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HEADQUARTERS  
42d INFANTRY DIVISION

GENERAL ORDERS)

APO 411, U. S. ARMY

NUMBER 23).

19 January 1946

Award of the Bronze Star Medal..... I  
Award of the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal..... II

I. 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:

Louis K. Branco, 31 428 063, Private First Class, Infantry, Company M, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. During the attack on enemy positions near Sessenheim, Private Branco constantly exposed himself to intense artillery, mortar, and small arms fire to bring ammunition to his heavy machine gun squad. Eventually the attacking company was forced to withdraw, leaving many casualties behind. Private Branco left his position of safety to assist in evacuating eleven wounded soldiers from close proximity to the enemy to a place of safety. Private Branco's extreme courage under fire was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army of the United States. Entered military service from Boston, Massachusetts.

JAMES W. DUNHAM, 026 614, First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, Service Battery, 402nd Field Artillery Battalion for heroic achievement in action on 8 April 1945 near Hengolzhausen, Germany. Serving as a forward artillery observer, Lieutenant Dunham voluntarily requisitioned a tank and moved forward under enemy artillery and mortar fire to direct the guns of his battalion. Working through the darkness of night, he spotted the flashes of two gun positions. Skillfully adjusting artillery fire, Lieutenant Dunham succeeded in destroying the gun emplacements and exploded an ammunition dump located nearby. In the light of the exploding ammunition, he observed three more gun positions and enemy personnel forming for a counterattack. He immediately called for artillery fire and destroyed the remaining emplacements and broke up the enemy formation. Through his outstanding courage, aggressiveness, and professional skill, Lieutenant Dunham succeeded in destroying five enemy artillery positions, an ammunition dump, and repulsing a counterattack thus eliminating a strong enemy obstacle in the path of advance. Entered military service from West Point, New York.

Gilbert W. Fell, 35 402 729, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company I, 222d Infantry, for heroic achievement in action from 4 January to 9 January 1945 near Birlenbach, France. During the defense of Alsace, Sergeant Fell led ten combat and reconnaissance patrols into enemy territory, on one occasion going three miles behind enemy lines during a heavy snow storm. On 9 January the patrol he was leading came under heavy artillery fire, and while maneuvering his men to get out of the barrage he and one other man were wounded by shrapnel. He covered the withdrawal until the rest of the patrol was safe and then made his way back to friendly lines with the other wounded man. Sergeant Fell's leadership and devotion to duty were an inspiration to the men who served with him. Entered military service from Columbus, Ohio.

Lyle L. Givan, 37 683 486, Technician Fifth Grade, Corps of Engineers, Headquarters and Service Company, 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion for heroic achievement in action on 1 April 1945 near Wertheim, Germany. As a member of a three-man reconnaissance team, Corporal Givan entered the town of Wertheim,

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Germany while searching for possible intact bridges across the Main River. Noting an enemy group in the streets, he and his comrades drove forward in their vehicle and demanded surrender of the enemy officer in charge while covering him with a machine gun. Then, although outnumbered and surrounded by other concealed enemy personnel, he fearlessly assisted in marching the captured soldiers out of the town. Corporal Givan's aggressiveness and disregard for personal safety helped to reduce an enemy strongpoint and supplied information of the enemy's strength and disposition. Entered military service from Winterset, Iowa.

LEWIS F. HOLMES, O 552 670, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During an enemy counter-attack on Wurzburg, a superior enemy force had completely surrounded two platoons of Company I and was inflicting numerous casualties. Lieutenant Holmes, weapons platoon leader, constantly exposed himself to intense machine gun and rifle fire in order to deploy his weapons most effectively. Throughout the entire action he was ranging along his platoon's front, directing their fire and placing his men in more advantageous positions. By his courageous action and aggressive leadership, Lieutenant Holmes was able to repulse the enemy force and free the rifle troops from their precarious position. Entered military service from Trenton, South Carolina.

