

RESTRICTED

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

ATCOSA ORIGINAL ORDER  
4/28/45

GENERAL ORDERS

29 December 1944

NO. 486

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations #00-45, a Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

HARRY B. JAMES, JR., 01322036, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 August 1944 in France. On D-day in the invasion of Southern France, Company L was assigned the mission of clearing a 3000 yard strip of beach. The 3d Platoon, leading the attack, encountered an enemy strong point composed of several automatic weapons and at least two mortars. The hostile emplacements were located behind a stone wall and were further protected by barbed wire entanglements. When the platoon was subjected to direct machine gun and mortar fire, the soldiers hesitated in their advance. Lieutenant James, the platoon leader, ran to the head of his platoon, advancing beyond his scouts, and valiantly led his men forward in the assault. Inspired by his intrepidity, the platoon members followed him toward the hostile position, and a fierce fire fight ensued. Lieutenant James was seriously wounded by hurtling shell fragments. In spite of his painful wound, he skillfully reorganized his platoon and maintained control of his men. He continued to command the unit until he was evacuated several hours later. Entered the Service from Charlottesville, Virginia.

GEORGE N. HARTWELL, 0424333, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 and 31 October 1944 in France. Lieutenant Hartwell led a five-man reconnaissance patrol into an enemy-held village to obtain information to be used in a subsequent attack. In spite of mine fields and the constant threat of hostile fire, he calmly scouted the villages and located the enemy defensive positions. On the following day he led one rifle platoon, reinforced with a light machine gun section and a bazooka team, in an assault on the hostile stronghold. He directed his landing elements across a foot bridge and a stretch of open terrain, advancing straight in the face of hostile machine gun fire, and attacked the residential section of the town, moving aggressively from house to house. Lieutenant Hartwell led his men to complete the occupation of the residential area, capturing 13 hostile soldiers and forcing an undetermined number to flee into nearby woods. He then advanced in an assault on the factory district of the town. While crossing an open area, the landing men were subjected to close range machine gun fire. Swiftly locating the weapon, Lieutenant Hartwell set up a base of automatic weapons fire and captured the gun and its entire crew. He again exposed himself to heavy fire in destroying an enemy strong point unscanned in the cellar of a building. He and his men killed six enemy soldiers as they attempted to escape. Lieutenant Hartwell pressed forward with his platoon until the entire town was in friendly hands. During the attack, he and his men captured 39 prisoners, killed six of the enemy soldiers and wounded at least two. Entered the Service from Nader, California.

ROBERT J. BRIDGE, 33673101, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 September 1944 in France.

- 1 -  
(Over)

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

Sergeant Bridge, forward mortar observer, was instructed to follow Company A and direct mortar fire in support of the unit's attack. Acting entirely on his own initiative, Sergeant Bridge pressed forward with the leading elements of the company, laying wire as he advanced. Company A was suddenly subjected to heavy machine gun and rifle fire directed from well-concealed enemy positions. Without a thought for personal safety, Sergeant Bridge made his way to the foremost rifleman and courageously stood erect in order to adjust mortar fire with greater effectiveness. Although he became the target for direct sniper, machine gun and 20mm gun fire, he determinedly remained in position and directed accurate fire on the hostile positions. The effective mortar shelling inflicted five enemy casualties, destroyed two 20mm guns, and completely routed the remainder of a large hostile force. Entered the Service from Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

OVEN K. THOMPSON, 38030427, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 September 1944 in France. While the 1st Battalion was occupying a defensive position, Company A was assigned the mission of contacting the 2d Battalion. The company was advancing through a densely wooded area when the enemy suddenly opened fire with machine guns, rifles and artillery. The heavy shelling and small arms fire inflicted several casualties on the unit and threatened to disorganize and scatter the men. Without a thought for personal safety, Sergeant Thompson, section leader in the Weapons Platoon, fearlessly moved from man to man, encouraging them by his example of intrepidity. He swiftly reorganized them into a well-coordinated combat unit. While securing medical aid for the casualties, he himself was wounded by the hostile fire. Mastering the pain of his wound, he continued working with his comrades and refused to be evacuated until the company had reached its objective. Entered the Service from Anson, Texas.

LESLIE J. SPAHN, 36738818, Staff Sergeant, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Spahn, leader of a mortar squad, directed the fire of his weapons on hostile convoys speeding along their only remaining route of withdrawal. In order to stop the effective shelling, an enemy tank advanced to a position overlooking the mortar and opened fire, inflicting five casualties on the mortarmen and forcing the squad members to seek cover. The slightest movement in the area would attract a heavy barrage of tank fire. When the squad received a call for mortar fire, Sergeant Spahn, rather than endanger the life of one of his men, left his relatively secure position and went alone to the gun. Although he was the target for direct fire from the enemy tank, he calmly adjusted fire on a hostile convoy. For every round that he fired, the tank fired two at his gun, but Sergeant Spahn remained dauntlessly in position and completed his mission, destroying three hostile trucks and inflicting at least ten casualties on the enemy troops. Entered the Service from Pecatonica, Illinois.

