

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 13TH AIRBORNE DIVISION  
APO 333, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 12 )

30 April 1945

Award of Bronze Star Medal (Oak-Leaf Cluster) ----- Section I  
Award of Bronze Star Medal ----- Section II  
Award of Bronze Star Medal ----- Section III

I -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER) -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to Letter, Headquarters, Oise Intermediate Section, Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", file AG 200.6 (G-1), dated 24 April 1945, in addition to the Bronze Star Medal previously awarded, a bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to:

First Lieutenant Worthington J. Thompson, O1 042 447, 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. First Lieutenant Thompson's position was attacked by two Tiger Royal Tanks and a reinforced company of enemy, forcing Battery "B" to evacuate several houses on the outskirts of St. Jacques, Belgium. Despite direct fire on him, First Lieutenant Thompson established an observation post in the attic of a nearby house and by peering through a hole made by one of the enemy shells, directed fire on the attacking force. His skillful maneuvering of 155 howitzer fire by sound, demolished two houses 65 yards from him, killing many of the enemy. He then concentrated his efforts on the two tanks and caused them to scurry for protection in the woods outside of town. Contemptuous of 88 millimeter shells hitting his observation post, he continued to move the fire and adjusted on the enemy reorganizing south of the town. His fire for effect killed 60 Germans and completely broke up the counterattack. Entered the military service from New York City, New York.

II -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to Letter, Headquarters, Oise Intermediate Section, Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", file AG 200.6 (G-1), dated 24 April 1945, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named personnel:

Corporal Joseph A. Della Fave, 32 598 990, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 10 January 1945, at 1700 hours, Company "I", 517th Parachute Infantry, in the vicinity of Hourt, Belgium, Corporal Della Fave was hit and severely wounded in the knee. After receiving medical aid, he was left lying in the snow waiting to be evacuated. Four enemy appeared, captured him and carried him back to their position, where he was searched and questioned. The enemy asked him where his comrades were. Remembering that there was a machine gun covering a road leading out of town, Corporal Della Fave unhesitatingly pointed toward the machine gun. Enroute to the house, two of the enemy were killed and the third wounded by the machine gun. Seizing this opportunity, Corporal Della Fave, with great courage, initiative and coolness, ordered the enemy guarding him to surrender. His cool and courageous actions are a great credit to the military service. Entered the military service from Newark, New Jersey.

Private First Class Sheldon L. Donovan, 36 564 885, 517th Parachute Infantry, for heroic achievement in action. On 16 August 1944, Company "H", 517th Parachute Infantry, was advancing through a valley toward Les Arcs, France. Heavy small arms fire was encountered. Private First Class Donovan and the First Sergeant were maintaining radio contact with the Battalion. As they were advancing

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with the radio toward better cover, the First Sergeant was wounded. Private First Class Donovan, with disregard for his own safety, went back under fire and carried the First Sergeant to cover. There the First Sergeant died. Private First Class Donovan then secured the Sergeant's dispatch case, containing maps and other important papers, and crawled and ran over 300 yards under enemy fire to the rest of the Company. Private First Class Donovan then joined a patrol and led them to a German position and aided in destroying the machine gun nest. Private First Class Donovan's display of courage was an inspiration to his fellow soldiers. Entered the military service from Fort Custer, Michigan.

Staff Sergeant Troy Eagans, 39 911 458, (then Corporal) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 25 December 1944, Company "A", 517th Parachute Infantry, was ordered to attack Soy, Belgium. As the company moved into the attack, it was pinned down by intense machine gun fire. Staff Sergeant Eagans, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved through the heavy fire to a position 50 yards in front of the lead scout and started directing mortar fire on the enemy guns. While in this advance position, Staff Sergeant Eagans was attacked by six enemy riflemen, and armed with only a carbine, he killed two of them and forced the others to withdraw. He then continued directing mortar fire until a flank patrol could knock out the guns. The company moved forward and took its objective. Staff Sergeant Eagans's disregard for personal safety was a great credit to himself and the service. Entered the military service from Boise, Idaho.

Private John J. Griffin, 32 932 233, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 3 January 1945, Company "E", 517th Parachute Infantry, was given the mission of capturing the town of Monte de Fosse, Belgium. The platoon, of which Private Griffin was a member, was assigned the mission of flanking the town and entering from the left rear. Private Griffin spotted two machine guns which were inflicting heavy casualties on his platoon. He immediately picked up a Browning Automatic Rifle, which a wounded man had dropped, and opened fire. Although completely exposed, Private Griffin continued to fire, silencing both guns. This enabled the platoon to reform and continue the attack. Later examination showed that both enemy guns had been shattered by the fire from Private Griffin's Browning Automatic Rifle. His action was an inspiration to his comrades in arms and reflects great credit upon himself as a soldier. Entered the military service from Buffalo, New York.

