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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

19 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 36

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:

KENNETH H. SAUL, 0510188, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 November 1944 in France. Lieutenant Saul assumed command of Company F just before an attack against stubbornly defended enemy positions on a wooded hill. The company had been depleted by heavy casualties and was alarmingly under-strength. Lieutenant Saul led his men aggressively forward until heavy enemy machine gun fire delayed the advance. Instantly cognizant of the situation, he called for tank support and, exposing himself to direct small arms fire, walked beside the lead tank to direct its fire on the hostile emplacements. After neutralizing the machine gun nests, he again led his men forward in the assault. He seized the company objective and organized a defense of the area. While placing his men in position, he spotted an enemy soldier who had feigned death and had now started to fire on the friendly troops. He swiftly killed the sniper and then located and killed two more hostile soldiers who had attempted the same trick. Entered the Service from Chicago, Ill.

SAUMEL D. FLORENCE, 02055260, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 and 18 December 1944 in France. Lieutenant Florence, leader of a heavy machine gun platoon, was assigned the mission of supporting a depleted rifle platoon in attacking a strategically important hill. As soon as the assault was launched, the attackers were subjected to heavy small arms and mortar fire, and both the machine gun platoon Sergeant and the rifle platoon leader were wounded. Lieutenant Florence unhesitatingly assumed command of the entire assault force and, skillfully coordinating the two units now under his command, personally led the attack. Advancing across 500 yards of open, fire-swept terrain, he directed his men in destroying two hostile machine guns and driving enemy troops from the initial objective. Then, after reorganizing his platoons, Lieutenant Florence again led his men toward the enemy-held hill in the face of cross-fire from concealed machine gun positions. Personally firing one of his heavy machine guns and directing the fire of the other weapon, he covered the riflemen, enabling them to approach the hostile emplacements and destroy the two guns with hand grenades. As a result of Lieutenant Florence's brilliant leadership and daring aggressiveness, 11 enemy soldiers were killed, 19 were captured, and the platoon's objective was secured. Entered the Service from Rockwall, Texas.

JOSEPH F. PECUKONIS, 31306494, Technical Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry

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Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 October 1944 in France. Company F was advancing in an attack when the troops suddenly encountered an anti-personnel minefield covered by well-emplaced automatic weapons. When Sergeant Pecukonis saw several of his men wounded by the exploding mines, he determined to neutralize the mines and prevent additional casualties. He spotted a trip wire near him and, tracing it, found a mine at one end. He cut the trip wire and removed the igniter from the mine. When he discovered a second mine at the other end of the wire, he neutralized it in a similar manner. Although the area was subjected to incessant artillery, mortar and small arms fire, he moved forward and located six more mines. Aware that the slightest mistake would mean instant death, he began carefully removing the igniters. Working calmly under the heavy fire, he did not falter until he had completed his self-imposed task and had thrown away the neutralized mines. As a result of his skill and cool fearlessness, Company F was able to continue its attack and achieve its objective without suffering additional casualties. Entered the Service from Saugus, Massachusetts.

KENNETH V. CENEDELLA, 19133379, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 November 1944 in France. The 3d Battalion's advance was delayed by heavy fire from a well-fortified house which commanded a long stretch of open terrain. Sergeant Cenedella volunteered to lead a nine-man patrol in clearing the house. He led his patrol to the edge of the clearing and placed his men in protected positions from which they could cover the house. He then rushed across the open ground alone, pressing forward to within a few yards of the hostile strong point. There he paused, motioned back for two of his men to start forward, and then charged the fortified house. He surprised the guard who was manning a machine gun and forced his surrender. Moving into the next room, he captured eight more enemy soldiers and a second machine gun. By his courage and aggressiveness, he destroyed a hostile strong point and enabled the battalion to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Berkeley, California.

HAROLD F. BUCHHEIM, 37249163, Staff Sergeant, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Buchheim was assigned the mission of protecting the right flank of Company D with his heavy machine gun. During a savage enemy counterattack, the hostile artillery scored a direct hit on the gun position, killing two of the crew members and wounding a third. The traversing mechanism was knocked off the machine gun, and the water jacket was punctured. In spite of the heavy artillery shelling, Sergeant Buchheim recovered the weapon and moved it through direct small arms fire to another sector. Although he was handicapped by a shortage of men and by the damages inflicted on the gun, he swiftly put the weapon into action and again directed rapid, effective bursts of fire into the midst of the hostile attackers. From his new position, he inflicted 18 casualties on the enemy and was largely responsible for the repulse of the determined flank assault. Entered the Service from Highmore, South Dakota.