Thomas G. Keonig, 33 875 677, Private, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany. In the early phase of the attack against Wurzburg, Private Keonig was part of a patrol which attacked and destroyed an enemy machine gun position and advanced against a 20 mm cannon position. Advancing to within 40 yards of the weapon in the face of intense fire from the gun and from small arms and machine guns in the vicinity, he was wounded in the leg. Disregarding his wound he doggedly continued to advance, killing two members of the crew and forcing the others to surrender. Private Keonig's daring and courageous action enabled boatloads of our troops to cross the Main River without casualties from this enemy position. Entered military service from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Alfred Leistikow, 36 983 035, Private First Class, Corps of Engineers, Company B, 142d Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Althorn, France. While removing mines from a road near Althorn, France, Private Leistikow and the squad of which he was a member were halted by intense small arms and machine gun fire. With complete disregard for personal safety, he fearlessly ran for the squad's machine gun, put it into action, and forced the enemy to withdraw. Later, when reinforcements were needed, he volunteered to deliver the message, accomplished his return under small arms fire, and was able to give the machine gunner information enabling him to wipe out another enemy position. By his outstanding courage and selfless devotion to duty, Private Leistikow was instrumental in eliminating two enemy gun positions and successful in obtaining the necessary reinforcements. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Arthur T. Lilliquist, 31 333 027, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 21 April 1945, near Unterbach, Germany. While on a patrol to determine the status of a vital bridge leading into Unterbach, Germany, Private Lilliquist spotted a group of enemy soldiers at work under the bridge. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he charged toward the enemy disorganizing them and forcing

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them to flee. He then ran to the bridge and cut the wires leading to detonation charges placed there by the enemy. By his prompt and courageous actions, Private Lilliquist saved an important bridge and greatly facilitated his Company's advance into the village. Entered military service from West Haven, Connecticut.

Hollis O. McDaniels, 33 699 215, Private First Class, Corps of Engineers, Company B, 142d Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action, on 15 March 1945, near Althorn, France. When the enemy had stopped his squad's advance with intense automatic-weapons, mortar, and artillery fire, Private McDaniels volunteered to take a message to his platoon leader, informing him of the enemy activities. Moving through the heavy fire, he set off a trip flare and two anti-personnel mines, but he continued on until he reached his destination. He then returned over the same route with the message for the squad to hold its position. Through his indomitable courage under fire, Private McDaniels played a major role in the successful defense of the squad's position until reinforcements arrived. Entered military service from Pittock, Pennsylvania.

Robert M. Mullins, 39 919 006, Sergeant, Infantry, Company I, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 25 January 1945, at Haguenau, France. While occupying a defensive position at Haguenau, France, Sergeant Mullins' squad was subjected to a heavy enemy artillery and mortar concentration which seriously wounded one man. Disregarding his own safety in the face of the intense fire and direct enemy observation, Sergeant Mullins, crawled from safety to a wounded man and carried him to a defilade position where medical aid could be administered to him. Sergeant Mullins' heroic action saved the life of his fellow soldier. Entered military service from Helper, Utah.

Robert J. Nelson, 37 594 811, Private First Class, Infantry, Company K, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 15 March 1945 near Althorn, France. During the attack against strongly defended enemy positions near Althorn, France, when the two leading platoons of Company K were stopped by enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, the reserve platoon, of which Private Nelson was a member, was committed. Advancing through the heavy fire, he was knocked to the ground unconscious by a shell burst. After regaining consciousness, he refused evacuation and remained with his comrades throughout the attack. Private Nelson's exceptional courage and aggressiveness contributed materially to the final success of the assault. Entered military service from Moorhead, Minnesota.

Stephen H. Opazda, 31 227 234, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 1 April 1945, near Knudstein, Germany. Advancing as first scout into the town of Knudstein, Private Opazda spotted the well-concealed and dug-in enemy positions. He immediately fired into them and deliberately drew the enemy attention and fire upon himself. Despite a serious bullet wound in the right arm, Private Opazda continued firing into the enemy positions until the remainder of the platoon flanked the enemy. Through his outstanding act of superior bravery and initiative the enemy was taken completely by surprise and was quickly eliminated. Entered military service from New Bedford, Massachusetts.

John N. Orlando, 32 382 155, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. Private Orlando was advancing with the Command Group of Company I through the sniper infested streets of Wurzburg when the entire company was pinned down by intense machine gun fire coming from a strongpoint in a ruined building. Private Orlando unhesitatingly went out under the heavy fire to locate a route by which two platoons could by-pass the strongpoint and

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surround it. He then led the two platoons along this route, returning to bring up vitally-needed grenades which assisted in wiping out the enemy positions. Private Orlando's courageous action and alertness enabled his company to neutralize the enemy position while suffering only one casualty. Entered military service from Buffalo, New York.