Staff Sergeant Ralph R. Grizzle, 16 019 589, (then Private First Class) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 27 December 1944, at 0225 hours, Company "I", 517th Parachute Infantry, participated in an attack on the enemy held town of Manhay, Belgium. The First Platoon was given the mission of driving the enemy from houses in the northern section of the town. Staff Sergeant Grizzle, without orders and with utter disregard for his own personal safety, crawled to a comrade and asked him to give covering fire while he moved to the house. Staff Sergeant Grizzle then moved up the ditch to the house and, exposing himself to enemy fire, crossed a road and moved to a position in rear of the house. From this position, he threw three grenades into the windows and then fired his rifle through the door. This action resulted in the killing of one, wounding of three, and the capture of ten enemy. His courage is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Bloomington, Illinois.

Staff Sergeant Harry J. Hewitt, 36 657 017, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 17 January 1945, Company "G", Third Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry, was occupying defensive positions in the town of Pateaus, Belgium. At approximately 1700 hours, the company was subjected to a very heavy artillery and mortar barrage which caused many casualties.



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Due to the numerous casualties it was impossible for the litter bearers to evacuate all of the wounded. Staff Sergeant Hewitt volunteered and received permission to help them and, with utter disregard for his own safety, he made several trips through heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire, carrying wounded men to the aid station on his shoulders. The unselfishness and courage of Staff Sergeant Hewitt are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Staff Sergeant Hewitt entered the military service from Chicago, Illinois.

First Lieutenant John M. Hill, O 436 749, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 4 January 1945, the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion was attacking north of Basse Bodeux, Belgium, as part of the 517th Parachute Infantry. Lieutenant Hill and one man went into the area and first received fire from a woods to their left. Lieutenant Hill then went ahead with complete disregard for his own personal safety and attacked this German position. He captured two Germans and, turning them over to the man with him, proceeded on his reconnaissance. He was fired on again from a position 300 yards from the first German position. Lieutenant Hill worked his way around to the position that had fired on him. There he captured two more Germans and sent them back to the Company Command Post with the soldier who had been guarding the other two prisoners. Lieutenant Hill then proceeded on his reconnaissance, selecting the positions, and returning to the Company Command Post. Lieutenant Hill's heroic actions resulted in clearing an area of potential danger of Germans. Entered the military service from Erie, Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Arnold P. Klingelhoef, 36 483 789, (then Private) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 3 January 1945, Company "E", 517th Parachute Infantry, was assigned the mission of taking the town of Monte de Fosse, Belgium. Sergeant Klingelhoef was acting medical aid man attached to an assault platoon, and in the initial phase of the attack was wounded in the leg by a shell fragment. He refused to be evacuated at the time as there was no one else with the platoon to administer first aid. During the attack, Sergeant Klingelhoef rendered first aid to his comrades, although he, himself, was in great pain. When the fighting had quieted down, Sergeant Klingelhoef allowed himself to be evacuated to the aid station. His devotion to duty and heroic sacrifice were an inspiration to his fellow soldiers and reflects credit upon the military service. Entered the military service from Bellville, Illinois.

Private First Class Donald L. Knapp, 37 555 527, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 23 December 1944, the first platoon, Company "A", 517th Parachute Infantry, was attacking the town of Hotton, Belgium. Private First Class Knapp was radio operator for his platoon and the only means of communication for his company. While Private First Class Knapp was trying to contact the Company Command Post to request supporting fire from mortars on the enemy machine guns to his front, very heavy concentrations of enemy mortar fire fell on Private First Class Knapp's position and his radio was destroyed. Private First Class Knapp braved the heavy mortar fire and ran the message back 500 yards to the Company Command Post. After delivering the message, Private First Class Knapp placed himself in a position exposed to enemy shelling and sniper fire and, acting as a relay between his platoon and the Command Post, adjusted the supporting mortar fire on the enemy and continued to adjust the fire until three machine guns and two machine pistols were put out of action. Although injured, Private First Class Knapp refused to leave his platoon for medical aid until the attack was completed and the objective secured. Private First Class Knapp's daring actions and outstanding devotion to duty reflect great credit on himself and the military service. Entered the military service from Renville, North Dakota.

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Private Wilburn J. Lewis, 34 674 375, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 3 January 1945, the platoon of which Private Lewis was a member had the mission of attacking the town of Monte de Fosse, Belgium. During the assault the platoon ran into heavy concentrations of machine gun and mortar fire which inflicted heavy casualties. Private Lewis, seeing that two of the men would undoubtedly die unless given medical aid, voluntarily returned to the open field and carried them 200 yards to safety. Upon his return from bringing in these two men, Private Lewis learned that the Platoon Leader was missing. He returned to the open field and succeeded in finding and carrying his Platoon Leader to safety. Private Lewis, by his utter disregard for his personal safety and his devotion to duty, has been an inspiration to the unit, and his actions reflect great credit upon him as a soldier. Entered the military service from Asheboro, North Carolina.

