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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

6 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 22

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:

HARRY A. GWINNELL, 31405056, Staff Sergeant, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 3 October to 5 November 1944 in France. On 31 October Sergeant Gwinnell volunteered to establish and maintain an observation post in a flat valley located 500 yards beyond the friendly lines. Under cover of darkness, he led a group of four men to the isolated position and established both wire and radio communications. Although the enemy, aware of Sergeant Gwinnell's presence, continually directed artillery and mortar concentrations on the building which housed his observation post, he remained in his hazardous position for four days, skillfully directing friendly shellfire on the hostile targets. By maintaining contact with local civilians, he obtained valuable information concerning enemy positions and movements. During this period, he knocked out two horse-drawn vehicles, set numerous enemy buildings afire and drove back two self-propelled mounts. On the morning of 4 November, he made a dangerous reconnaissance to obtain additional information about the enemy. Advancing for 400 yards across flat, open terrain, he reached a vantage point where he remained for three hours to observe the hostile force in a nearby town. He returned to his observation post and adjusted fire on the targets which he had located, maintaining his position until the enemy scored a direct hit on the building. He was seriously wounded by the explosion. Entered the Service from New Haven, Connecticut.

RALPH W. EBERSOLE, 33764733, Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 November 1944 in France. While advancing in an attack against a strongly fortified enemy town, the 2d Platoon of Company I was constantly harassed by a hostile sniper firing from a well-concealed position. Acting entirely on his own initiative, Sergeant Ebersole, a squad leader in the platoon, boldly walked into an exposed area, deliberately attracting the enemy rifle fire in order to locate and eliminate the sniper. The hostile soldier spotted him and opened fire. Moving with lightning swiftness, Sergeant Ebersole located the enemy position and fired, instantly killing the sniper. By his quick-thinking and extraordinary daring, he removed a serious threat to the safety of his platoon and enabled the unit to advance more rapidly toward its objective. Entered the Service from Bedford, Pennsylvania.

THOMAS G. HAMMOND, 33515586, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private), Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 December 1944 in France. During an attack against an important enemy stronghold, Private

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Hammond, aid man with the 2d Platoon of Company K, braved heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire to cross an open field and administer first aid to a seriously wounded soldier. After caring for the wounds of his patient, Private Hammond saw a friendly tank suffer a direct hit from a round of artillery. Without a thought for personal safety, he ran over 400 yards of flat, fire-swept terrain and, upon reaching the disabled tank, swiftly administered expert emergency treatment to the painfully injured crew members. Moving in the face of direct enemy fire, he returned to his platoon and continued treating all the casualties inflicted on the unit. During the fiercely contested attack across the open field, Private Hammond cared for approximately 15 wounded men, supervising their evacuation to the safety of a nearby house. Time after time he willingly risked his own life, fearlessly exposing himself to the incessant hostile fire, in order to save the lives of his injured comrades. Entered the Service from Newburg, Pennsylvania.

HERBERT A. LOREE, 36173672, Technician Fifth Grade, Company C, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 6 November 1944 in France. Prompt tank support was imperative for the success of the night attack which was being planned against enemy hill positions. The road leading to the only suitable assembly area for the tanks was blocked by mines and the mines were difficult to approach because of constant interdicting fire from enemy cannons and mortars. Tec 5 Loree volunteered to remove the mines. Although advised by the commanding infantry officers to wait until nightfall because the road block was under enemy artillery observation, he insisted on starting out immediately in order to assure prompt tank support for the forthcoming attack. He crawled the last 400 yards to his objective through water and mud. Sustained 120mm mortar barrages forced him to lie for five and ten minutes at a time, stretched out on the slimy bottoms of wayside ditches, to avoid being hit by flying shell fragments. In spite of this and intermittent artillery fire, he reached his objective, removed four camouflaged ramp mines by hand-lifting, and returned safely the same way he had advanced. The indomitable courage and great patience of Tec 5 Loree are revealed by the fact that it took three hours to accomplish this extremely hazardous mission. As a result of his initiative and heroism the tanks were able to advance surely during the last daylight hours to the assembly area from which they gave prompt and vital support to the attack that night. Entered the Service from Flint, Michigan.

BERNICE W. VEALEY, 35746247, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May, 4 June, 15 September and from 26 to 28 October 1944 in Italy and France. On 31 May the rifle troops of the 141st Infantry Regiment were subjected to a savage enemy counter-attack and suffered numerous casualties. Although Tec 5 Vealey was assigned as aid man to the mortar platoon, he voluntarily advanced in the face of heavy sniper and mortar fire to assist in administering first aid to the wounded riflemen. During the intense fire fight, he frequently moved beyond the most forward friendly elements, braving direct tank fire, to treat the injured soldiers. On 4 June, when a heavy artillery barrage inflicted ten casualties on the mortar platoon, Tec 5 Vealey unhesitatingly left his covered position and braved the incessant shelling to administer first aid to his comrades. On 15 September, during a heavy artillery and mortar concentration, he was in a building which suffered a direct hit. Although he was stunned by the concussion, he immediately answered a cry for help from two wounded soldiers outside the building and, after

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treating their wounds, helped carry them to the aid station. At the aid station, a vehicle was set afire by a direct hit, and Tec 5 Vealey risked his life to unload valuable equipment from the blazing vehicle. Over a month later, when the battalion area was subjected to an artillery barrage, he left a place of comparative safety to treat several wounded men, then borrowed a jeep and drove them over a shell torn road to the aid station. Upon returning to his unit, he organized a forward aid station and operated it for three days, greatly expediting the evacuation of the wounded. Entered the Service from Charleston, West Virginia.

