

HEADQUARTERS
42D INFANTRY DIVISION

GENERAL ORDERS)

APO #411, U.S. Army,

NUMBER 143)

25 August 1945.

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

Herbert M. Peters, 17 085 246, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "H", 242d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 25 January 1945 near Kaltenhaus, France. In the face of an enemy attack, Private Peters moved his machine gun from a prepared position into the open to fire more effectively against the enemy. When his gun jammed, he dismantled and cleaned it, then resumed firing. Upon the destruction of the gun by enemy mortar fire, Private Peters obtained an automatic rifle and continued the fight. When this weapon in turn was disabled he seized a rifle and returned to the fight. Constantly exposing himself to enemy artillery, mortar, automatic weapons, and small arms fire, Private Peters was mortally wounded. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs Eva A. Peters, (Mother), 996 Davis Avenue, Dubuque, Iowa. Entered military service from Dubuque, Iowa.

II. 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:

Loren Benkendorf, 36 304 253, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 15 March 1945 near Reipertsweiler, France. When the advance of his platoon was halted by an enemy road block, Private Benkendorf advanced alone to silence the enemy machine gun. Unmindful of his own safety, he exposed himself to heavy automatic and rifle fire and hurled a hand grenade into the emplacement, killing the gunner and forcing the remaining enemy to surrender. By his outstanding courage and devotion to duty, Private Benkendorf made possible the continued advance of his platoon. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

Richard R. Danilowski, 52 671 122, Technical Sergeant, (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 242d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 near Hatten, France. While commanding a 57-mm anti-tank gun, Sergeant Danilowski observed the approach of a large number of enemy tanks. Unable to fire effectively from the gun's prepared positions, Sergeant Danilowski moved it into

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the open where it promptly eliminated a German Mark IV tank. Twice intense 88 mm and artillery fire forced him to move the gun, but each time Sergeant Danilowski occupied an exposed position to obtain the most effective fire. Although wounded by an 88 mm shell burst, Sergeant Danilowski's fire direction resulted in the destruction of three Mark IV tanks. His outstanding courage and leadership enabled his gun crew to halt an enemy armored attack at a critical period. Entered military service from Buffalo, New York.

Richard L. Faulkner, 31 380 476, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry Company "C", 232d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 1 April 1945 near Brittenbrunn, Germany. When forward elements of his company drew rifle and automatic weapons fire, Corporal Faulkner manned a jeep-mounted 50 caliber machine gun and returned the fire. A panzerfaust exploded near the jeep, wounding the driver and knocking Corporal Faulkner to the ground. Despite the force of the concussion he ran to the aid of the driver and dragged him to a place of safety returned to his gun and alone covered the withdrawal of the other troops, remaining in his exposed position until ordered to withdraw by the company commander. He then carried the driver to cover where he assisted in caring for his wounds and aided other men wounded in the withdrawal. Corporal Faulkner's prompt and courageous action permitted his company to make an organized withdrawal and saved several wounded men from possible death or capture. Entered military service from New London, Connecticut.

Hq Co Chester Giles, 37 065 104, Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 242d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 April 1945 near Perbach, Germany. When his patrol was ambushed by a strong enemy force, Sergeant Giles immediately directed the movement of men and vehicles to cover. Then, using the fire of his men as a protective cover he succeeded in getting the first vehicle turned around and on the road to safety. Wounded twice by small arms fire, he continued to direct the movement of vehicles until he was forcibly placed on a jeep to be evacuated. By his courageous action, the squad was enabled to withdraw from the ambush with minimum casualties. Entered military service from Paragould, Arkansas.

Theodore A. Johnson, 37 673 799, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company "H", 232d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 5 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. During bitter street fighting in Wurzburg, Germany, Sergeant Johnson left his mortar section and without regard for his personal safety, accompanied a medical aid man across fifty yards of open terrain to the aid of a wounded tank crew. Under heavy hostile fire, he helped administer first aid to the wounded man and assisted the aid man in carrying him back across the same open area. He then returned to his section where he aided in repulsing a sudden enemy counter-attack. By his outstanding courage and devotion to duty, Sergeant Johnson assisted in saving a fellow soldier from possible death or capture and in supporting the assault on Wurzburg. Entered military service from Fayette, Iowa.

AT Albert J. Kent, 35 068 909, Corporal, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 242d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 near Hatten, France. Corporal Kent was serving as gunner of a 57 mm anti-tank gun when a large number of enemy tanks approached.