Private First Class Joseph F. Locke, 31 070 786, (then Private) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 1 January 1945, at Brume, Belgium, two infantry battalions moved through Company "B", 517th Parachute Infantry, into an attack. These units met heavy enemy resistance a few hundred yards from the Company "B" positions, and suffered heavy casualties. Not having adequate medical personnel to handle this emergency and no fast means of evacuation, Private First Class Locke acted upon his own initiative and set up an aid station to care for the wounded. He went onto the field of battle on three different occasions, under small arms, mortar, and artillery fire and carried back three wounded men. While doing so, he was fired on by enemy machine guns, mortars, and artillery, but with utter disregard for his own safety, he continued his work. Entered the military service from Providence, Rhode Island.

Private First Class William A. MacRae, 32 847 518, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 24 December 1944, the third platoon of Company "C", 517th Parachute Infantry, was in the vicinity of Gey, Belgium. There was no aid man with the platoon and the numerous casualties were getting no attention. Private First Class MacRae, a rifleman, volunteered to act as aid man for the platoon. He moved out into an open field six times to bring in wounded men and then administer first aid. After the fight was over and the wounded men taken to the aid station, the Battalion Surgeon praised Private First Class MacRae's work very highly and said that he had undoubtedly saved the lives of two men. The initiative and disregard for personal safety displayed by Private First Class MacRae are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Syracuse, New York.

Sergeant Raymond E. Markley, 15 120 546, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. At 0930 hours, 28 December 1944, Company "H", 517th Parachute Infantry, was in the vicinity of Manhay, Belgium. An American tank was burning and was full of live 75 millimeter ammunition. Realizing the danger of these high explosives being so close to the platoon, Sergeant Markley volunteered to get inside the tank with a fire extinguisher and put the blaze out before the ammunition exploded, knowing that should the smoldering projectiles ignite, it would mean certain death for him. He fought the fire for about 20 minutes in the burning tank before it was finally extinguished. The enemy was shelling Manhay at the time, making the task still more hazardous. Sergeant Markley's courageous action was an inspiration to the men of his company. Entered the military service from Columbia, Ohio.



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Private First Class James B. Nichols, 34 813 359, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 17 January 1945, Company "G", 517th Parachute Infantry, was subjected to a heavy artillery and mortar barrage while occupying positions in Pateaux, Belgium. Private First Class Nichols was painfully and severely wounded by mortar shrapnel. His platoon leader was severely wounded by the same shell. Private First Class Nichols, disregarding his own condition and the continuing barrage, carried his platoon leader seventy-five yards to the shelter of a building and administered first aid to him. He stayed with his platoon leader until he could be evacuated. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Ensley, Alabama.

First Lieutenant Thomas F. Patin, 01 293 100, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 15 August 1944, First Lieutenant Patin landed by parachute behind the enemy lines near Le Muy, France, with the 517th Parachute Infantry. First Lieutenant Patin voluntarily sought a position with the lead scouts during the move through enemy positions to the Battalion objective. After moving a few hundred yards, First Lieutenant Patin observed troops but was unable to determine whether they were Allied or German due to the poor visibility. He advanced, but at a distance of 100 yards from the observed troops, he was fired upon by German machine guns and machine pistols. First Lieutenant Patin took cover and observed the enemy dispositions, then withdrew under heavy small arms fire to the Second Battalion and reported the enemy strength and dispositions. Using this information, the Battalion was able to bypass the enemy without loss of time or men. Entered the military service from Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.

Private William A. Petryna, 6 830 349, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 8 February 1945, in the vicinity of Bergstein, Germany, Company "E", 517th Parachute Infantry, was occupying defensive positions south of the town. The company's position was subjected to heavy mortar, rifle grenade, and small arms fire and casualty rates were very high. The only means of evacuation was by stretcher over an exposed route. Private Petryna volunteered to be a stretcher bearer, and helped several of the wounded to the rear. Private Petryna then led medical jeeps to close positions for evacuation. Private Petryna was wounded by shrapnel from enemy mortar fire, but refused to be evacuated until he was sure that all the wounded were safely out of danger. For this action, Private Petryna established himself in the hearts of his fellow men. Entered the military service from Chicago, Illinois.

Private First Class Ervin J. Yackim, 36 740 616, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 25 December 1944, Company "A", 517th Parachute Infantry, with a platoon of tanks attached, was attacking the enemy which had isolated friendly troops in Hotton, Belgium. The enemy was in the woods directly in front of the company. This made it necessary for the attack to be made across an open field with the tanks in the lead. In the middle of the open field one of our tanks was set afire by enemy artillery. Private First Class Yackim, hearing the tank occupants cry for help, raced across the open field, under the intense enemy artillery, mortar and tank fire, and started to climb inside the tank when another direct hit from an enemy tank knocked him unconscious and prevented him from rescuing the occupants. Private First Class Yackim's heroic attempt to rescue his fellow soldiers with disregard for his own personal safety brought high praise from all who witnessed the act. Entered the military service from Summit, Illinois.

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First Lieutenant Robert J. Reber, OI 289 805, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 10 September 1944, the Third Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry, attacked Col de Braus, France. The 81 millimeter mortar platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Reber, was to support this attack from positions on the reverse slope of an adjacent hill. After Lieutenant Reber's platoon fired a few concentrations they were subjected to a very heavy counter-barrage of enemy artillery. Although stunned by the concussion of a shell, Lieutenant Reber quickly regained his own composure and reorganized his men so that all of his mortars were again firing within a few minutes. He then personally gave first aid to a number of wounded soldiers and moved them to a covered position. This supporting fire was of great assistance in taking the objective with a minimum number of casualties. Entered the military service from Caledonia, Michigan.

