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HEADQUARTERS
42D INFANTRY DIVISION

GENERAL ORDERS)

APC 411, U. S. ARMY

NUMBER 6)

7 January 1946

Award of the Silver Star I
Award of the Bronze Star Medal II

I. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR:... By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded to:

William C. Albert, 35 440 242, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 242d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 January 1945 at Rittershofen, France. When infiltrating enemy infantry and armor threatened to cut off the house his platoon was defending, Private Albert volunteered to cover the withdrawal of the platoon. Observing eight Germans advancing on his position with four Americans as a screen, he killed seven of the enemy and liberated his comrades. Fired upon by an enemy tank, he returned the fire with his rifle and killed two of the tank crew. When his position became untenable, he fired a final burst from his weapon and withdrew. Private Albert's extraordinary heroism and gallantry enabled his platoon to withdraw without casualty. Entered military service from Truett, West Virginia.

JOHN PRZYSUCHA, 02 006 227, Second Lieutenant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 January 1945 in Stattmatton, France. While Sergeant Przysucha and several of his men were fighting off an attacking force of enemy soldiers from a house in Stattmatton, France, an enemy hand grenade was hurled into the room. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Przysucha immediately rushed to the grenade, picked it up, and threw it out the window only an instant before it exploded. Sergeant Przysucha's gallant courage and prompt action in an emergency saved the three men with him from certain death or injury. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

II. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL:... By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following:

SYLVAN G. ALSPAUGH, 01 313 943, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company F, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 March 1945 near Wimmenau, France. When a request was made for an officer to lead a platoon in an attack against the enemy main line of resistance, Lieutenant Alspaugh, company executive officer, voluntarily assumed command of the attacking force. He fearlessly led the platoon up a hill through heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire and successfully secured the objective. Through his aggressive leadership and unswerving devotion to duty, Lieutenant Alspaugh played a major role in the successful assault. Entered military service from Bremerton, Washington.

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Ralph C. Becker, 37 311 311, Private First Class, Medical Department, Company B, 122d Medical Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During the bitter house to house fighting for Wurzburg, Germany, Private Becker learned of a seriously wounded infantryman in a house where the front elements were fighting. Despite intense machine gun and rifle fire, he unhesitatingly moved forward to where the wounded man lay, administered first aid, and then later evacuated him. Private Becker's outstanding courage and devotion to his fellow soldiers undoubtedly saved the injured man's life. Entered military service from Onamia, Minnesota.

Frank M. Brooks, 33 794 015, Corporal, Infantry, Company K, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When the rifle platoon of which Corporal Brooks was messenger was held up by intense mortar and machine gun fire, the platoon leader attempted to contact the company commander to give him the situation. Finding the radio out of operation, Corporal Brooks volunteered to go and contact the company commander. Exposing himself to the intense enemy fire, he ran across eight hundred yards of open terrain and contacted the company commander. Corporal Brooks' action enabled the company commander to employ his troops in such a manner as to overcome the enemy resistance. Entered military service from Wayne, Pennsylvania.

John D. Carr, 34 789 258, Private First Class, Medical Department, Company B, 122d Medical Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. When two infantrymen were seriously wounded in Wurzburg, Private Carr accompanied his ambulance forward of American tanks fighting in the streets to aid the two men. Without protection of covering fire, he and his driver faced intense machine gun fire to render first aid and then evacuate the men to the aid station. Private Carr's heroic action, performed with utter disregard for his personal safety, enabled the wounded men to receive critical medical attention promptly and undoubtedly saved their lives. Entered military service from Tampa, Florida.

Lloyd A. Childress, 33 934 188, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. When the enemy launched a strong attack against his forward observer post during the fighting for Sessenheim, Private Childress took an automatic rifle from a wounded comrade and opened fire upon the advancing enemy. After the enemy had withdrawn because of his accurate fire, he moved forward under a heavy artillery concentration and assisted an aid man in evacuating casualties to the medical aid station. By his courageous actions and aggressive skill, Private Childress was largely responsible for the defeat of a strong enemy thrust into our lines. Entered military service from Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Quentin B. Cline, 35 871 309, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 March 1945 near Phillipsbourg, France. During the fighting for Phillipsbourg, France, Corporal Cline drove a truck load of ammunition for the Third Battalion into the town. When his truck was observed by the enemy and subjected to a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire, he unhesitatingly ran to his vehicle through a hail of flying fragments and drove the load of high explosives out of enemy range. By his courageous actions, he saved his vehicle and vitally-needed ammunition from certain destruction. Entered military service from Mullins, West Virginia.