Unable to fire effectively from the gun's prepared position, Corporal Kent and other members of the squad moved their gun into the open and fired on the enemy from three successive positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Corporal Kent remained at his post in the face of intense artillery fire and performed his duties as gunner so effectively that three enemy Mark IV tanks were destroyed, and heavy casualties were inflicted upon fleeing tank crews. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

RAYMOND L. KEPLINGER JR., O 555 892, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Anti-Tank Company, 242d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 9 January 1945 near Hatten, France. Lieutenant Keplinger was with the third squad of his anti-tank platoon protecting the flanks of two battalions when ten hostile armored vehicles approached the squad's position from a woods. Realizing that the squad would soon exhaust their ammunition Lieutenant Keplinger drove his jeep under intense fire to the other gun positions, loaded it with ammunition and returned in the face of heavy fire from the tanks. Although wounded three times by shell fragments, Lieutenant Keplinger directed his platoon's fire so skillfully that four Mark IV tanks and two personnel carriers were destroyed and more than sixty enemy killed. His courageous and gallant leadership was responsible for breaking up a determined hostile attack. Entered military service from Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Roy C. McGinnis, 44 036 307, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "E", 232d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 25 April 1945 near Altisheim, Germany. As lead scout for the point squad of his battalion, Private McGinnis observed an enemy machine gun nest concealed in a woods, halted the battalion and had proceeded alone to within twenty feet of the machine gun when the gunner opened fire. Private McGinnis killed the enemy gunner with two rounds from his rifle. The shots aroused nine enemy riflemen who turned to flee into the woods. Private McGinnis pursued them, firing as he went, until all of the enemy halted and surrendered to him. By his courageous act Private McGinnis eliminated hostile resistance and enabled his battalion to continue its advance. Entered military service from Atlanta, Georgia.

Ephraim O. Norman, 17 148 529, Corporal, Infantry, Company "D", 232d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 8 April 1945 near Arnstein, Germany. While on a reconnaissance mission in a jeep, Corporal Norman came under heavy small arms fire from a group of houses on the outskirts of the town. Directing automatic fire at the houses from two heavy machine guns jeeps with him, Corporal Norman proceeded under fire to the first house and returned with nine prisoners. He was then fired on from a railroad underpass. Corporal Norman proceeded to the underpass firing as he went, and persuaded thirty more of the enemy to surrender. His aggressive action and coolness under fire was responsible for the capture of thirty-nine of the enemy and permitted the reconnaissance to continue unmolested by enemy fire. Entered military service from North Kansas City, Missouri.

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WENDELL G. VAN AUKEN, 026 269, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company "C", 232d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 April 1945 near Dockingen, Germany. As Lieutenant Van Auker's company approached their objective, they encountered intense small arms fire. While his men sought cover Lieutenant Van Auker remained upright and moved along the front urging them forward, at times advancing beyond the leading elements of his company. As a result of his example his men left cover followed him forward and over ran the enemy. By his outstanding courage and leadership, Lieutenant Van Auker was responsible for the capture of Dockingen. Entered military service from Buffalo, Wyoming.

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

Guy S. Petrucelli, 32 235 315, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "G", 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 24-25 January 1945, near Schweighausen, France. During the attack on enemy positions near Schweighausen, Private Petrucelli's machine gun squad was held up by heavy mortar and machine gun fire. As he started to maneuver his squad to bring flanking fire upon the enemy, he was mortally wounded, but his squad carried out the movement he had initiated and reached their designated position. By his outstanding courage and leadership, Private Petrucelli made the successful assault possible. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Raffal Petrucelli (Mother), 574 North Seventh Street, Newark, New Jersey. Entered military service from Newark, New Jersey.

IV. 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:

143 Robert W. Brandt, 20 257 857, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 26 April 1945, near Wending, Germany. While on patrol Sergeant Brandt was fired upon by a sniper from a clump of trees. Refusing to take cover, he sprayed the woods with his sub-machine gun and killed the sniper. Sergeant Brandt's prompt and courageous action enabled the patrol to complete its mission. Entered military service from the Bronx, New York.

Joseph S. Crooks, 10 601 976, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "F", 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When his company was attacked while relieving another unit, Private Crooks moved out into the street under intense enemy fire to place himself in a position from which he brought automatic rifle fire upon the enemy. The attack was thrown into confusion by his fire sufficiently for other men of his company to maneuver into positions from which they were able to bring about the disorganization and withdrawal of the enemy forces. By his courage and prompt action, Private Crooks was instrumental in breaking up a determined enemy attack. Entered military service from London, England.

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Wayne V. Cummings, 38 423 382, Private, Infantry, Company "F", 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. During an attack across flat terrain upon heavily fortified positions the third platoon, to which Private Cummings was assigned was hit by a hail of artillery, machine gun and small arms fire, causing heavy casualties. Private Cummings and another man left a covered position in the face of the intense fire to rescue a seriously wounded comrade. Despite the fact that the attempt was almost suicidal, these two men managed to crawl to the side of the wounded man and succeeded in carrying him back to a place of safety, materially aiding in saving his life. Entered military service from Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan.

Dewel B. Dawson, 38 475 231, Private, Infantry, Company "F", 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. As a rifleman in a combat patrol organized to meet a violent enemy counterattack, Private Dawson took up an exposed position from which he could fire effectively on the enemy. From this position, he identified and shot the officer leading the counterattack, resulting in the disorganization and withdrawal of the enemy. By his courage and aggressiveness Private Dawson prevented development of an enemy assault. Entered military service from Trawick, Texas.