Corporal George A. Sullivan, 36 652 972, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 18 January 1945, a patrol of five men, under Corporal Sullivan, was sent to contact the 290th Infantry pushing through Petit-Thiere, Belgium. After moving out about 500 yards the patrol ran into some enemy who had been forced out of the town. Immediately putting his patrol into action, he killed five of the enemy and took three prisoners. Sending the three prisoners back with one of his men, Corporal Sullivan moved up the road about 200 yards when he spotted more enemy being pushed out of the town. Corporal Sullivan deployed his men on both sides of the road and had them fire their rifles as fast as possible. Approximately two platoons surrendered and elements of the 290th Infantry took the town. Entered the military service from Chicago, Illinois.

Sergeant Joseph W. Tylka, 33 483 833, (then Technician Fifth Grade) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. At 1200 hours, 11 September 1944, Company "H", 517th Parachute Infantry, was moving into position on the high ground north of Col de Braus, France. The company rounded a curve in the trail and received machine gun and mortar fire which wounded six men. The company commander ordered the leading platoon to withdraw. The platoon reached a covered position with five wounded men and discovered that one seriously wounded man had been left behind. Sergeant Tylka, on his own initiative, went back to the abandoned position, and under fire, picked up the wounded man and carried him to a spot 150 yards away where his wounds could be cared for, thereby saving his life. The loyalty and sincere actions and disregard for his personal safety displayed by Sergeant Tylka reflect credit upon himself and upon the military service. Entered the military service from Reading, Pennsylvania.

Private First Class Vincent L. Vondrzyk, 33 767 789, (then Private) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 17 January 1945, Company "G", 517th Parachute Infantry, was occupying defensive positions in the town of Pateaux, Belgium. At 1700 hours, the company received a very heavy and devastating artillery and mortar barrage. Private First Class Vondrzyk volunteered to man a very critical and dangerous machine gun position on a road leading into town which was at this time under heavy enemy mortar fire. His gun having become damaged, Private First Class Vondrzyk located another gun and carrying it through the heavy mortar barrage put it in action in his original position. Private First Class Vondrzyk's actions reflect the highest qualities of a soldier. Entered the military service from Crecent, Pennsylvania.

*one of my boys -*  
Private First Class Per R. Wahlstrom, 39 699 409, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 16 August 1944, near Les Arcs, France, Private First Class Wahlstrom was assigned to an outpost position on the left flank of the Second Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry. On arrival at the outpost position, Private First Class Wahlstrom noted an enemy communication wire strung on poles running in the direction of the enemy. Private First Class Wahlstrom moved forward, climbed the pole, and cut the wire. While climbing the pole, he was fired on by enemy small arms but persisted in his mission.



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When the Germans attempted to repair the wire, Private First Class Wahlstrom killed three of them and the others withdrew without accomplishing their mission. Private First Class Wahlstrom's display of courage, initiative, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Los Angeles, California.

III — AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL — Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to Letter, Headquarters, Oise Intermediate Section, Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", file AG 200.6 (G-1), dated 24 April 1945, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named personnel:

Master Sergeant Douglas Emmons, 18 062 511, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy of the United States from 22 December 1944 to 9 February 1945, in Belgium and Germany. Entered the military service from Houston, Texas.

First Lieutenant Robert T. Greene, O 302 048, 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy of the United States from 11 August 1944 to 10 February 1945. Entered the military service from South Dakota.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CHAPMAN:

HUGH P. HARRIS,  
Colonel, G.S.C.,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

  
S. A. LEWIS,  
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,  
Adjutant General.

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HEADQUARTERS 13TH AIRBORNE DIVISION  
APO 333, U. S. Army

H. T. E. Patin

5125

Reg 1/9

19 May 1945

GENERAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 15 )

Award of Silver Star (Posthumous)	Section I
Award of Silver Star	Section II
Award of Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous)	Section III
Award of Bronze Star Medal	Section IV
Award of Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous)	Section V

I -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS) -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to Letter, Headquarters, Gise Intermediate Section, Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", file AG 200.6 (G-1), dated 24 April 1945, the Silver Star is awarded posthumously to the following named personnel for gallantry in action against the enemy of the United States:

Captain James P. Birder, O 480 407, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 27 December 1944, at 0235 hours, Company "I", 517th Parachute Infantry, was to attack the enemy held town of Mannay, Belgium. As the company moved up to the line of departure, approximately three hundred yards northeast of the town, the artillery began firing; the shells fell short, killing 12 of our men, and wounding 33, including one platoon leader. This shelling, by our own artillery, completely disorganized and confused the company. Captain Birder quickly reorganized his men and moved into the attack. On reaching the outskirts of town, the company came under heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. With utter disregard for his own personal safety, Captain Birder moved among the men, encouraging them and urging them to move forward. Inspired by his courage, and coolness under fire, the company moved forward and successfully completed the mission. Captain Birder's courage, coolness under fire, and vigor were an inspiration to all the men in his command. Captain Birder was killed in subsequent action. Entered the military service from South Bend, Indiana.