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Norman K. Cobb, 34 792 116, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Company B, 122d Medical Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 near Wurzburg, Germany. When two infantrymen were seriously wounded in Wurzburg, Corporal Cobb drove his ambulance forward of American tanks fighting in the streets to aid the two men. Without protection of covering fire, Corporal Cobb and his assistant driver faced withering machine gun fire to render first aid to the casualties and then evacuate them to the aid station. Corporal Cobb's heroic action, performed with utter disregard for his own safety, enabled the wounded men to receive critical medical attention promptly and undoubtedly saved their lives. Entered military service from Crestview, Florida.

William J. Cunningham, 32 952 932, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company A, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the withdrawal from Sessenheim, France, Sergeant Cunningham and several men remained behind under heavy enemy fire to aid a wounded soldier. Improvising a litter from a blanket, he aided in carrying the man over three thousand yards of open terrain constantly exposed to intense mortar and artillery fire. By his courage and disregard for personal safety, Sergeant Cunningham materially contributed to saving the injured man's life. Entered military service from Camden, New Jersey.

Albert H. Firestone, 37 748 014, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 at Arnstein, Germany. During the bitter fighting for Arnstein, Germany, Private Firestone's platoon was helplessly pinned down in an open field by intense machine gun and rifle fire. He voluntarily ran across one hundred yards of open terrain under the fire in order to reach his platoon sergeant with a coordinating message from one of the supporting tank destroyers. By his courageous determination, Private Firestone enabled tank destroyer fire to neutralize the enemy positions, permitting his platoon to advance into the town. Entered military service from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Robert T. Fratcher, 35 931 588, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 in Wurzburg, Germany. During the battle for Wurzburg, Germany, Private Fratcher's platoon found itself faced with superior enemy firepower and unable to hold its positions. He immediately volunteered to go back and bring up the supporting platoon. Picking his way through the debris-filled streets under constant sniper fire, he surprised an enemy machine gun crew behind our positions. Before the enemy could fire, he killed or wounded all of the crew, continuing on to contact the support platoon. Private Fratcher's outstanding courage and unswerving determination played a major role in the successful capture of the town. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

William A. Fulcher, 38 570 952, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945 at Ludwigswinkel, Germany. Private Fulcher, with four other infantrymen, was riding on a tank in the attack through the Siegfried line when they were suddenly met by intense machine gun, rifle, and mortar fire from a pill box to their front. As he jumped from the tank, Private Fulcher noticed that his platoon leader had been wounded severely by shell fragments in the legs and stomach. He crawled and ran through the hostile fire across four hundred yards of open terrain to contact a litter squad and guide them back to the wounded officer. Private Fulcher's steadfast courage under fire was directly responsible for saving his platoon leader's life. Entered military service from Wellington, Texas.

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Merle P. Gentle, 36 959 119, Technician Fifth Grade, Cavalry, 42nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945 near Mulbach, Germany. When a member of his reconnaissance patrol was wounded, Corporal Gentle volunteered to attempt the rescue of the man from an area covered by withering fire from enemy machine guns. Driving his armored car along 700 yards of exposed road, he effected the rescue of the badly wounded man and returned with him to cover. By disregarding his own safety, Corporal Gentle saved the life of a wounded comrade and set a splendid example for his fellow soldiers to emulate. Entered military service from Bay County, Michigan.

Rudolph W. Heim, 7 031 665, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the withdrawal from Sessenheim, France, Private Heim and several men remained behind under heavy enemy fire to aid a wounded soldier. Improvising a litter from a blanket, he aided in carrying the man over three thousand yards of open terrain constantly exposed to intense mortar and artillery fire. By his courage and disregard for personal safety, Private Heim materially contributed to saving the injured man's life. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

Marvin L. Jones Jr, 34 969 059, Sergeant (then Private), Infantry, Company E, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 13-14 January 1945 at Hatten, France. When the tank destroyer guarded by Private Jones and two other men was hit by an enemy shell, killing one crew member and wounding another, the guards and the remainder of the crew took cover in a shell hole. As the enemy fire increased, the tank destroyer crew withdrew, so the three infantrymen started evacuating the wounded man over 1500 yards of open terrain covered by enemy fire. Despite the intense fire and his own personal danger, Private Jones alternated between carrying the wounded man and providing covering fire. His heroic actions saved the wounded man's life in evacuating him from a dangerous area to needed medical aid. Entered military service from Fayetteville, North Carolina.