MILLARD R. TOLLINGER, 33204659, Staff Sergeant, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 December 1944 in France. The 1st Platoon of the Cannon Company was supporting an infantry attack against an important enemy-held town. The immediate objective was a rise in ground which overlooked the hostile stronghold. As the self-propelled gun commanded by Sergeant Tollinger reached the top of the rise, enemy antitank guns opened fire from well-concealed positions. Aware that to continue forward over the present

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route of approach would be suicidal, Sergeant Tollenger valiantly left the protection of his mount and, moving on foot, started to guide the self-propelled gun out of the shelled area to another route of approach. Before he could accomplish his self-imposed mission, he suffered a severe leg wound from a hurtling shell fragment. Ignoring the intense pain of his wound and the antitank shells which continued to explode around him, Sergeant Tollenger courageously refused medical aid and, although he was crippled and bleeding profusely, continued guiding his self-propelled gun until he reached another, more advantageous route of approach. Only then would he relinquish his command and submit to evacuation. Entered the Service from Havre de Grace, Maryland.

SHELBY SPLIGHTS, 14194309, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 November 1944 in France. The 3d Platoon of Company C, supported by two tanks, was advancing along a street toward its objective when, upon rounding a curve which obstructed the view of the route of advance, it was subjected to direct fire from two enemy tanks. The heavy tank fire delayed the platoon's advance and forced the friendly troops to take cover. Instantly cognizant of the serious threat to the safety of his comrades, Sergeant Speights seized a roll of communications wire and a telephone and moved straight through the hostile fire to the other side of the street, laying a wire line as he advanced. Swiftly establishing communications, he directed effective artillery fire on the enemy, scoring a direct hit on the lead tank and forcing the crew members of the second tank to abandon their vehicle and flee. He then directed the friendly tanks which were supporting his platoon to a position from which they could deliver effective fire on the hostile soldiers still resisting the unit's advance. The accurate tank fire swiftly neutralized all opposition. As a result of Sergeant Speights' quick-thinking and daring aggressiveness, his platoon was able to continue its advance and capture its objective with a minimum of casualties. Entered the Service from Poplarville, Mississippi.

GEORGE A. GLEASON, 32838501, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 November 1944 in France. Sergeant Gleason was a squad leader during an attack against high ground held by strong hostile forces. When his squad became pinned down on a slope commanded by enemy small arms fire, he alertly detected the location of the machine gun nest which was holding up the advance. Placing his men in covered positions, he daringly crawled 300 yards under incessant fire and successfully reached a point about 10 yards from the enemy position. There he savagely attacked the machine gun crews, killing four of the enemy and capturing four more. With the advance of his men again made possible, Sergeant Gleason signalled them forward and skillfully deployed them in anticipation of an expected counterattack. The enemy struck back within a matter of minutes; but, by fearlessly moving among his men and inspiring them with his coolness and confidence, he was able to direct devastating fire against the hostile forces and repel their assault. When their second and their third counterattack met with the same fate, the enemy attempted to flank Sergeant Gleason's position; but once again he anticipated and detected their move. Setting up a skillful ambush, he personally accounted for one more enemy soldier and completely blocked the maneuver. Entered the Service from Fulton, New York.

HAROLD H. HERZOG, 36199378, Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944 in France.

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When heavy enemy shellfire shattered the battalion wire lines and disrupted communications, Sergeant Herzog, battalion wire chief, assumed personal responsibility for helping to maintain the lines. While repairing the wire to Company B, he was caught in an intense artillery and mortar barrage which the enemy fired in preparation for a counterattack. Several times Sergeant Herzog was hurled to the ground, covered with dirt and mud and imperilled by hurtling shell fragments. Lying flat on his stomach, he waited until the shelling ceased and then continued forward toward Company B, repairing the line as he advanced. As he approached the company area, a large hostile force attacked the friendly positions and swept the terrain with heavy small arms fire. Without a thought for personal safety, he pressed determinedly forward, fearlessly braving the hostile fire, to reestablish the vital communications. He returned to the battalion command post and, although almost exhausted by his exertions, refused to rest. As other lines were knocked out, he helped repair them, working indefatigably to insure his unit of excellent communications. Entered the Service from Six Lakes, Michigan.

JAMES D. BLONDET, 33475146, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 December 1944 in France. As aid man with Company E, Private First Class Blondet advanced with the unit in an attack on an important hill. The enemy directed a heavy mortar barrage on the area, inflicting a number of casualties; and Private First Class Blondet was wounded twice by hurtling shell fragments. In spite of the intense pain of his wounds, he refused to be evacuated and unselfishly remained at the company command post, administering expert first aid treatment to his injured comrades. When he learned that one of the company members was severely wounded and was lying in an exposed position on the hill, he unhesitatingly left the comparative safety of the command post and ran across 100 yards of shell-blasted terrain, under direct enemy observation, to the side of the injured soldier. With artillery and mortar shells exploding in the vicinity and with small arms fire directed at him, Private First Class Blondet calmly administered emergency treatment to the wounded man and then supervised his evacuation to the aid station. Although the company was relieved during the night, he voluntarily remained with his patients, caring for them until they were evacuated to the battalion aid station on the following morning. Entered the Service from Washington, D. C.

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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