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HEADQUARTERS
42D INFANTRY DIVISION

GENERAL ORDERS)

AGO 411, U. S. ARMY,

NUMBER 75)

26 March 1946.

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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 the following:

Max M. Mrotek, 36 981 264, Sergeant, Infantry, Company C, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 March 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. During the advance of our forces toward the city of Wurzburg, Germany, the leading element of Company C were attacked by a strong enemy force which inflicted numerous casualties on our troops. Sergeant Mrotek, with complete disregard for his personal safety, advanced through the intense machine gun, small arms, and grenade fire to the side of one of the casualties and brought him back to a waiting truck. Then, making another trip down a fire-swept street, he carried one more of the wounded back to safety. Sergeant Mrotek's exceptional courage and selfless determination undoubtedly saved the lives of the two men and reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces. Entered military service from Menitowoc, Wisconsin.

George C. Weimer, 13 201 383, Staff Sergeant (then Private), Infantry, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 January 1945, near Sessenheim, France. When the rifle platoon of which Private Weimer was a member launched a tank supported attack against the town of Sessenheim, France, it was repulsed by intense enemy panzerfaust, machine gun, and small arms fire. Noticing a man lying wounded and exposed to the deadly barrage, Private Weimer unhesitatingly advanced to attempt to rescue the casualty. Fearlessly braving the murderous machine gun cross-fire, he reached the man's side and quickly applied a tourniquet to his severely bleeding leg. He then carried him back to a position of safety across the same fire-swept terrain. Private Weimer's exceptional courage and selfless determination undoubtedly saved his wounded comrade from suffering further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

II. 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 :

Edwin Burgher, Jr., 32 943 163, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 25 January 1945, near Ohlungen, France. When his company was pinned down by intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire, Sergeant Burgher unhesitatingly exposed himself to deploy his men in advantageous positions. When one of the automatic riflemen was killed, he picked up the weapon and placed an effective neutralizing fire on the enemy until a sudden concentration of machine gun fire wounded him fatally. Sergeant Burgher's indomitable courage and aggressiveness reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Irene Burgher

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self to the deadly fire in order to reach a position from which he could adjust mortar fire on the enemy. Setting up his radio in an uncovered position, he directed such devastating fire on the enemy emplacements that one of the machine guns was destroyed and the other forced to displace to a less favorable position. Sergeant Frost's courageous and aggressive action played an important role in enabling the riflemen to continue their successful advance. Entered military service from Dallas, Texas.

Rogelio Garza, 38 061 162, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Company I, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 24 January 1945, near Dauendorf, France. While on guard at Dauendorf, France, Corporal Garza noticed a man lying wounded and exposed to intense enemy artillery fire. Fearlessly braving the deadly hail of shrapnel, he advanced to the injured man's side and rapidly administered first aid to him. As he started to evacuate the casualty, two enemy machine guns opened fire from 300 yards, hitting into the snow all about him. Picking his comrade up in his arms, Corporal Garza walked two hundred yards through the intense machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire until he reached a position of safety with his burden. By his indomitable courage and selfless devotion to duty, he undoubtedly saved his wounded comrade from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.

Carrol H. Gropel, 36 825 244, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 29 April 1945, near Dachau, Germany. During the advance of our forces against the infamous concentration camp at Dachau, Germany, the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon was halted by a hasty mine field constructed across the only road. Realizing the cost in lives of a delay, Private Gropel unhesitatingly dismounted from his vehicle and advanced into the deadly area. Picking up the mines in his hands, he continued down the road until he had cleared a passage wide enough for our vehicles to pass. Private Gropel's courageous action and aggressive determination in singlehandedly clearing the dangerous mine field enabled his regiment to continue its successful attack. Entered military service from Tomah, Wisconsin.

George O. Mixell, 35 840 427, Private First Class, Infantry, Company E, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945, near Furth, Germany. When his squad leader was seriously wounded while on a reconnaissance patrol outside of Furth, Germany, Private Mixell left his position of cover and crossed two hundred yards of open terrain under intense machine gun and rifle fire to secure aid. Returning across the same dangerous territory with an aid man, he provided covering fire while his comrade administered first aid and then evacuated the wounded man. Private Mixell's courageous action and selfless determination undoubtedly saved the injured infantryman from suffering further injury of possible death. Entered military service from Dunkirk, Indiana.

James J. Murphy, 39 135 718, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company H, 232d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945, near Kilstett, France. During the fierce fighting around Kilstett, France, Sergeant Murphy and a French soldier were withdrawing across an open field under intense machine gun, sniper, artillery, and mortar fire, when the Frenchman was suddenly wounded. Dropping the machine gun tripod which he was carrying, Sergeant Murphy immediately went to the aid of the wounded man, assisting him to a place of safety and rendering first aid. Then he proceeded back into the open area under continued heavy fire, recovered his tripod, and returned to the new position of his gun squad. Sergeant Murphy's courageous and aggressive action reflects great credit upon himself and the armed forces. Entered military service from San Jose, California.