James J. Krueger, 36 981 861, Sergeant (then Private), Infantry, Company E, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 25 January 1945 near Kaltenhaus, France. When the ammunition supply of the machine gun of which he was assistant gunner ran low, Private Krueger, disregarding his own safety, ran across open terrain through concentrations of 88mm, automatic weapons and small arms fire to replenish the supply. On the return trip, loaded with the precious ammunition, he suffered a fall which painfully injured his left foot. Ignoring the injury although the gun was continually shifted to meet enemy pressure, Private Krueger remained at his post and played a vital part in repulsing the assault. Entered military service from Reedsville, Wisconsin.

Fletcher D. Lowe, 34 842 463, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945 at Gamsheim, France. On 5 January 1945 Corporal Lowe was given the mission of evacuating supplies and ammunition from the town of Gamsheim, France, in the face of a determined enemy attack. Disregarding intense enemy artillery, mortar, and direct tank fire, he continued on his mission until all of the vital supplies had been evacuated to the newly established supply base. Through his courage and unswerving devotion to duty, Corporal Lowe saved the needed supplies and ammunition from capture by the enemy. Entered military service from Columbus, South Carolina.

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OTHA K. MALTBIE, 02 006 287, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Cannon Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. As forward observer for Cannon Company, Lieutenant Maltbie advanced with the forward elements of riflemen in the attack on the strong German positions. Repeatedly exposing himself to heavy small arms and mortar fire in order to deliver accurate supporting fire, Lieutenant Maltbie called for effective support that inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and broke up the counterattack. By his skillful location of targets and his courage under fire, Lieutenant Maltbie prevented the Germans from regaining their positions and enabled our advance to continue. Entered military service from Turlock, California.

Wesley D. Myers, 37 673 677, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Service Company, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 at Weyersheim, France. During the fierce fighting for Weyersheim, France, Corporal Myers, Second Battalion ammunition truck driver, was ordered to proceed into the town to deliver vitally needed ammunition to the hard-pressed troops. Driving along a heavily-mined road leading into the town, he was subjected to intense and direct enemy artillery and mortar fire. Despite the fact that shells were bursting all around his truck and that a vehicle twenty-five yards in front of him was demolished, he unhesitatingly continued on, unloaded his truck under heavy artillery and mortar fire, and returned over the same route to his company. Through his indomitable courage and devotion to duty, Corporal Myers contributed immeasurably to the successful attack. Entered military service from Estherville, Iowa.

John J. Napolitano, 32 512 108, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 January 1945 at Hatten, France. Under heavy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, Private Napolitano voluntarily set up and operated his machine gun in an exposed position in order to better cover an infantry attack. When his position was attacked from the flank by an enemy halftrack, he swung his gun around and commenced firing upon the vehicle. Although his fire had little direct effect on the halftrack it did hold it up long enough for a friendly tank destroyer, to destroy it. Private Napolitano's heroic action undoubtedly saved the lives of many of the Infantry in preventing an attack on their rear. Entered military service from Middletown, New York.

Harry E. Neville, 42 113 321, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. During the attack on Hill 301 near Reipertswiller, France, word was received at Company B's ammunition point that the company was running low on ammunition. Corporal Neville voluntarily carried ammunition over the mine infested hill which was under constant enemy mortar and artillery fire. During the trip, two men with him were killed by enemy mines, but he did not falter until the mission was successfully completed. Corporal Neville's courageous action and selfless determination played a major role in the successful attack on Hill 301. Entered military service from Poughkeepsie, New York.

