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AG RECORDS SEC.

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

13 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 29

Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I
Award of Silver Star.....II
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster - Silver Star.....III

I. POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

LOUIS J. HAFEMEISTER, 01287003, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 September 1944 in France. Lieutenant Hafemeister, reconnaissance officer of Company M, was misdirected to a town which had not been cleared of hostile troops. As he entered the town with his driver and messenger, he encountered two enemy motorcyclists speeding down the road. He and his men immediately opened fire and captured the hostile soldiers. Almost instantly, two vehicles loaded with enemy troops drove into town. While the driver covered the prisoners, Lieutenant Hafemeister and his messenger engaged the hostile force in a fire fight. Although outnumbered, they fought valiantly, fearlessly exposing themselves to the enemy small arms fire. In spite of the large volume of hostile fire directed at them, they killed two of the enemy, wounded several, and captured the remaining ten. One of the prisoners was an officer who divulged the whereabouts of a large hostile force. Lieutenant Hafemeister then contacted friendly troops and organized a defense of the town. He was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Louis H. Hafemeister (Father), 409 Cleveland Street, Menasha, Wisconsin.

HOWARD L. PERKINS, 35925992, Private First Class, Company M, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 November 1944 in France. A section of machine guns from Company M was assigned the mission of supporting a reinforced rifle platoon of Company L in establishing a strategically important road block. Smashing scattered enemy resistance as it advanced, the group reached the designated position and established the block. Almost immediately a large hostile force launched a savage attack, directing a heavy volume of fire at the front and flank of the position. After an intense fire fight, the friendly troops were forced to withdraw from the untenable area to more advantageous positions. As the group moved back, Private First Class Perkins, first gunner in a machine gun squad, valiantly remained with his weapon, determinedly refusing to withdraw. Delivering rapid, accurate bursts of machine gun fire into the midst of the charging enemy, he covered the withdrawal of his comrades. Although he was the target for direct small arms fire and the hostile troops were outflanking his position, he continued operating his weapon and killed nine of the enemy soldiers before he himself was killed by the onrushing foe. Next of kin: Mr. Delbert A. Perkins (Father), RFD #1, St. Clairsville, Ohio.

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LOUIS WEISS, 33902815, Private, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1944 in France. The 3d Squad in the 2d Platoon of Company B was assigned the mission of launching a daylight assault against a well-defended strong point in a nearby building. In the initial stages of the attack, Private Weiss, a bazooka man, volunteered to cross a heavily mined area, swept by small arms fire, to a spot from which he could direct effective fire on the hostile force. Moving fearlessly across the mine field, he had advanced to within 50 yards of his pre-designated position when the enemy opened fire from the house. Aware of the importance of reaching his position and firing in support of his squad, Private Weiss pressed dauntlessly forward in the face of direct small arms fire. As he ran toward his position, he exploded a hidden mine which killed him instantly. His heroic sacrifice inspired his comrades to redouble their efforts and drive forward to smash the hostile strong point. Next of kin: Mrs. May Weiss (Mother), 829 West Lombard Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

II. 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:

EUGENE A. BOHLKE, 0516555, First Lieutenant, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. Lieutenant Bohlke was assigned as artillery observer with Company K during an attack against an important hostile stronghold. In the course of the assault, the unit was cut off from other friendly troops and was surrounded by the enemy. It was obvious that only by shelling hostile elements in the town could the company effect a successful withdrawal. Although he could have been among the first to leave the town, Lieutenant Bohlke courageously volunteered to remain in his exposed position and adjust artillery fire on the enemy troops. While the company withdrew from the untenable area, he determinedly refused to leave his radio and, bravely exposing himself to hostile machine gun fire, skillfully directed fire on the enemy without endangering friendly elements in the vicinity. Although wounded, Lieutenant Bohlke unselfishly waited until the last of the troops were withdrawn before leaving the town and seeking cover for himself. Entered the Service from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

DE WAYNE G. BROWN, 01823978, Second Lieutenant, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1944 in France. Lieutenant Brown, leader of the 3d Platoon of Company B, was assigned the mission of furnishing direct fire support for an infantry battalion. He was advancing in his jeep, leading his tank destroyers into position, when an enemy machine gun suddenly opened fire on him, instantly killing his driver. Lieutenant Brown jumped from his vehicle and, from a position beside the road, spotted a large hostile force infiltrating through the vineyards near the friendly lines. Exposing himself to heavy machine gun and rifle fire, he crawled back to his jeep and, reaching for his radio hand-set, directed his tank destroyers in firing on the enemy troops in the areas to his front and right flank. He braved the continuous small arms fire and remained determinedly in position until his leading tank destroyer knocked out the hostile machine gun. As the vehicle approached the spot where he was lying, Lieutenant Brown climbed onto the rear of the tank destroyer and, from this exposed vantage point, directed fire on the infiltrating enemy, repelling the attack. Entered the Service from Raleigh, North Carolina.