William A. Eitel, 38 685 763, Sergeant, Infantry, Company "F", 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. When the house from which his squad was guarding the right flank of his company was demolished by intense machine-gun and flak fire, several men were wounded. Sergeant Eitel, in plain view of the enemy tore down a fence outside the house permitting litter bearers to evacuate the wounded. Through his courage and initiative, Sergeant Eitel was instrumental in saving the lives of two of his men. Entered military service from Jal, New Mexico.

Fredrick J. Eppler, 36 843 461, Private, Infantry, Company "F", 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. Private Eppler was a rifleman in a platoon which came under intense enemy fire while attacking strongly fortified positions. Observing a wounded soldier lying under fire in an open field, Private Eppler and another man left cover, advanced into the open and carried him to safety. His courage and disregard for his own safety were instrumental in saving a fellow soldier from death or capture. Entered military service from Racine, Wisconsin.

Billie A. Eudy, 36 007 617, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company "F", 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 18 April 1945, near Furth, Germany. When two battalions were held up by an enemy machine gun, Sergeant Eudy worked his way into the attic of a building to a position which overlooked the enemy position. From this he was able to fire upon the machine gun, killing the enemy manning the gun. By his courage and aggressiveness, Sergeant Eudy played a major role in the reduction of enemy resistance in Furth. Entered military service from Mount Pleasant, North Carolina.

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Robert R. Foster, 35 401 397, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "B", 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 January 1945, near Hatten, France. Private Foster's squad was in a defensive position holding off a strong enemy attack when several tanks went past and took up positions a short distance away. Because of poor visibility, identification of the tanks as friendly or hostile was extremely difficult. Private Foster, voluntarily and without hesitation moved from his covered position and worked his way close enough to the tanks to identify them as friendly. His courage and devotion to duty prevented a possibly costly error in identification. Entered military service from Thornville, Ohio.

Charles J. Fullenkamp, 35 087 580, Private First Class (then Private), Infantry, Company "F", 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 January 1945, near Gambenheim, France. During a withdrawal under heavy small arms and machine gun fire, Private Fullenkamp noticed that one of the men had been seriously wounded. As he administered first aid, he was fired upon by an enemy machine gun. Private Fullenkamp silenced the machine gun with rifle fire. Aided by another soldier, he then placed the wounded man on a nearby jeep and followed the withdrawal. Despite heavy small arms fire, Private Fullenkamp loaded the jeep with another wounded man and six soldiers. By his outstanding bravery and initiative, Private Fullenkamp saved two wounded men from possible death or capture, and aided six others to escape. Entered military service from New Bremen, Ohio.

THOMAS F. HEAVEY, 01 325 220, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company "A", 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 22-23 March 1945, near Salzwoog, Dahn & Bosenberg, Germany. As part of a Task force spearheading his Battalion's advance, Lieutenant Heavey and his platoon repeatedly drove in enemy rear guards. Lieutenant Heavey personally led patrols into several towns to reconnoiter, and assembled and sent to the rear large numbers of prisoners. His skill and aggressiveness were responsible for the rapid advance of the Battalion. Entered military service from Teaneck, New Jersey.

William J. Heck, 42 190 668, Private, Infantry, Company "F", 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. As a rifleman in a combat patrol organized to meet a violent enemy counterattack, Private Heck assumed an exposed position from which he could fire effectively on the enemy. From this position, he identified and shot the officer leading the counterattack, resulting in the disorganization and withdrawal of the enemy. By his courage and aggressiveness, Private Heck prevented development of an enemy assault. Entered military service from Camden, New Jersey.

DONALD E. SCHAEZEL, 0 549 511, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company "C", 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 January 1945, near Ingolsheim, France. Lieutenant Schaezel observed two dazed and exhausted men whose vehicle had been destroyed by anti-tank fire, lying two hundred yards beyond the main line of resistance. As he left his position to go to their assistance, he was subjected to heavy small arms fire. Taking advantage of all

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available cover, he continued on, reached the men, and brought them to safety. Through his outstanding courage and initiative, Lieutenant Schaetzel saved two fellow soldiers from possible death or capture. Entered military service from Davenport, North Dakota.

Edward F. Sullivan Jr., 31 433 979, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "H", 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 April 1945, near Hergolshausen, Germany. When his company was caught in a heavy enemy artillery concentration, Private Sullivan observed three injured men who had been unable to reach cover. With utter disregard for his own safety, Private Sullivan voluntarily exposed himself to the intense fire to administer first aid and arrange for their evacuation. Due to his prompt and courageous action, one man's life was saved and two other men were given needed medical attention. Entered military service from Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Bill J. Walker, 14 143 467, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "F", 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the attack on Wurzburg, Private Walker, armed with a light machine gun entered the dark passageway of a cellar into which enemy rifle men were known to have withdrawn. Moving and firing rapidly Private Walker advanced through the cellar wounding five enemy and forcing more than thirty to surrender. By his courage and aggressive action Private Walker played a major role in this action. Entered military service from Avondale Estates, Georgia.

By command of Major General COLLINS:

BURNS BEALL,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:


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

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