Theodore J. Pawlow, 32 029 723, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 13-14 January 1945 at Hatten, France. When the tank destroyer guarded by Private Pawlow and two other men was hit by an enemy shell, killing one crew member and wounding another, the guards and the remainder of the crew took cover in a shell hole. As the

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enemy fire increased, the tank destroyer crew withdrew, so the three infantrymen started evacuating the wounded man over 1500 yards of open terrain covered by enemy fire. Despite the intense fire and his own personal danger, Private Pawlow alternated between carrying the wounded man and providing covering fire. His heroic actions saved the wounded man's life in evacuating him from a dangerous area to needed medical aid. Entered military service from Buffalo, New York.

James C. Raines, 35 203 335, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company A, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 January 1945 near Sessenheim, France. During the withdrawal from Sessenheim, France, Private Raines and several men remained behind under heavy enemy fire to aid a wounded soldier. Improvising a litter from a blanket, he helped to carry the man over three thousand yards of open terrain constantly exposed to intense mortar and artillery fire. By his courage and disregard for personal safety, Private Raines materially contributed to saving the injured man's life. Entered military service from Charleston, West Virginia.

Lloyd A. Rivard, 36 979 064, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. When Private Rivard's platoon sergeant was seriously wounded by sniper fire during the bitter street fighting for Wurzburg, the aid men were forced to cross 150 yards of open terrain under intense mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire to reach the wounded man. As the litter bearers started across the open area, Private Rivard ran into an exposed position and deliberately drew the enemy fire on himself, diverting attention from the litter bearers. He remained in this exposed position, firing his rifle, until the wounded man was successfully evacuated. Private Rivard's outstanding courage and fearless act undoubtedly saved the wounded man's life. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

John E. Sinclair, 39 598 245, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertswiller, France. An enemy counterattack on Hill 335 near Reipertswiller, France, forced the rifle company of which Private Sinclair was a member to withdraw to the company defense line. Private Sinclair remained behind under intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire to provide effective and accurate covering fire for the company with his automatic rifle. Only after the troops were in position did he leave his own forward position and effect a withdrawal. Private Sinclair's extremely courageous action played a major role in the successful withdrawal of his company. Entered military service from Los Angeles, California.

John P. Starks, 36 586 902, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20-24 January 1945 in Haguenau Forest, France. While remaining behind as part of a force covering a battalion withdrawal, Sergeant Starks and another man became separated from the main body in the darkness. Finding themselves behind enemy lines at daylight, the two men ignored the possibility of surrender and began to work their way back to friendly lines. Though exposed to bitter cold and possible capture enroute, they made notes of enemy strength, equipment and dispositions. After three days and nights, they finally located their company and reported their intelligence to the commander. Sergeant Starks' superior judgment and initiative in obtaining vital information assisted the battalion in preparing its defenses so as to repulse an enemy attack which took place a few days later. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

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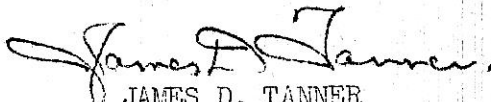
ARTHUR W. VERVAET, OI 326 785, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 at Gambsheim, France. During the attack on enemy positions near Gambsheim, France, Lieutenant Vervet exposed himself for two hours to intense machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, directing his platoon until he was wounded in the leg by shell fragments. Despite his painful wound, he continued to lead his men into the town. Later he was wounded twice more and rendered incapable of further action. Lieutenant Vervet's extreme courage and selfless determination played a major role in the capture of the town. Entered military service from Oakland, New Jersey.

Melvin C. Wille, 36 299 452, Private First Class, Field Artillery, Company B, 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. While voluntarily laying wire between his platoon and an infantry unit, Private Wille was observed and shelled by enemy mortars. Though this fire forced him to work intermittently, he completed his mission and established communications. Later just after a German counterattack was reported, the lines went dead and Private Wille disregarding his own safety, went out to repair them. As he completed this task, he was informed that enemy troops were between him and his platoon. Starting back he was held up by fire from two enemy machine guns until friendly artillery eliminated them and he could reach his unit. Private Wille's heroic actions maintained communications between the infantry and the tank destroyers and enabled them to work together to crush the enemy attack with heavy losses. Entered military service from Juneau, Wisconsin.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL COLLINS:

EDWIN RUSTEBERG,
Lt. Col., General Staff Corps,
Actg. Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:



JAMES D. TANNER
Lt. Col., A.G.D.
Adjutant General.

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