Private Richard L. Lyman, 35 625 596, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 5 January 1945, at 0400 hours, the second platoon, Company "H", 517th Parachute Infantry, was ordered to reinforce Company "C", east of Bergeval, Belgium. The platoon moved into position and was ordered to send a squad out as a combat and reconnaissance patrol. Private Lyman, acting squad leader, volunteered to take his squad on the patrol. The patrol advanced approximately 500 yards toward the position occupied by Company "C" when it was subjected to heavy small arms fire from enemy soldiers protecting a mortar position. With utter disregard for his own safety, Private Lyman moved forward and calmly led and directed his squad in an attack on the enemy positions. Private Lyman, moving forward, killed five of the enemy before he was mortally wounded. Private Lyman's gallant and courageous leadership won the admiration of his comrades and was an inspiration to all who served with him. Entered the military service from Worthington, Ohio.

II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to Letter, Headquarters, Gise Intermediate Section, Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", file AG 200.6 (G-1), dated 24 April 1945, the Silver Star is awarded to the following named personnel for gallantry in action against the enemy of the United States:

Private First Class Jack O. Castiglione, 13 096 830, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 17 October 1944, a combat patrol of Company "I", 517th Parachute Infantry, was ordered to destroy an

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enemy defensive position near Piera Cava, France. When the patrol of which Private First Class Castiglione was a member, neared the objective, he volunteered to go forward alone and reconnoiter the area occupied by the enemy. This necessitated moving approximately 500 yards within the enemy lines. As soon as he had discovered the enemy situation he returned and led the entire patrol within a few feet of the positions occupied by enemy troops. During the ensuing fight, Private First Class Castiglione observed a group of ten enemy soldiers mount a machine gun on the right flank of the patrol. The gun had just started firing when Private First Class Castiglione, with utter disregard for his own safety, stood suddenly in an upright position, fearlessly exposing himself, and rushed the enemy position, killing three enemy and putting the rest of the flanking group to flight. Entered the military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Norman S. Fry, 6 943 223, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. At 1100 hours, 13 January 1945, Company "H", 517th Parachute Infantry moved forward to attack Butay, Belgium. As Sergeant Fry's squad moved in closer to the enemy held positions, the small arms fire became more intense and the enemy laid down a devastating barrage of mortar fire, which killed one man and wounded all but Sergeant Fry and one other man of his squad. Sergeant Fry, realizing that he needed more fire power, unhesitatingly and with utter disregard for his personal safety, moved to one of the wounded men and secured his Browning Automatic Rifle and ammunition. Rising to his feet he advanced boldly into the murderous machine gun fire, firing clip after clip with his Browning Automatic Rifle. His indomitable courage and fearlessness in exposing himself so completely confused and bewildered the enemy that he abandoned his positions and fled in disorder. Sergeant Fry's gallant action reflects the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from York, Pennsylvania.

Private First Class Clyde P. Guillott, 7 000 693, (then Private) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 3 January 1945, Company "D", 517th Parachute Infantry, was assigned the mission of attacking Treis Pons, Belgium. While the main body of the company was waiting for one of its platoons to get into position on the enemy flank, a man was seriously wounded. Several efforts were made by aid men to get to the wounded man, but due to fire directed at them they were unable to reach him. It soon became evident, from the actions of the wounded man, that if treatment was not administered to him immediately he would die. Private First Class Guillott and another man volunteered to attempt to render aid to the soldier. The two men crawled as far as possible toward the wounded soldier, then rose to their feet and ran to him. In clear view of the enemy, and under concentrated machine gun and rifle fire, they brought the man to a rear position where medical treatment could be rendered to him. Their courageous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Lafayette, Louisiana.

Captain Milton M. Kienlen, 01 822 015, (then First Lieutenant) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 5 January 1945, Company "A", 517th Parachute Infantry, was lead company in a battalion night attack. The objective was a hill one mile southeast of Bergeval, Belgium. Captain Kienlen, commanding Company "A", led his company through a very dense pine forest where it was virtually impossible to maintain contact. With patience, daring and the brilliance of a born leader, Captain Kienlen led his company undetected through this dense forest and past enemy outposts. The enemy was completely taken by surprise, apparently believing it was impossible for a force as large as a company to move unobserved into the position. Before the Germans could recover, Captain Kienlen's company had inflicted heavy casualties and forced them to withdraw from the hill. Throughout the entire attack Captain Kienlen's brilliant leadership and courage won for him the undying respect of his command. Entered the military service from Wynnewood, Pennsylvania.