Roger A Peck, 36 193 850, Sergeant, Infantry, Company M, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 18 April 1945, at Furth, Germany. As first gunner in a heavy machine gun squad which was supporting a rifle company in establishing a bridgehead, Sergeant Peck unhesitatingly carried his machine gun tripod across the river through intense enemy sniper fire. Reaching the opposite bank, he maneuvered his way through a street covered by deadly sniper and panzerfaust fire in order to place the machine gun into action in close support of the attacking troops. Through his outstanding courage and aggressiveness, Sergeant Peck made an effective contribution to the successful attack. Entered military service from Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

Lloyd F. Pittman, 38 034 340, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company L, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 24-25 January 1945, near Neuburg, France. When contact was broken between the flanks of Company K and Company E by enemy action, Sergeant Pittman was a member of a patrol which was assigned the mission of reestablishing contact between the two companies and reforming the main line of resistance. During a heavy enemy artillery concentration, Sergeant Pittman was knocked unconscious by concussion. When he was revived, he refused to be evacuated and deployed his squad in a skirmish line at his assigned position in the Ohlungen Forest. He then assisted in stopping numerous enemy attacks which soon followed. Through his outstanding courage and aggressive leadership, Sergeant Pittman played a major role in the defeat of fanatical attacks. Entered military service from Corpus Christi, Texas.

Garland T. Rasco, 39 278 166, Private First Class, Field Artillery, Company B, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, for heroic achievement in action 19 April 1945, near Stein, Germany. When private Rasco's tank destroyer platoon spearheaded an infantry attack on Stein, it met strong resistance from mines and enemy fire. Upon learning that one of our destroyers had been disabled by an enemy panzerfaust, Private Rasco and an aid man, disregarding their own safety, went to the head of the column under heavy fire. After removing the dead and wounded from the vehicle and administering first aid, they evacuated the casualties to the aid station. Private Rasco's heroic action was largely responsible for saving the lives of the wounded men. Entered military service from Escondido, California.

HAROLD J. SCHANCK, 01 320 967, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company B, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 January 1945, near Hatten, France. When three regiments of the 21st and 25th German Panzer Divisions, supported by armor and artillery, attacked his company's positions near Hatten, Lieutenant Schanck assisted in deploying the reserve platoon to combat the enemy thrust. Then, in the face of withering artillery fire, he adjusted accurate mortar fire upon the enemy troops, and as the only member of his company left who could operate the S.C.B. 300 radio, maintained communications between the defending platoons, the company commander, and the battalion commander. When the order was received to withdraw into Hatten, Lieutenant Schanck voluntarily remained in his forward position, thus greatly aiding in the repulse of numerous enemy attacks until he was taken prisoner. Lieutenant Schanck's heroic sacrifice reflects great credit upon himself and

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the military service. Entered military service from Forrest Hills, Long Island, New York.

Roy R. Schuening, 39 346 412, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. During the fighting in Wurzburg, it became necessary for Company A to have a mine field in front of its position as protection against an expected enemy tank attack. Private Schuening volunteered to accomplish the mission, and, in order to bring the mines forward, made his way to the ammunition supply point through a hail of enemy small-arms fire. Returning with the mines, he moved forward 50 yards up a street, and, while under enemy observation and fire, successfully laid a mine field around his company. Through his outstanding courage and skill, Private Schuening played a major role in holding off an enemy mechanized attack. Entered military service from Pendleton, Oregon.

Dean S. Short, 37 666 107, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Second Battalion, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 January 1945, near Gamsheim, France. During the enemy counter-attack at Gamsheim, Anti-Tank Company was ordered to place a gun along the canal to deliver supporting fire to an exposed flank. While the crew was digging the gun position under heavy mortar fire, Private Short saw one of the men hit by a fragment and fall into the freezing water. He unhesitatingly exposed himself to the heavy barrage, and with the aid of a pole pulled the man ashore and back to cover. Private Short's heroic devotion to his wounded comrade in the face of the hostile fire threatening his own life, was a credit to the high traditions of the Armed Forces. Entered military service from Toledo, Iowa.

Harold Siegmann, 36 289 887, Private, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142d Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the crossing of the Main River into Wurzburg, Private Siegmann made repeated trips carrying men and ammunition to the enemy held shore under intense fire from machine guns, artillery, and mortars. With complete disregard for personal safety or fatigue, he continued to volunteer for succeeding trips until our forces and supplies had been landed on the opposite bank of the river. Private Siegmann's exceptional courage and aggressive determination under enemy fire contributed materially to the establishment of the bridgehead and the eventual capture of Wurzburg. Entered military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ralph A. Steinke, 16 002 043, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company D, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 January 1945, at Roschwoog, France. When a superior enemy force attacked Roschwoog, France, Sergeant Steinke continuously exposed himself to intense enemy fire to direct the fire of his heavy machine gun squad. He kept his gun in action after the riflemen had withdrawn, and, when his position was about to be overrun by the enemy, he led his own squad and the other squad of the section to safety. By his aggressive action and coolness under fire, Sergeant Steinke enabled the rifle troops to effect an orderly withdrawal and led his own men back with a minimum of casualties. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

