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HEADQUARTERS
42D INFANTRY DIVISION

GENERAL ORDERS)

APO 411, U. S. ARMY.

NUMBER 56)

23 February 1946.

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

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:

Leonard E. Creo, 12 123 727, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in action on 5 January 1945, at Strasbourg, France. When the enemy made a determined attempt to cross the Rhine River at Strasbourg, France, Private Creo operated his light machine gun singlehandedly, constantly changing his position to escape the intense mortar and artillery fire. Alternately operating his machine gun and automatic rifle from completely exposed positions in the face of murderous machine gun and artillery fire, he repeatedly repelled enemy landings. As the enemy forces withdrew under cover of heavy artillery fire, he was seriously wounded by shell fragments. Private Creo's indomitable courage and aggressiveness played a major role in repulsing the attacking forces. Entered military service from Hollis, Long Island, New York.

James E. Kanost, 37 711 252, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. When one of his comrades was seriously wounded and lying in an open area exposed to intense enemy fire, Private Kanost made several attempts to rescue him, but was beaten back by hail of grenades and bullets. Later, when reinforcements were sent up to augment the firepower, he took command of the new men and proceeded to lead them to the patrol leader's position. Although wounded by an enemy mine, he tenaciously continued to advance until he made contact with his officer. Private Kanost's exceptional courage and unflinching determination played a major role in the successful completion of the patrol's mission. Entered military service from Wauneta, Nebraska.

Emery L. Minier, 35 587 738, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 17 March 1945, near Philippsburg, France. During the general offensive through the Hardt Mountains, Private Minier was a member of a small combat patrol whose mission was to destroy enemy positions holding up the advance of Company I. As the patrol approached the enemy emplacements, they were met by an intense hail of machine gun and small arms fire which inflicted several casualties and pinned the group down. Private Minier fearlessly braved the murderous fire to aid a wounded comrade and carry him back to the safety of our lines. Once there, the information of the enemy which he transmitted enabled his company to neutralize the positions and continue its advance. Entered military service from Magadore, Ohio.

Arthur T. Redding, 37 744 189, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When his antitank squad was subjected to the murderous fire of an enemy ambush while moving into position near

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Wurzburg, Germany, Private Redding, with utter disregard for his own safety, made his way to a nearby truck. Opening fire with the vehicle's exposed anti-aircraft machine gun he pinned down the enemy force, thus enabling his squad to withdraw from the area. Through his great daring and unflinching devotion to duty, Private Redding turned a would-be disaster into an enemy rout. Entered military service from Grand Island, Nebraska.

Joseph W. Vasilauskas, 32 452 080, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company G, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 7 March 1945, at Wingen, France. While on a reconnaissance patrol deep into enemy territory, Sergeant Vasilauskas observed that one of his men had been seriously wounded in the foot after stepping on an enemy sub-mine. Completely disregarding his personal safety, he assisted two other soldiers to carry the man back to our lines as the enemy opened fire with machine guns and rifles. Braving the deadly fire, he continued across open terrain until the injured man had been safely evacuated to the rear for medical treatment. Sergeant Vasilauskas' courageous action and unswerving devotion to duty undoubtedly saved his wounded comrade from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Hillside, New Jersey.

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:

Raymond E. Bailey, 39 586 461, Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, at Gamsheim, France. While Company E was advancing through the fire-swept streets of Gamsheim, France, they were halted by intense fire from an enemy machine gun. Disregarding the deadly fire, Sergeant Bailey fought his way from house to house until he was close enough to throw hand grenades into the enemy emplacement, killing the gunners. Entering the building, he captured a sniper on the upper floor and took an additional ten prisoners from the cellar. Sergeant Bailey's courageous action and aggressive determination in the face of superior odds played a major role in the rapid capitulation of the town. Entered military service from Dallas, Texas.

WILBERT F. KLEIN, 02-0061907, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 16 March 1945, in the Hardt Mountains, France. During the general offensive through the Hardt Mountains, Lieutenant Klein was ordered to hold his newly gained objective at all costs. When the enemy launched a violent counterattack, supported by tank and artillery fire, against his positions, he was painfully wounded. Refusing medical aid, he remained with his men throughout the attack, encouraging them to hold their positions until the German thrust had been successfully repelled. Through his heroic action and intrepid devotion to duty, Lieutenant Klein was an inspiration to the men fighting with him. Entered military service from Sterling, Colorado.

