

AG Files

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HEADQUARTERS 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

AG-8

AFD #85, U. S. Army, November 1944.

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AG 300.4

Classification changed 11 November 1944
to **RESTRICTED** by authority of
C 17 85 DIV, (date) 31-7-45
by *W. M. Kelley*
SECTION I (s name and rank)

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO. " 72)

AWARD, POSTHUMOUSLY, OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star is awarded, posthumously, to the following enlisted man:

JOHN F. GORTON, (33271312), Technician Third Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 27 September 1944, in Italy. Leading a litter squad in a voluntary mission to evacuate two wounded soldiers lying five hundred yards forward of a rifle company command post, Technician Third Grade GORTON, realizing that two previous attempts had been turned back by intense automatic weapons and small arms fire, deployed the squad in defilade and crawled forward under the heavy fire toward the wounded men. Determined to assist the wounded soldiers, he moved out over the fire swept terrain to fall mortally wounded by sniper fire before accomplishing his mission. His gallant sacrifice of life in volunteering for an extremely hazardous mission reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the military service. Entered the military service from Bradford, Pennsylvania. Next of kin: Helen Elizabeth Gorton, (Mother), 299 East Main Street, Bradford, Pennsylvania.

General Orders 85th Div

SECTION II

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star is awarded to the following enlisted men:

MIKE BANKO, (33275442), Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company "K", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 20 September 1944, in Italy. Technical Sergeant BANKO, observing a large enemy force forming to attack his company's position, immediately alerted the company, placed his platoon in a position to meet the attack, and personally led a machine gun squad and six riflemen to protect the vulnerable point of the company's position. Although exposed to intense small arms fire as it moved across the open terrain, he led the group to the company's right flank and directed its fire to cut off the counterattack and inflict heavy losses upon the hostile force. His skillful leadership and courageous determination to repel the onslaught were a source of inspiration to his men during the bitter fire fight that followed and were of invaluable assistance to his company commander in successfully resisting a serious threat to the battalion flank. Entered the military service from Union Town, Pennsylvania.

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by FRANK R. JANUCHOWSKI, (36342162), Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company "I", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 17 September 1944, in Italy. When two rifle platoons and a machine gun section were cut off from the remainder of the company by fierce machine gun and grenade fire from an enemy force located upon its flanks, Staff Sergeant JANUCHOWSKI, a squad leader, boldly exposed himself to the hail of enemy fire to engage the hostile group with his sub-machine gun. The deadly volume of fire which he directed upon them from his hazardous position disorganized the enemy group, diverted its attention from the trapped units, and enabled them to withdraw safely to rejoin the company. The courageous action of Staff Sergeant JANUCHOWSKI, in aggressively engaging the hostile forces despite bitter opposition, reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces. Entered the military service from Chicago, Illinois.

LEON O. HARRISON, (34268993), Technician Third Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 338th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For gallantry in action during the period 13 September to 17 September 1944, in Italy. At a time when his battalion was engaged in prolonged and intense combat with a strong enemy force bitterly defending a fortified line, Technician Third Grade HARRISON, a medical technician, constantly exposed himself to intense barrages of mortar and artillery fire ingoing forward upon his own initiative to search for and evacuate the wounded. Working tirelessly, without food or rest, he personally led litter bearers over fire swept terrain in the forward areas, established collecting points, and directed the evacuation of wounded soldiers over the rough terrain to the aid station. At one time, observing a wounded man lying exposed to heavy machine gun and small arms fire, he crawled one hundred yards under the deadly curtain of fire to administer first aid and drag the injured soldier to safety. His gallant act, in complete disregard for his own safety, reflects the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Bainbridge, Georgia.

RUBEN BROOKS, (34330170), Sergeant, Infantry, Company "M", 338th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 15 October 1944, in Italy. While his platoon was supporting a rifle company in an attack, Sergeant BROOKS continued to operate his machine gun despite intense enemy artillery, mortar, and machine gun and sniper fire from his rear. As the situation developed, and his platoon was given the mission of supporting another rifle company, Sergeant BROOKS volunteered to reconnoiter for forward positions from which the platoon could give effective support. Although wounded by an enemy sniper, he proceeded on his reconnaissance under heavy mortar and artillery fire and succeeded in locating positions from which the platoon was able to provide close support for the attacking riflemen. His gallant actions and courage in the face of bitter enemy fire was an inspiration to the members of the platoon and reflect the finest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Jacksonville, Alabama.

GERARD A. DI-CONZA, (32884196), Private First Class, Infantry, Company "I", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 1 October 1944, in Italy. When his squad was pinned down by heavy enemy machine gun fire while his company was attacking a strongly fortified enemy position, Private First Class DI-CONZA, a rifleman, courageously crawled across an open field under enemy observation and small arms fire, to a position from which he was able to deliver effective fire and put the hostile gun out of action. Then,

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returning to his squad, he boldly led it in a bitter assault upon other nearby positions, killing one and capturing eight German soldiers. His gallant and aggressive determination to destroy the enemy enabled the squad to continue in the attack and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the military service. Entered the military service from Brooklyn, New York,

ALEXANDER R. DE STEFANO, (12078409), Private, Infantry, Company "I", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 1 October 1944, in Italy. When an enemy heavy machine gun opened fire upon his platoon as it moved forward in an attack upon strongly defended enemy positions, Private DE STEFANO, disregarding the vicious enemy fire, moved boldly upon the emplacement, firing his automatic rifle from the hip. His daring and courageous assault enabled him to kill the enemy gunner, wound others, and destroy all resistance from the enemy crew. Then, taking up a favorable position, he continued to engage other enemy groups, enabling the platoon to continue its assault and take the objective. His determination to continue the advance despite bitter opposition; destroyed a threat to the forward movement of the platoon and reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces. Entered the military service from Hackensack, New Jersey.