Edward J. Thoma, 31 380 572, Technician Fourth Grade, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142d Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. As a member of an assault boat crew, Sergeant Thoma participated in six round trips crossings of the Main River under heavy machine gun, sniper, and flak fire during the attempt to establish

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a bridgehead on the enemy held territory. In spite of the constantly increasing intensity of the enemy fire, he continued to volunteer for each succeeding trip until the mission was completed. Sergeant Thoma's exceptional courage and devotion to duty contributed materially to establishing the bridgehead and the ultimate fall of the city of Wurzburg. Entered military service from Lisbon, Connecticut.

Charles E. Thurman, 34 990 827, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. After crossing the Main River in the first assault boat with a seven man patrol, Private Thurman was pinned down by heavy enemy machine gun and 20mm cannon fire. Locating one of the enemy machine guns, he led the patrol toward it, firing as he advanced. Within forty yards of the gun, his heavy fire caused the gun to blow up, killing the four man crew. At this time an exploding panzerfaust round severely wounded Private Thurman in the face and both legs. By his outstanding courage and disregard for personal safety in the face of intense fire, Private Thurman destroyed singlehanded a serious threat to the advance of our troops into the city of Wurzburg. Entered military service from Memphis, Tennessee.

Louis J. Vollat, 35 794 040, Corporal, Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 27 April 1945, near Furth, Germany. Company E's advance on Furth was suddenly halted by intense enemy machine gun, machine pistol, and rifle fire coming from well concealed dug-in positions. Corporal Vollat advanced upon the nearest concrete bunker under a terrific hail of enemy fire, threw grenades inside, and occupied the position. From this location he observed enemy positions and directed the fire of his comrades upon the enemy troops. By his courageous action and selfless determination, Corporal Vollat enabled his company to overrun the enemy positions and continue their successful advance. Entered military service from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Wilbur E. Wise, 13 060 609, Private, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 3 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. Crossing the Main River in the first assault boat, Private Wise assisted in knocking out an enemy machine gun and a 20 mm cannon. With another soldier he then attacked a pillbox, crossing 100 yards of open ground under intense fire and throwing a grenade into the emplacement, killing the six occupants. At that time an enemy panzerfaust exploded nearby, and he suffered a concussion forcing his evacuation. Private Wise's heroism and courage under fire eliminated a serious threat to the advance of our forces into Wurzburg. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

II. AWARD OF THE FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL:---By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following:

Robert J. Ground, 36 684 376, First Sergeant (then Technical Sergeant), Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When a strong enemy force counter-attacked the positions of Company I in Wurzburg, Germany, Sergeant Ground immediately called a light machine gun section forward and placed them alongside his platoon. As the enemy forces approached, he exposed himself to intense grenade, panzerfaust, machine gun, and rifle fire in order to maintain contact between his rifle platoon and the machine gun section. Upon coming



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face to face with an enemy SS officer, Sergeant Ground killed him with one shot from his rifle. Sergeant Ground's outstanding courage, alertness, and leadership contributed materially to his Company's success in repelling the determined attack. Entered military service from Springfield, Illinois.

Paul W. LaBella, 32 511 410, Staff Sergeant. Infantry, Company E, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. During the bitter street fighting in Wurzburg, Sergeant LaBella's rifle platoon was held up by intense sniper fire coming from a church to their immediate front. Without regard for his personal safety, he fearlessly set out for the church through an intense hail of enemy fire. Entering the church he killed one sniper, wounded another, and captured a third. Sergeant LaBella's indomitable courage and initiative eliminated a serious threat to the advance of his platoon through the city. Entered military service from Port Chester, New York.

IRVING R. SHORT, 02 006 207, First Lieutenant, (then Second Lieutenant), Infantry, Regimental Headquarters 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 29 April 1945, in Dachau, Germany. While preceding his Regiment with his platoon, Lieutenant Short encountered an enemy motor column, forcing their immediate surrender by his bold and fearless tactics. Continuing into Dachau he encountered heavy enemy resistance and one of his men was hit by shell fragments. Lieutenant Short and an aid man advanced across the fire swept area to where the wounded man lay and brought him to safety. By his indomitable courage and aggressive determination, Lieutenant Short paved the way to the swift advance of the Infantry. Entered military service from Berkeley, California.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL COLLINS:

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

OFFICIAL:

*James D. Tanner*  
JAMES D. TANNER,  
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,  
Adjutant General.

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