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HEADQUARTERS 70TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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30 April 1945

Award of the First Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star I
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I -- AWARD OF THE FIRST OAK-LEAF CLUSTER TO THE SILVER STAR. 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 Silver Star is awarded to the following individual:

GEORGE S BLANCHARD, O26 737, Captain, Infantry, Company C, 274 Infantry, for gallantry in action on 3 March 1945, near Styring Wendel, France. While leading forward elements of his company in attack over wooded hills, Captain Blanchard noted that 200 yards of open terrain had to be crossed under enemy observation from three directions. He led a small party, rather than expose his whole company through two mine fields under severe artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. From buildings on the opposite side he directed rocket shells on the enemy positions and so reduced the hostile forces that his company was able to advance with a minimum of casualties. Captain Blanchard's gallant leadership and tactical proficiency were responsible for his company's success. Entered United States Military Academy from Washington, D. C.

II -- AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded to the following individuals:

HERBERT J ANDREWS, O1 318 119, Captain, Infantry, Company I, 276 Infantry, for gallantry in action near Forbach, France. On 19 February 1945, Captain Andrews led his company in a successful attack, despite constant artillery and mortar fire on a strongly defended position known as Castle Hill, near Forbach, France. At about 1920 that night the enemy loosed a tremendous artillery barrage followed immediately by a powerful counterattack. Captain Andrews quickly ordered his company to withdraw within the confines of the castle and without hesitation called for a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire on Castle Hill which broke the counterattack and enabled his company to regain their positions. The following day approximately 40 enemy dead were found on the hill. Entered military service from Colton, California.

PAUL D BARTLEY, 33 763 772, Staff Sergeant, Company D, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 23 February 1945. When an enemy company counterattacked a roadblock near Habsterdick, France, Staff Sergeant Bartley, leader of a machine gun section, rose from cover and seized a light machine gun from its mount. With complete disregard for his own safety and under very heavy small arms fire, he placed it at his hip and ran down the road toward the enemy. He held his fire until within 25 yards and then inflicted such serious casualties that the counterattack was immediately repelled. Staff Sergeant Bartley's gallantry in action, far beyond the call of duty, reflects the finest tradition of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Altoona, Pennsylvania.

IRA G BEDDOE, 20 816 422. Staff Sergeant, (then Sergeant), Company A, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 20 February 1945. During an attack on formidable enemy emplacements on Spicheren Heights, France, the advance of Staff Sergeant Beddoe's company was halted by heavy fire from five hostile pillboxes. He immediately left cover and led his squad with such aggressiveness and courage that they cleared all five pillboxes and captured 30 prisoners. His outstanding and heroic leadership enabled the entire company to continue the attack. Entered military service from Fort Worth, Texas.

LEE R BUCKELEW, 38 686 798, Private First Class, Company G, 275 Infantry, for gallantry in action from 2 to 10 January 1945. When Company G, in position on heights south of Baerenthal, France, met violent counterattacks, Private First Class Buckelew, sniper, voluntarily moved forward with a comrade and, despite harassing artillery and small arms fire, maintained his forward position for nine days. His precise sniping kept the enemy under cover, and in one day he destroyed nine hostile infantrymen. This voluntary and hazardous deployment by Private First Class Buckelew and his comrade was an important factor in the delay of the enemy. Entered military service from Mullin, Texas.

JOHN L EVEN, 36 973 500, Private First Class, Company G, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 7 and 8 March 1945. When Company G was holding positions at the edge of a wooded area north of Forbach, France, an enemy tank moved within 200 yards of the company and opened fire. Private First Class Even left his fox-hole and knelt in the open to fire three rockets, which immobilized the tank. The following day under similar circumstances he attacked another tank. In this heroic action, he was painfully wounded by fragments from the tank shells. His gallantry removed serious threats to his company's positions. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

GEORGE H GOODE, 02 001 728, 2d Lieutenant, (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company E, 274 Infantry, for gallantry in action on 18 February 1945, near Kerbach, France. When Lieutenant Goode's platoon began to advance across 150 yards of open terrain to clear the woods on the opposite side, the men took cover from machine gun fire. He leaped to his feet and began moving alone across the clearing, firing and maneuvering as he advanced. His courage inspired the rest of the platoon to follow. Despite the heavy counter fire, Lieutenant Goode crossed the clearing and captured the machine gun and three prisoners. His gallant leadership materially aided the accomplishment of his company's mission. Entered military service from Denver, Colorado.