SECTION III

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following officers:

JAMES M. ISOM, (9456200), Captain, Infantry, Company "D", 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 16 September to 2 November 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Spartanburg, South Carolina.

ROBERT C. AYCOCK, (0435566), Captain, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 16 September to 2 November 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Monro, Georgia.

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SECTION IV

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following officers and enlisted men:

AUGUST R. SCHMIDT, (0395457), Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry, Headquarters, First Battalion, 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action during the period 13 September to 31 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Chicago, Illinois.

PRESTON P. MURPHY, (0406270), Lieutenant Colonel, Chaplains Corps, Headquarters, 85th Infantry Division, United States Army. For meritorious service in support of combat operations during the period 10 April to 10 June 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Chicago, Illinois.

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by JAMES S. MC ANULTY, (0233125), Major, Field Artillery, Headquarters, 328th Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 13 September to 31 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Chicago, Illinois.

JAMES M. DOYLE, (01301696), Captain, Infantry, Company "B", 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 14 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

WILLIAM V. WHEELER, (0337885), Captain, Infantry, Service Company, 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 13 September to 31 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

ELI W. YOELIN, (0453768), Captain, Infantry, Headquarters, Second Battalion, 338th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 11 May to 1 November 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Denver, Colorado.

ROY B. THOMPSON, (0353284), Captain, Cavalry, 85th Reconnaissance Troop, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 26 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Roswell, New Mexico.

HOLLIS DAKIN, (0452504), Captain, Signal Corps, 85th Signal Company, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 13 September to 28 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Concord, New Hampshire.

DAVID P. PIERING, (01299102), First Lieutenant, Infantry, Headquarters, Second Battalion, 338th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action during the period 13 September to 1 November 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Duluth, Minnesota.

DAVID C. DUNCAN, (0513529), First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company "D", 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action during the period 16 September to 3 November 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Iowa City, Iowa.

HENRY C. MERRITT, (01312583), First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company "B", 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 16 September to 2 November 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Boston, Massachusetts.

HAROLD D. DIAMOND, (01301963), First Lieutenant, Infantry, Company "F", 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 16 September to 28 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from San Francisco, California.

CLARENCE H. CLARK, (6231903), Master Sergeant, Infantry, Service Company, 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 13 September to 20 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from San Antonio, Texas.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

JAMES E. REDING, (34710292), Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company "I", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 23 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Nashville, Tennessee.

LESTER E. WITTHOFT, (36241163), Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company "I", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 23 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

SEVERIN S. LEIKER, (37202176), Technician Third Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action during the period 16 September to 27 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

WILLIAM H. HUMPHREYS, (13177330), Sergeant, Infantry, Company "I", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 18 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

THOMAS M. MARSHALL, (33217908), Sergeant, Infantry, Company "K", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 17 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Tazewell, Virginia.

NICHOLAS T. STRIAC, (35306108), Sergeant, Infantry, Company "M", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 2 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

JOHN NEMES, (32267605), Sergeant, Infantry, Company "G", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 13 May 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from New Castle, Delaware.

EDON M. NORGARD, (37273002), Sergeant, Infantry, Company "H", 338th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 30 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Hallock, Minnesota.

JOHN W. HOSSLE, (34205493), Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 18 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Red Oak, Iowa.

LEWIS B. SCHMIDT, (37195918), Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 85th Infantry Division, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 15 August to 18 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Holstein, Iowa.

OSCAR RAMOS, (34205658), Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 85th Infantry Division, United States Army. For meritorious service in support of combat operations during the period 10 April to 20 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Tampa, Florida.

by 4200 DIV, (date) 31-7-45.

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(Officer's name and grade) ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

ARMAND E. LAWRENCE, (36417397), Private First Class, Infantry, Company "H", 338th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 14 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Marshall, Michigan.

JOHN SIKORA, JR., (33337477), Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 337th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action during the period 16 September to 29 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

GEORGE MILLER, (37125488), Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters, Special Troops, 85th Infantry Division, United States Army. For meritorious service in combat during the period 11 May to 28 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Stanton, Nebraska.

CHARLES E. SIMPSON, (34728867), Private First Class, Infantry, Company "K", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 22 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Lenoir City, Tennessee.

WILLIAM M. TATARKO, (33670813), Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 14 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Republic, Pennsylvania.

HARRY J. ACKERT, (32294486), Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, 85th Infantry Division, United States Army. For meritorious service in support of combat operations during the period 10 April to 20 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Albany, New York.

OSCAR C. THOMASON, (35708156), Private, Infantry, Company "M", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 2 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Bowling Green, Kentucky.

PHILIP J. LYONS, (39467505), Private, Infantry, Company "I", 339th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 1 October 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Spokane, Washington.

SAMUEL YUTER, (33472961), Private, Infantry, Company "H", 338th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in action on 15 September 1944, in Italy. Entered the military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

By command of Major General COULTER:

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED** Authority of
Ch 85-614 (date) 31-7-46

THOMAS R. McDONALD,
Lt. Col., G. S. C.,
Acting Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

W. H. GREEN,
Lt. Col., A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.