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STANLEY J. SAARLOOS, 32925458, Private, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in Italy. Company K was assigned the mission of advancing from defensive positions to cross an important river and attack a stubbornly resisting enemy on the opposite bank. The friendly bank of the river, previously mined by hostile troops, had been partially cleared, and pathways had been marked through the mine field. As the company moved forward along the paths, the enemy directed an intense artillery and mortar barrage on the area, forcing the soldiers to disperse. Because darkness and dense fog obscured the pathway markings, they were unable to use the cleared paths, and many were killed and wounded by exploding mines. Private Saarloos, with several others, succeeded in working his way out of the mined area. With thoughts only for the safety of his comrades, he voluntarily led his company commander back into the mine field in order to guide the remainder of the company out of the hazardous area. Fearlessly facing the incessant shellfire and the danger from exploding mines, he made eight trips into the mined area, preceding his company commander, in order to locate all the members of the company and guide them to safety. Entered the Service from Belleville, New Jersey.

III. AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER. 1. 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:

ABBOTT D. ABBOTT, 01309153, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. The 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, was assigned the mission of attacking enemy defenses on a strategically important hill and in a well-defended town. Lieutenant Abbott advanced across an exposed valley toward the objective with the assault company supported by a platoon of heavy machine guns. As the attackers approached the town, the enemy suddenly opened fire, sweeping the valley with machine gun and rifle fire and blasting it with an artillery and mortar barrage. The assault company, depleted by heavy casualties, was split into small units by the fire from interlacing enemy final protective lines. A second company advanced on the left flank and, when the company commander was wounded, also became disorganized. Aware of the necessity for immediate, aggressive action, Lieutenant Abbott put his machine gun platoon into action and engaged the enemy in an intense fire fight. Then, moving fearlessly from one shell-shattered house to another, he contacted the scattered rifle elements and began reorganizing the men. He finally managed to assemble a group of almost platoon strength in one place. When higher headquarters ordered the companies to withdraw, Lieutenant Abbott used his machine guns to lay down a base of fire and valiantly led the riflemen in a series of local counterattacks, remaining on the hill until all the men had withdrawn to safety and all the casualties had been evacuated. Lieutenant Abbott was painfully wounded while withdrawing from his exposed position. Entered the Service from North Adams, Massachusetts.

JESSE J. DOERING, 37485118, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1944 in France. Sergeant Doering was assigned the mission of leading his squad to smash a hostile strong point in a nearby house. He skillfully deployed his men and, when the supporting artillery barrage lifted, ordered them to rush the house. As the squad approached

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the building, one of the men stepped on a mine, and the explosion killed him and wounded two other soldiers. The enemy opened fire from the house, and disorganization threatened the squad. Calling for his men to follow him, Sergeant Doering opened fire with his rifle and charged the house, running directly in the face of heavy small arms fire. He kicked the door open and, upon entering the building, spotted three hostile soldiers attempting to put a machine gun into action. Sergeant Doering killed all three of the enemy with rifle fire. He then directed his squad in searching the remainder of the house. As a result of his courage and aggressiveness, 12 prisoners were captured and an enemy strong point was eliminated. Entered the Service from Dallas, South Dakota.

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:

JOHN YBARBO, 38026352, Staff Sergeant, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 November 1944 in France. After a successful surprise attack against a strategically important town, the 2d Platoon of Company K established a road block to stop expected enemy counterattacks. Sergeant Ybarbo, a squad leader in the platoon, heard a large group of hostile soldiers approaching the road block. He seized his light machine gun and fearlessly moved up the side of the street alone, silhouetted by the bright moonlight, to meet the enemy troops. Aware that the slightest misstep might mean instant death, he advanced cautiously, in the shadow of buildings, to a point within ten feet of the hostile force. He suddenly raised his gun and ran in front of the startled enemy soldiers, commanding them to surrender. Completely surprised by his daring trick, they immediately dropped their weapons. Sergeant Ybarbo captured 21 prisoners, two machine guns, four machine pistols and 15 rifles. His quick-thinking and aggressiveness prevented the enemy from reporting the location of his platoon's road block. Entered the Service from Victoria, Texas.

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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