HARRY R HENDRICK, JR, 36 901 272, Staff Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Company K, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 22 February 1945. During an attack on a wooded hill in the Gifertwald, France, the right flank of Staff Sergeant Hendrick's company was seriously endangered by direct 88mm fire from a tank in partial defilade near their position. When a rocket team was unable to repel the enemy armor, Staff Sergeant Hendrick crawled close to the tank and killed six hostile infantrymen. His accurate rifle fire so demoralized the enemy that the tank ceased its advance. Staff Sergeant Hendrick's action was the decisive factor in protecting his company's flank and crushing determined enemy resistance. Entered military service from Kalamazoo County, Illinois.

THOMAS E HOPTRY, 39 112 616, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company 3d Battalion, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 3 March 1945. When communications were frequently disrupted by enemy fire during the attack on Styring Wendel, France, Staff Sergeant Hoptry led wire parties to repair the lines. Although he lost six men by artillery fire, he continued his mission with one other wireman who was in turn wounded. Staff Sergeant Hoptry dragged his comrade to safety under heavy shelling, assisted in his evacuation, and completed his mission alone. His gallant actions restored vitally important communications to forward companies and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the service. Entered military service from Hayward, California.

SIDNEY E IVERSON, O 314 151, Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry, Headquarters 3d Battalion, 276 Infantry, for gallantry in action from 10 January to 14 January and from 21 February to 8 March 1945, at Zinsweiler and Forbach, France. At Zinsweiler, despite difficult winter conditions and enemy shelling, Colonel Iverson made personal reconnaissance within 100 yards of the entrenched enemy. When his battalion attacked in the Lichtenberg Forest, Colonel Iverson remained forward under concentrated artillery fire to direct the operation. His skillful leadership resulted in the capture of the battalion's objective with a minimum of casualties. In the woods northwest of Forbach, he disregarded artillery, mortar and small arms fire, and again reconnoitered ground within 100 yards of strong hostile positions. Colonel Iverson's courageous actions and complete devotion to his command set an exemplary standard of military conduct. Entered military service from Grand Forks North Dakota.

EARL H KING, 38 571 974, Private First Class, Company L, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 6 March 1945, near Styring Wendel, France. When his comrade was killed while operating the platoon radio, Private First Class King unhesitatingly proceeded to the exposed position and manned the radio. During the continued hostile artillery shelling he was wounded. He refused medical aid in order to maintain communications. His heroic action greatly contributed to the fulfillment of his company's mission. Entered military service from Chester, Oklahoma.

JOSEPH KOHN, O2 015 954, 2d Lieutenant, (then Staff Sergeant), Medical Administrative Corps, medical Detachment, 274 Infantry, for gallantry in action on 6 March 1945, near Forbach, France. During an attack on the heavily fortified Simon Coal Mine, an advancing rifleman was wounded by rocket fire and lay helpless, only thirty yards from the enemy. Staff Sergeant Kohn, despite severe machine gun, rocket, and tank fire, rushed across open ground, scaled a seven foot wall, and crawled through barbed wire entanglements to reach the wounded man. Though badly lacerated by the wire, he gave first aid to his comrade and evacuated him over the same difficult route. His gallantry and courageous determination symbolize the finest traditions of the service. Entered military service from St Louis, Mo.

RUSSELL C LARSON, 36 000 178, Technical Sergeant, Company F, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 8 March 1945, near Kerbach, France. When his platoon was held up, Technical Sergeant Larson, although under rifle grenade, mortar and machine gun fire, courageously moved forward and directed the final assault while not more than 10 yards from the nearest enemy gun position. On one occasion, when two enemy hand grenades landed within his reach, he picked them up before they could explode and threw them back into the enemy's position. His quick thinking and excellent leadership were largely responsible for his platoon's accomplishment of its mission. Entered military service from Plano, Illinois.