Olindo D. Marcantonio, 37 702 175, Private First Class, Infantry, Company C, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 10 April 1945, near Echendorf, Germany. While leading a motorized contact patrol near Echendorf, Germany, Private Marcantonio arrived at an outpost as the Germans launched an attack against the beleaguered defenders. Leading his men in a flanking maneuver, he opened fire on the enemy. When the firing ceased, he made a search of the area

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and captured the only remaining member of the patrol. Through his great daring and selfless determination, Private Marcantonio played a major role in the elimination of a threat to our defense of a vital bridge across the Main River. Entered military service from Frederick, Colorado.

Marvin M. Sanders, 38 682 294, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company E, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 25 April 1945, at Donauworth, Germany. During the attack on Donauworth, Germany, our armored column was subjected to heavy enemy machine gun and panzerfaust fire. Realizing the necessity for immediate action, Sergeant Sanders organized his squad for a flanking maneuver against the hostile positions. Although seriously wounded while moving forward, he led his squad in two hours of house-to-house fighting and finally succeeded in silencing the enemy opposition. Through his indomitable courage and aggressive leadership, Sergeant Sanders played a major role in the successful attack. Entered military service from Dallas, Texas.

DONALD E. SCHAEZEL, O 549 511, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company C, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 5 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. While leading his company in an attack against enemy positions on the outskirts of Wurzburg, Germany, Lieutenant Schaezel braved deadly enemy machine gun fire covering the area to make his way up and down the company line, personally encouraging each rifleman. When he saw a wounded soldier lying in an area covered by murderous enemy fire, he made his way to the side of the wounded man and interposed his body between the soldier and the beaten zone of the fire. Administering first aid, he then supervised the evacuation of the wounded man to the rear for medical treatment. Through his indomitable courage and heroic devotion to duty, Lieutenant Schaezel was an inspiration to the men fighting around him. Entered military service from Fargo, North Dakota.

JOHN C STECK, O1 295 450, Captain, Infantry, Company E, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 11 April 1945, at Schweinfurt, Germany. During the attack of our forces against the well-defended city of Schweinfurt, Germany, the enemy subjected Captain Steck's company to an intense concentration of mortar, artillery, and automatic weapons fire, pinning them down. Realizing the imperativeness for pressing the attack, Captain Steck fearlessly exposed himself to the murderous fire, encouraging his men and inspiring them to continue their advance. By his indomitable courage and heroic aggressiveness, Captain Steck played a major role in the successful capitulation of the city. Entered military service from Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Harmon Watts, 38 541 702, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 March 1945, at Schonau, Germany. When he heard a wounded soldier calling for help during a heavy enemy artillery shelling of Schonau, Germany, Corporal Watts, with utter disregard for his own safety, made his way through the barrage to the side of the wounded men. After administering first aid, he made three round trips through the murderous fire to evacuate the wounded to the medical aid station for treatment. Through his outstanding courage and selfless determination, Corporal Watts saved three wounded comrades from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Houston, Texas.

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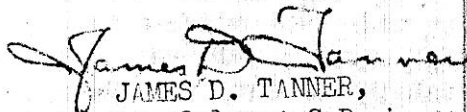
III. AWARD OF THE SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL:---By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:

John J Joniec, 16 114 976, Corporal (then Private First Class), Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 25-26 January 1945, in Hageunau, France. During an intense artillery concentration on his company's positions at Hageunau, France, Private Joniec noticed a wounded man lying exposed to the deadly barrage. Braving the intense fire, he crawled to the side of the injured soldier, carried him to a safe position, and administered first aid. While preparing to move the patient to the medical aid station, an artillery shell exploded nearby, wounding Private Joniec, and his platoon sergeant and killing the already wounded infantryman. Despite the wound, he then gave medical aid to the sergeant and evacuated him to the aid station. Private Joniec's outstanding courage and aggressive determination were an inspiration to his comrades and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. Entered military service from Hamtramck, Michigan.

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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