

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION
A.P.O. #443, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS)

29 March 1945

NO 34)

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I -- AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF SILVER STAR -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Memorandum Number 21, Fifteenth United States Army, 4 March 1945, the Silver Star is posthumously awarded to the following officer:

First Lieutenant Robert G. McKay, O 519 695, 424th Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1944, in Germany. While counter-attacking a hill seized earlier that day by German forces, First Lieutenant McKay repeatedly exposing himself to point blank small arms automatic fire and intense mortar and artillery barrages pounding the area, valiantly preceded his platoon, effectively directing the movement of his men and placing maximum fire on the enemy positions. When withering hostile fire from enemy hidden in a house delayed their advance, First Lieutenant McKay boldly ran to a 60mm mortar, and with three well directed rounds neutralized the strong point, enabling the platoon to retake the hill with a minimum of casualties, releasing twenty captive Americans and capturing nine prisoners. Entered military service from Louisiana.

II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Memorandum Number 21, Fifteenth United States Army, 4 March 1945, the Silver Star is awarded to the following officer and enlisted men:

Lieutenant Colonel Earle B. Williams, O 244 570, 106th Signal Company, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 17 December 1944, in Belgium. While the division was sustaining the initial impact of a powerful German counter-offensive, Lieutenant Colonel Williams, Division Signal Officer, voluntarily went forward to establish communications with an engineer combat company. Unable to locate the company at its assigned position and discovering enemy forces a short distance to his front, Lieutenant Colonel Williams, under intense small arms and mortar fire, directed the tapping of wires and established communication with the division commander, informed him of the critical situation and volunteered to effect the maximum possible delay until reinforcements would arrive. After locating a tank destroyer and an armored car, he capably directed their fire, halting the advancing hostile troops and forcing an approaching enemy tank to withdraw. By this effective action, Lieutenant Colonel Williams delayed the enemy long enough for friendly forces to take up strong defensive positions. Entered military service from Kentucky.

Staff Sergeant Richard J. Maslankoski, O 646 895, 424th Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 26 January 1945, in Belgium. When the attack of a rifle platoon, supported by his heavy weapons section was halted by withering small arms and automatic fire from a nearby woods, Staff Sergeant Maslankoski, cradling a light machine gun in his arms, arose, firing his weapon.

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Delivering a devastating hail of bullets at a camouflaged machine gun nest he detected, Staff Sergeant Maslankoski valiantly moved forward until his gun jammed. Despite incessant hostile fire, Staff Sergeant Maslankoski cleared the weapon, resumed his advance, killed the two man crew and destroyed the enemy position. Entered military service from Illinois.

Staff Sergeant Alvin P. Swanson, 37 589 432, (then Sergeant), 424th Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 25 January 1945, in Belgium. Leading a four man patrol to investigate two haystacks suspected of being camouflaged enemy positions and dominating a hill that his company had under attack, Sergeant Swanson skirted the haystacks and approached from the rear. Leaving his men to provide covering fire, Sergeant Swanson crawled stealthily forward through the snow, completely surprising eight enemy soldiers manning three machine guns. The enemy, confused and demoralized by Sergeant Swanson's sudden appearance, immediately surrendered. Entered military service from Minnesota.

III -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Memorandum Number 21, Fifteenth United States Army, 4 March 1945, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following officers and enlisted men:

Major Jerome G. Taylor, O 342 608, 424th Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy from 25 December 1944 to 26 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Tennessee.

Captain Wiley L. Cassidy, O1 298 355, 424th Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 December 1944, in Belgium. Entered military service from Tennessee.

Second Lieutenant George S. Kelly, O2 005 571, (then Corporal), 424th Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 16 December 1944 and 22 December 1944, in Germany and Belgium. Entered military service from New York.

Technical Sergeant George E. Breneiser, 33 618 589, (then Staff Sergeant), 424th Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 January 1945, in Belgium. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Sergeant John I. Gallagher, 33 487 155, 81st Engineer Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 7 February 1945, in Belgium. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Technician Fifth Grade Lawrence W. Walden, 36 738 990, (then Private First Class), Medical Detachment, 424th Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 17 December 1944 and 25 December 1944, in Germany and Belgium. Entered military service from Illinois.

Private First Class John V. Williams, 32 674 298, 424th Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 26 January 1945, in Belgium. Entered military service from New York.

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Private Delbert G. Rediger, 36 989 278, 424th Infantry, United States Army, for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on 26 January 1945, in Belgium. Entered military service from Illinois.

IV -- AWARD OF PURPLE HEART -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Memorandum Number 21, Fifteenth United States Army, 4 March 1945, the Purple Heart is awarded to the following officer and enlisted men for wounds received in action against the enemy in Northwest Europe, on the date shown:

First Lieutenant Matthew C. Beck, Jr., 01 321 140, 424th Infantry, United States Army, on 12 January 1945. Entered military service from California.

Sergeant Clifford C. Geier, 36 010 448, 591st Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, on 8 March 1945. Entered military service from Illinois.

Technician Fourth Grade Martin L. Polley, 37 441 905, 424th Infantry, United States Army, on 25 February 1945. Entered military service from Iowa.

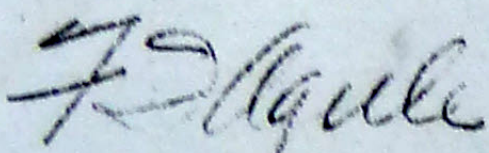
Private George E. Fortier, 31 455 208, 424th Infantry, United States Army, on 24 February 1945. Entered military service from Connecticut.

Private Victor L. Lopez, 39 580 044, 424th Infantry, United States Army, on 2 March 1945. Entered military service from Arizona.

By command of Major General STROH:

WILLIAM C. BAKER, JR.
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


F. I. AGULE
Lt. Colonel, A.G.D.
Adjutant General

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