Second Lieutenant Cecil T. Lockhart, 02 011 216, (then Staff Sergeant) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 15 January 1945, Company "C", 517th Parachute Infantry, was ordered to attack three



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houses on the outskirts of Coulee, Belgium. The lead squad, commanded by Second Lieutenant Lockhart, while moving up to assault the first house, was subjected to heavy machine gun and rifle fire which killed three men, wounded fourth and forced the rest of the squad to withdraw. The wounded man was unable to move, so Second Lieutenant Lockhart returned through the intense fire and carried him to a covered position where first aid could be administered. Second Lieutenant Lockhart was then given an additional squad, and by using one squad as a base of fire and moving the second squad in from the flank he took the objective, killing three Germans and capturing seventeen. Second Lieutenant Lockhart's disregard for his own safety, while taking care of the men in his squad, is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Indianapolis, Indiana.

First Lieutenant Russell F. Miller, 3 526 655, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 15 January 1945, Lieutenant Miller volunteered to lead a night reconnaissance patrol through a blinding snow storm to determine whether or not the enemy had a road block on the Petit Thier-Potteau Road, Belgium. The enemy was discovered apparently digging in near a cross road and the patrol halted. With complete disregard for his own safety and although challenged by a German sentry, Lieutenant Miller proceeded on through the enemy lines alone, weaving his way through the enemy positions sometimes at a distance of only a few feet. After returning to his patrol, he safely led it back through the snow. Lieutenant Miller reported his findings and an artillery barrage was laid down on the enemy positions forcing its evacuation. The courage and initiative of this officer were responsible for the elimination of an enemy strong point. Entered the military service from Des Moines, Iowa.

First Lieutenant Olvie J. Nunnery, 01 691 944, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 13 January 1945, at approximately 1100 hours, Company "H", 517th Parachute Infantry, moved forward to attack and take the enemy held high ground southeast of Butay, Belgium. As the company advanced it was pinned down by heavy machine gun and rifle fire from a patch of woods. The second platoon, led by Lieutenant Nunnery, was ordered to force the enemy from his position. Lieutenant Nunnery, disregarding the heavy enemy fire moved forward and led his platoon into the attack. As the attack started, the platoon was subjected to an intense mortar barrage and Lieutenant Nunnery was painfully wounded in the shoulder and leg. In spite of his wounds, Lieutenant Nunnery continued to lead his men forward and so inspired them by his own courage and gallantry, that they redoubled their efforts and the enemy was forced to flee in disorder. The withdrawal of the enemy, occasioned by this action, enabled the company to continue its mission. Lieutenant Nunnery's gallantry, courage, aggressiveness and coolness under fire were an inspiration to all serving with him. Entered the military service from Columbus, Kentucky.

Sergeant Glen H. Overmyer, 35 138 066 (then Private First Class) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 25 December 1944, the First Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry, was ordered to make an attack against the high ground southwest of Soy, Belgium. Contact was first made with the enemy when a sniper opened fire on Sergeant Overmyer. One bullet nicked his helmet but he rose to a half crouch and fired three shots, disposing of the sniper. Sergeant Overmyer then moved forward firing his M1, and killed the crew of a German heavy machine gun. He realized that unless an enemy machine gun about fifty yards to his left front was put out of action his platoon would be unable to move, so, placing a rifle grenade on his rifle, he crawled through the snow to a better position and fired. He then made a dash for the position and disposed of the crew with his rifle. The platoon, inspired by the work of this one man, moved forward so fast that the enemy position was quickly overrun. Entered the military service from Rochester, Indiana.

First Lieutenant Thomas F. Patin, 01 293 100, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. While ascending a barren hill in an attack on the town of Treis Pons, Belgium, 3 January 1945, Lieutenant Patin and



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his demolitions section were pinned down by a heavy artillery barrage. Disregarding his own safety, Lieutenant Patin proceeded forward in an effort to find cover for his men. He discovered a group of enemy-dug fox holes near the crest of the hill and returned through the withering fire for his men. Considering their safety above his own, Lieutenant Patin led his men in small groups through the barrage to this cover, thus necessitating his own passage through the barrage at least eight times. After having brought the last group to safety, this officer returned again through the barrage to check his casualties. On discovering one man with a serious back wound, Lieutenant Patin carried him back through the barrage to the base of the hill, from where he could be evacuated, and then re-joined his men. Entered the military service from Breau Bridge, Louisiana.

Private First Class Walter Perkowski, 35 065 606, (then Private) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 10 September 1944, Private First Class Perkowski was lead scout of a patrol sent out the Luceram-Sospel road, in Southern France, to make contact with the enemy and to locate his outpost line of resistance. Upon reaching the first enemy position, Private First Class Perkowski shot and killed two of the enemy; then, speaking in Polish, he talked fourteen others into surrendering. The patrol continued on its mission until fired upon by two machine guns. The guns were hidden from sight so Private First Class Perkowski exposed himself in order to draw their fire and consequently locate their position. Mortar fire was placed on the machine guns, knocking them out and permitting the patrol to proceed on its mission. Private First Class Perkowski's courage and gallantry were a credit to his unit and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. Entered the military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

Sergeant Charles C. Scherer, 35 207 733, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 27 December 1944, at 0225 hours, Company "I", 517th Parachute Infantry, launched an attack on the enemy held town of Manhay, Belgium. As daylight approached, the platoon leader discovered that Sergeant Scherer was wounded. The Lieutenant ordered him to go back to the aid station and receive medical attention. Sergeant Scherer requested permission to remain because only two men remained to man his mortar. About 1000 hours, an enemy mortar shell landed in the emplacement containing Sergeant Scherer's mortar and killed one of his two remaining men. Disregarding the fact that there was but one left of his squad, the pain of his own wound, and the enemy mortar and small arms fire around him, Sergeant Scherer continued firing his mortar, aiding materially in the taking of Manhay. Entered the military service from Pennington, West Virginia.