ROBERT H. KINDLE, 34494897, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 August 1944 in France. Prefacing the attack with heavy mortar concentrations, enemy infantry troops, supported by tanks, drove along a dry creek bed toward Company B's position. The tanks knocked out two antitank guns and a machine gun which had blocked their path and, now unopposed, pressed forward to penetrate the company defenses. Aware that his mortar position might be encircled and overrun by the enemy, Sergeant Kindle ordered his squad to withdraw to a place of safety while he remained with the weapon. Although he was the target for direct tank fire, he continued firing his mortar in close support of the rifle platoons, delaying the advance of the tanks until his ammunition was exhausted. Still undaunted, he remained in his exposed position and opened fire with his rifle, killing three of the hostile soldiers. By retarding the enemy advance,

R E S T R I C T E D

he enabled friendly tank destroyers to maneuver into position and destroy the hostile tanks. Entered the Service from Decaturville, Tennessee.

D. VID HANSEN, 32130086, Staff Sergeant (then Corporal), Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 November 1944 in France. Corporal Hansen, assistant squad leader in the 3d Platoon, was moving forward in an attack when heavy enemy machine gun fire from the left front delayed the unit's advance. Aware of the necessity for immediate action, Corporal Hansen swiftly secured a rifle grenade launcher and, acting entirely on his own initiative, approached the hostile position alone. He advanced fearlessly in the face of point blank machine gun fire until he reached a spot only 75 yards from the enemy emplacement. Courageously exposing himself to the observation of the hostile gunners, he moved to a position which afforded a clear field of fire. He quickly loaded his weapon and, taking careful aim, fired two grenades into the midst of the hostile strong point. The well-placed shots neutralized the gun and forced the crew to flee in disorder. Corporal Hansen's quick-thinking and aggressiveness enabled his platoon to continue its advance to the company objective. Entered the Service from Buffalo, New York.

WILLIAM J. FABRIZIO, 31342939, Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 August 1944 in France. One platoon of Company I was occupying a defensive position on one slope of a hill within 100 yards of hostile emplacements on the opposite slope. The area was subjected to a heavy artillery and mortar barrage followed immediately by a savage enemy attack. Sergeant Fabrizio ordered his machine gun squad into action and fearlessly exposed himself in order to direct the fire of his weapons more effectively. As the hostile force withdrew under a deadly hail of fire from the friendly emplacements, Sergeant Fabrizio loaded himself with hand grenades and, with an automatic rifleman, valiantly pursued the enemy over the crest of the hill to within 20 yards of their positions. Although he was the target for direct small arms and mortar fire, he calmly hurled hand grenades into the enemy sector, remaining dauntlessly in position until all the grenades were expended. He and his companion returned to the friendly lines, secured an additional supply of ammunition and made another raid on the hostile force. He braved heavy enemy fire and continued hurling grenades until he had again exhausted his supply. Sergeant Fabrizio threw at least 35 grenades during his two assaults and inflicted heavy casualties on the hostile force. Entered the Service from Hartford, Connecticut.

VITIANO V. DIAZ, 38036475, Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 August 1944 in France. Company C was attacking stubbornly defended positions in a hostile stronghold when the enemy opened fire with a 77mm gun, inflicting several casualties on the attackers and delaying the company's advance. Moving calmly under the heavy artillery and small arms fire, Sergeant Diaz, leader of a mortar section, swiftly set up his mortars in a courtyard behind a building. Then, acting entirely on his own initiative, he ran across an exposed area in the face of hostile fire to a position from which he could direct the mortars in firing on the gun emplacement. Although he became the target for a large volume of small arms fire, he remained dauntlessly in position and continued directing accurate mortar fire on the 77mm gun until the enemy weapon was completely destroyed. His skill and intrepidity enabled Company C to press the attack and smash all hostile resistance in the town. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas.



R E S T R I C T E D


ALFRED E. RUDD, 36055338, Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 September 1944 in France. Sergeant Rudd was a squad leader in a machine gun section attached to a rifle platoon in the attack. When two enemy machine guns opened fire on the attackers, the platoon was pinned to the ground. Sergeant Rudd fearlessly led his squad forward in the face of heavy fire to engage the hostile strong point. Because his squad had been depleted by casualties, he personally manned one of the guns. By crawling forward under the hostile fire, he moved his weapon to a position which, though exposed, afforded an excellent field of fire. He operated his machine gun with deadly accuracy, sweeping the enemy positions with a hail of bullets. He destroyed first one and then the other machine gun and inflicted several casualties on the enemy group. His effective fire forced the gun crews to flee, and his platoon was able to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Alton, Illinois.

JAMES G. MACHERAS, 33216896, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. Company L was assigned the mission of attacking and securing strategically important high ground obstinately defended by a large hostile force. During the intense fire fight, the company suffered eight casualties, including Tec 4 Macheras, an aid man. Although his painful hand wound warranted his return to the aid station, Tec 4 Macheras dismissed his own injury as insignificant and unselfishly administered first aid to the other seven casualties. After providing for their evacuation, he pressed forward with the assault troops. Although the pain from his wound became almost unendurable, he remained with his unit and treated many other casualties during the battle. Only after the company objective had been taken and secured would Tec 4 Macheras return to the aid station for much-needed medical attention. Entered the Service from Lynchburg, Virginia.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

  
VINCENT M. LOCKHART  
Captain, Adjutant General's Department  
Assistant Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION "A" PLUS

- 3 - The Adjutant General
- 5 - STOUS
- 1 - AG Awards, Seventh Army
- 1 - Central RU
- 1 - Each individual concerned

- 4 -  
R E S T R I C T E D