RICHARD J. BOGGS, 33767618, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 December 1944 in France. Company B was assigned the mission of seizing the southern slope of a strategically important hill. The 3d Platoon advanced across a clearing under cover of darkness, but the enemy spotted the unit and directed a heavy mortar barrage on the area, forcing the friendly troops to take cover. Sudden machine gun fire concentrated on the platoon inflicted several casualties. While his comrades were pinned to the ground, Private First Class Boggs, acting without orders, moved to a position from which he could observe the hostile emplacements. Although his exposed position was swept by rapid bursts of machine gun fire, he fearlessly stood erect in order to get a clear field of fire. He swiftly opened fire with his automatic rifle and, aiming directly at the hostile strong point, killed four enemy soldiers and neutralized two machine guns. As a result of his accuracy and courage, the hostile emplacements were destroyed and the platoon was able to complete its mission with very little resistance. Entered the Service from Altoona, Pennsylvania.

ALBERT GROKATIS, 31025149, Private First Class, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 November 1944 in France. Company G was attacking stubbornly defended positions when the enemy suddenly launched a savage counterattack, inflicting heavy casualties on the unit with effective small arms, mortar and rifle grenade fire. An enemy machine gun on the company's right flank swept the area with rapid bursts of fire, and Private First Class Grokatis was assigned the mission of silencing it with a rifle grenade launcher. Moving in the face of direct machine gun fire, he courageously worked his way to within 30 yards of the hostile emplacement and there fired three grenades in rapid succession, forcing the gun crew to remove the weapon to another position. As Company G pressed forward it was again subjected to fire from the machine gun. Private First Class Grokatis again exposed himself to the hostile small arms and mortar fire and, with several other riflemen, silenced the enemy gun by killing one of the crew members and forcing the others to flee in confusion. His devotion to duty and dauntless determination contributed materially to the repulse of the enemy assault. Entered the Service from Worcester, Mass.

JOSEPH P. JORDAN, 39705522, Private First Class, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 October 1944 in France. The 2d Platoon of Company G was clearing a wooded area of hostile resistance when a large group of enemy soldiers opened fire with rifles and machine guns. After a brief fire fight, the platoon was ordered to withdraw to a better defensive position. Acting entirely on his own initiative, Private First Class Jordan, automatic rifleman, maneuvered to the right flank of the platoon to cover the unit during the withdrawal. He swept the hostile force with effective bursts of automatic rifle

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fire, enabling the platoon to withdraw safely from the untenable position. Although he became the target for heavy enemy fire, he remained dauntlessly with his weapon and continued firing until he had expended his entire supply of ammunition. He then worked his way over the exposed terrain, moving cautiously under the hostile fire, rejoined his unit and, when he had secured additional ammunition, again opened fire on the enemy. Entered the Service from Los Angeles, California.

ADAM B. RADABAUGH, 35754255, Private First Class, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 October 1944 in France. During Company C's attack against stubbornly defended enemy positions on a hill, Private First Class Radabaugh was acting squad leader in the leading platoon. He was instructed to take his men around the right flank in order to dislodge the hostile troops. Moving in the face of machine pistol and rifle fire, he skillfully maneuvered his squad into position and opened fire on the enemy. After an intense fire fight, the hostile force started to withdraw, and, at the same moment, a self-propelled gun directed fire on the platoon area. Private First Class Radabaugh was severely wounded in the left arm and shoulder by hurtling shell fragments. Ignoring the pain of his wound, he continued to lead his squad and, although he was the target for direct small arms fire, calmly directed his men in driving the enemy soldiers completely off the hill. Only after rejoining his platoon and helping organize a defensive position on the top of the hill would Private First Class Radabaugh allow himself to be evacuated. Entered the Service from Hall, West Virginia.

ANDREW RUSNAK, 33670600, Private, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 October 1944 in France. Two platoons of Company E were trapped in a house when heavy enemy machine gun fire prevented their withdrawing. It was decided that a mortar barrage directed on the hostile positions would enable the platoons to withdraw from the house and rejoin the remainder of the company. Private Rusnak, a rifleman, volunteered to cross an exposed clearing and notify the beleaguered soldiers of the plan. He started across the open terrain and, although he became the target for direct machine gun fire, pressed determinedly forward until he reached the house. Following his instructions, the two platoons proceeded across the clearing under cover of the mortar barrage. As a result of Private Rusnak's dauntlessness and courage, the troops effected a successful withdrawal and rejoined the remainder of the company. Entered the Service from Springdale, 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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