Private First Class Carl E. Votti, 33 590 969, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 12 January 1945, Company "B", 517th Parachute Infantry, was assigned the mission of establishing the bridgehead across the L'Ambieue River and clearing part of the town of Stavelot, Belgium. As Private First Class Votti attempted to enter a building on the edge of town, he was ambushed by three well camouflaged enemy dressed in snow capes. One of the enemy held a machine pistol against him, one started to disarm him and the other held his rifle at the ready position. Private First Class Votti, thinking and acting exceptionally fast, kicked the enemy holding the machine pistol and pushed it aside just as the enemy fired. Almost simultaneously, he felled the enemy attempting to disarm him, grabbed his weapon and attempted to fire at the third, who fled. Instead of permitting himself to be captured, Private First Class Votti risked almost certain death to free himself and captured two prisoners. Information gained from these men proved invaluable to Company "B" in the accomplishment of its mission. Entered the military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

First Lieutenant Paul P. Way, 01 297 628, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 10 January 1945, Lieutenant Way,

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a Platoon Leader in Company "I", 517th Parachute Infantry, led his platoon in an assault on enemy held Hourt, Belgium. His lead scout was fired upon from an upstairs window of a house. With utter disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Way moved forward in order to reconnoiter the area. As he raised himself to look around, he was severely wounded in the arm. Refusing medical aid, Lieutenant Way, again with utter disregard for his own safety, continued his reconnaissance. He then directed his men in an attack that destroyed an enemy machine gun and eliminated the sniper. These obstacles overcome, the platoon moved on and successfully accomplished its mission. Lieutenant Way's courage and gallantry under fire inspired the men serving under him and reflected great credit upon himself. Entered the military service from Kansas City, Missouri.

First Lieutenant John W. Weddle, O1 325 539, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. At 0630 hours, 8 February 1945, Lieutenant Weddle, commanding two platoons of Company "E", 517th Parachute Infantry, moved into defensive positions within 200 yards of the enemy just south of Bergstein, Germany. At 0700 hours the enemy attacked under cover of a heavy mortar and rifle grenade barrage. In directing the successful repulse of this attack, Lieutenant Weddle continuously exposed himself to enemy fire, moving along the front of his platoons with utter disregard for his own safety. Although the withdrawal of the unit to his left exposed the flank, Lieutenant Weddle successfully repulsed a second attack, again disregarding his own safety in order to encourage and direct his men. With but 11 men remaining effective from the two platoons, Lieutenant Weddle was ordered to withdraw. He was the last man to leave the position, again exposing himself to heavy fire in order to assure himself that no wounded were left behind. Entered the military service from Willis, Virginia.

Private First Class Paul L. Westerman, 39 618 149, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 3 January 1945, Company "D", 517th Parachute Infantry, was assigned the mission of attacking Trois Ponts, Belgium. While the main body of the company was waiting for one of the platoons to get into position on the enemy flank, a man was seriously wounded. Several efforts were made by aid men to get to the wounded man but due to fire directed at them they were unable to reach him. It soon became evident, from the actions of the wounded man, that if treatment was not given him he would die. Private First Class Westerman and another man volunteered to go after the wounded man. The two men crawled as far as possible toward the wounded man then rose to their feet and ran, in clear view of the enemy, under machine gun and rifle fire, and brought the wounded soldier back to cover for medical treatment. Private First Class Westerman's complete disregard for his own safety reflects great credit on himself and the military service. Entered the military service from Polson, Montana.

Private Leroy E. Wittwer, 37 577 826, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 27 December 1944, at 0225 hours, the Third Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry, attacked the town of Manhay, Belgium. Due to friendly artillery falling short and heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire, casualties in the Battalion became very high. An urgent call was sent for volunteers to help evacuate the wounded, who were on a field subjected to heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. Private Wittwer volunteered as a litter bearer. He had helped bring in two men and was returning for a third when he was wounded. Disregarding his wound, he went on to help bring in the third and a fourth man. He refused to stop for medical attention until all of the seriously wounded had been evacuated. Private Wittwer's disregard for his own safety and devotion to duty resulted in the alleviation of much suffering for his comrades. Entered the military service from Glenwood, Minnesota.

Private Ogden A. Young, 20 734 730, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action. On 8 February 1945, Company "E", and Company "F", Second Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry, were ordered to hold a position on high ground near Bergstein, Germany. The enemy immediately concentrated intense mortar, artillery, rocket, and small arms fire upon the position, inflicting heavy casualties. Among the injured was Private Young, medical aid man with Company "E".