R E S T R I C T E D

FRED P MAUSZEWSKI, 20 752 326, Technical Sergeant, Company D, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 15 February 1945, near Etzling, France. While he was conferring with officers 200 yards from his men, Technical Sergeant Mauszewski's machine gun platoon was counterattacked by enemy infantry. Quickly he crawled and ran through a hail of small arms fire, killed an enemy soldier with his rifle, and then immediately deployed his platoon to withstand the attack. Manning one of the machine guns, he inflicted heavy casualties which repelled the hostile force. Technical Sergeant Mauszewski's courageous leadership inspired his men and was directly responsible for their success in this action. Entered military service from Winona, Minnesota.

NICHOLAS B NANCE, 02 010 724, 2d Lieutenant, Infantry, Company A, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 21 February 1945. With his platoon spearheading an attack on Spicheren Heights, France, Lieutenant Nance remained constantly at the head of his unit. After taking his objective with a minimum of casualties, he established liaison with supporting tanks and personally placed them in position. In the three counterattacks that followed, he moved continuously among his men and inspired them to successful defense of the sector. His gallantry in action was largely responsible for the accomplishment of the platoon's mission. Entered military service from Detroit, Michigan.

ELMER W OSWALD, 37 603 290, Staff Sergeant, (then Sergeant), Company K, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 3 and 4 March 1945. When his platoon leader assumed command of his company, and other non-commissioned officers of the unit were wounded, Staff Sergeant Oswald personally led the 3d Platoon in the assault on Styring Bendael, France. On many occasions during the clearing of the city, he courageously exposed himself to heavy artillery and small arms fire in order to direct the operation of his platoon. His gallant devotion to duty inspired his men and greatly contributed to the success of his company's mission. Entered military service from St Louis, Missouri.

ARTHUR PRATT, 13 013 697, Staff Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Company A, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 10 January 1945, at Philippsbourg, France. During the initial phases of a strong counterattack, Staff Sergeant Pratt's platoon suffered such heavy casualties that disorganization appeared imminent. When his platoon leader and sergeant were wounded, he assumed command and coolly deployed his men to meet the enemy assault. Under his leadership, the platoon repelled the attack. Entered military service from Portersville, Pennsylvania.

JAMES H REED, 37 526 749, Private First Class, Company A, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 20 February 1945. During an assault on an enemy stronghold on Spicheren Heights, France, Private First Class Reed moved well beyond the front lines and, by deliberately exposing himself to the hostile fire, enabled the rest of his platoon to locate the enemy guns and silence them. Private First Class Reed's courageous action beyond the call of duty was a decisive factor in the success of his company's attack. Entered military service from Bruner, Missouri.

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

MARSHALL L SAPP, 36 979 590, Private First Class, Company A, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 20 February 1945. When Private First Class Sapp's squad was held up by grazing fire from an enemy pillbox during an assault near Spicheren Heights, France, he left cover and charged the emplacement with his rocket launcher. Reaching the pillbox he fired a rocket through a door, killing or wounding all the personnel inside. His courageous action eliminated the hostile strongpoint and enabled his squad to advance. Entered military service from Hoopeston, Illinois.

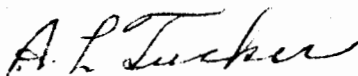
JAMES R SCOTT, 18 020 209, Private First Class, Company A, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 20 February 1945. During an assault on a strongly fortified position on Spicheren Heights, France, Private First Class Scott's squad was held up by fire from an enemy pillbox. Under protective fire from his squad, he crawled around to the rear of the pillbox and entered it. Caught completely by surprise, the 13 enemy soldiers in the pillbox surrendered without further resistance. Private First Class Scott's courageous action eliminated the hostile strongpoint and enabled his unit to advance to its objective. Entered military service from Robeline, Louisiana.

ROBERT C SMITH, 42 141 894, Private First Class, (then Private), Company A, Infantry, for gallantry in action on 6 January 1945. While carrying supplies to his platoon position near Philippsbourg, France, Private First Class Smith encountered an enemy patrol which had infiltrated in the rear of his company under cover of darkness. Believing him helpless under his heavy load, the patrol called upon him to surrender. He disregarded their demand and fought them off with his carbine until they were destroyed by friendly machine gun fire. Private First Class Smith's courageous action was directly responsible for the elimination of a serious threat to his company's rear. Entered military service from Glen Gardner, New Jersey.

By command of Major General BARNETT:

LEO A BESSETTE
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:



A L TUCKER
Major, AGD
Actg Adj General

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