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Fred Shouse, 35 003 356, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 9 April 1945, near Wurzburg, Germany. When the rifle troops he was supporting with machine gun fire were held up by intense enemy fire, Private Shouse rapidly spotted the location of the machine gun holding up the advance. Moving his weapon to an exposed position, he directed a steady stream of fire on the enemy emplacement. Despite the intense hail of bullets riddling the building he was occupying, he remained in position and continued to fire until the enemy weapon was completely silenced. By his courageous determination, Private Shouse enabled the rifle platoon to continue its advance and overrun the enemy positions. Entered military service from Jackson Kentucky.

Paul J. Vlcen, 17 165 114, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 24 January 1945, near Neuberg, France. While laying a series of trip flares in front of our main line of resistance near Neuberg, France, Private Vlcen's squad came under intense artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. Realizing that the mission could not be completed due to the severe casualties, Private Vlcen re-organized the squad, led them back to a prearranged meeting point, and assisted in evacuating the casualties to this location. After the wounded were evacuated to the medical aid station, he voluntarily continued to guard vital points around the command post and to supply ammunition to the front lines all the following day and night. Private Vlcen's exceptional courage and aggressive determination played a major role in the successful defense of the sector. Entered military service from Monowi, Nebraska.

GEORGE B. WATERS, O 526 496, Captain (then First Lieutenant), Infantry, Cannon Company, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 20 March 1945 near Ludwigswinkel, Germany. When Antitank Company was pinned down by intense machine gun and rifle fire while advancing against the vaunted German West Wall, Lieutenant Waters, accompanied by a soldier, proceeded on a reconnaissance to search for routes to by-pass the resistance. As fire from one of the machine guns made it impossible to continue, he opened fire with his carbine, drawing the enemy attention, while the enlisted man circled to the rear. Although exposed to the deadly fire, he held his position, enabling his companion to approach within grenade distance and destroy the enemy emplacement. By his outstanding courage and unflinching determination, Lieutenant Waters opened a path for our forces to flank the other positions unmolested. Entered military service from Rome, New York.

Carl Wilferling, 36 734 668, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, at Wurzburg, Germany. When his company's advance through the fire-swept street of Wurzburg, Germany, was halted by intense machine gun and rifle fire, Private Wilferling advanced through the deadly fire to a position from which he could bring fire to bear on the enemy. Maneuvering in the face of the murderous barrage, he fired two bazooka rounds into the emplacement, killing two and wounding one of the enemy. Private Wilferling's fearless aggressiveness enabled his company to continue its successful advance through the heavily defended city. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

IV. 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

Lemoyne Anderson, 37 600 959, Private First Class, Infantry, Company B, 222nd

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Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, in Wurzburg, Germany. When his company was halted in its advance through the fire-swept streets of Wurzburg, Germany, by intense machine gun and small arms fire, Private Anderson accompanied his squad in an attempt to eliminate the enemy positions. While flanking the enemy stronghold, the squad was pinned down by the increasing fire. Private Anderson, fearlessly braving the hail of bullets striking all about him, crawled fifty yards across the open terrain and opened fire on the enemy positions, killing two, wounding one, and dispersing the remainder. By his exceptional courage and aggressive determination, he enabled his company to continue its successful advance through the city. Entered military service from Lake Norden, South Dakota.

John H. Vilga, Jr., 33 761 122, Private First Class, Infantry, Company L, 222d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 24 January 1945, at Dauendorf, France. While on outpost guard at Dauendorf, France, Private Vilga noticed a man lying wounded and exposed to intense enemy artillery fire. Fearlessly braving the deadly hail of shrapnel, he advanced to the injured man's side and rapidly administered first aid to him. As he tried to evacuate him, two enemy machine guns opened fire from 300 yards, hitting into the snow all about him. Picking his comrade up in his arms, Private Vilga walked two hundred yards through the intense machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire until he reached a position of safety with his burden. By his indomitable courage and selfless devotion to duty, he undoubtedly saved his wounded comrade from further injury or possible death. Entered military service from Central City, Pennsylvania.


V. AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART:#... By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded to the following for wounds received in action against the enemy:

Henry W. Mosca, 31 466 316, Private First Class, Infantry, Company F, 330th Infantry Regiment, 19 April 1945, at Hartz Mountains, Germany.

By Command of Major General COLLINS:

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

OFFICIAL:


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

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