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Disregarding his own wound and personal safety, Private Young moved under heavy enemy fire among the wounded men and administered first aid. In the process of aiding his wounded comrades, Private Young was again painfully wounded. Nevertheless, he continued administering aid to the wounded men and did not stop until all had been treated and evacuated. Private Young not only treated the men in his company but those in Company "F" with equal efficiency. Private Young's display of courage, gallantry and disregard for his own personal safety were in keeping with the highest standards of the military service. Entered the military service from Lyons, Kansas.

III -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS) -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to Letter, Headquarters, Oise Intermediate Section, Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", file AG 200.6 (G-1), dated 24 April 1945, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded posthumously to the following named enlisted man for heroic achievement in action against the enemy of the United States:

Private Louis J. Barberra, 32 872 707, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 3 January 1945, the second platoon of Company "E", 517th Parachute Infantry, was ordered to cross an open field and attack an enemy position in the town of Monte de Fosse, Belgium. Immediately after starting across this open area, the platoon sustained heavy casualties and was pinned down by machine gun fire from enemy positions. Private Barberra, a rifleman in this platoon, then manned a machine gun whose crew had been wounded and moved it to a position from which he could effectively deliver fire on the enemy. This action necessitated crossing fifty yards of terrain with very little cover or concealment and under heavy enemy fire. After he and another soldier had set the gun up in position they opened fire on the enemy and enabled the platoon to withdraw to a covered position, reorganize and prepare to resume the attack. Private Barberra was killed in a subsequent action. Entered the military service from Brooklyn, New York.

IV -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to Letter, Headquarters, Oise Intermediate Section, Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", file AG 200.6 (G-1), dated 24 April 1945, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named enlisted men for heroic achievement in action against the enemy of the United States:

Private First Class Robert E. Anderson, 37 475 653, 596th Airborne Engineer Company, (presently assigned 129th Airborne Engineer Battalion) United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. In the vicinity of Manhay, Belgium on 26 December 1944, Private First Class Anderson volunteered to bring rations for his platoon from a dump exposed to enemy fire about 900 yards from our lines toward the enemy's positions. In performing this act Private First Class Anderson was subjected to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire and at numerous times was pinned down by enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. The rations secured by this heroic act supplied the members of this platoon with their first food in 36 hours. Private First Class Anderson risked his life voluntarily under enemy fire for the safety and well-being of his comrades. Entered the military service from Hartington, Nebraska.

Staff Sergeant Nello R. Arterburn, 35 483 685, (then Sergeant) 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. At approximately 1700 hours, 14 January 1945, the first platoon, Company "G", 517th Parachute Infantry, was being held up in Beaumont, Belgium by small arms and mortar fire from enemy troops in a group of houses in front of the platoon position. Staff Sergeant Arterburn volunteered to lead a patrol in an attack to clear these houses. About 100 yards from the first house the patrol was pinned down by intense small arms fire. In order to eliminate this strong point, Staff Sergeant Arterburn,

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without hesitation and entirely alone, made a dash for a low stone wall about 25 yards from the house. Using this wall as a shield, he threw a hand grenade in a window of the house and when three enemy soldiers tried to leave, he shot all three. The rest of the patrol joined him at this time and successfully completed its mission. Entered the military service from Tompkinsville, Kentucky.

V -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS) -- So much of Section III, General Orders Number 13, this Headquarters, dated 9 May 1945, as pertains to the award of the Bronze Star Medal to First Lieutenant John W. Casselman, O1 309 216, 517th Parachute Infantry, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

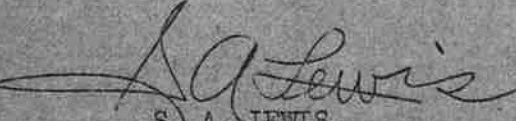
Under the Provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to Letter, Headquarters, Oise Intermediate Section, Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", file AG 200.6 (G-1), dated 24 April 1945, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded posthumously to the following named officer for heroic achievement in action against the enemy of the United States:

First Lieutenant John W. Casselman, O1 309 216, 517th Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. On 18 August 1944 First Lieutenant Casselman received orders to move his platoon from Ievens, France to the east, to contact the enemy and to maintain that contact. The platoon occupied the village of Luceram, France, and had established an outpost on the high ground surrounding the area when a German patrol of twelve men tried to re-enter the town. So skillfully did First Lieutenant Casselman deploy his men that six of the enemy were killed and six taken prisoner. On the following day, First Lieutenant Casselman received orders to move his platoon to Piera Cava. Shortly after occupying Piera Cava, a German patrol of fifty well armed men was taken by surprise. In this action six of the enemy were killed, four wounded and three surrendered. First Lieutenant Casselman directed mortar fire upon the remainder of the patrol, causing fifteen additional casualties. Entered the military service from Watertown New York.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CHAPMAN:

HUGH P. HARRIS,  
Colonel, G.S.C.,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

  
S. A. LEWIS,  
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,  
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