densely wooded area, Company B was subjected to heavy machine gun, rifle and tank fire. Lieutenant Fenton, commanding the leading platoon, continued dauntlessly forward and directed his men in killing 15 enemy soldiers, capturing four and completely disorganizing the hostile force. Entered the Service from Coleman, Texas.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

JOHN J. ALBRIGHT
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart

VINCENT M. LOCKHART

Captain, Adjutant General's Department
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