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HEADQUARTERS 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
 APO 35 US ARMY

GENERAL ORDERS)  
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15 January 1945

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I -- SOLDIER'S MEDAL. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, a Soldier's Medal is awarded to the following enlisted man, now missing in action:

Private First Class William J Lyons, 37696237, Infantry, United States Army, for heroism in the vicinity of \* \* \*, Germany on 12 December 1944. On the night of 12 December, while Company C, \* \* \* Infantry, was crossing the \* \* \* River in assault boats, one of the boats overturned in the swift current. One of the officers in the boat was unable to swim to shore. Private Lyons and another enlisted man who had reached shore after the assault boat capsized, saw the officer clutching a wire cable with his face submerged in the water. Private Lyons and his companion promptly jumped into the river and pulled the unconscious officer to the shore. The heroic action of Private Lyons undoubtedly saved the life of the officer and is in accord with the traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Iowa.

II -- SOLDIER'S MEDAL. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, a Soldier's Medal is awarded to the following enlisted man of this command:

First Sergeant Marvin R Hougen, 39088937 (then staff sergeant), Infantry, United States Army, for heroism in the vicinity of \* \* \*, Germany on 12 December 1944. On the night of 12 December, while Company C, \* \* \* Infantry, was crossing the \* \* \* River in assault boats, one of the boats overturned in the swift current. One of the officers in the boat was unable to swim to shore. Sergeant Hougen and another enlisted man who had reached shore after the assault boat capsized, saw the officer clutching a wire cable with his face submerged in the water. Sergeant Hougen and his companion promptly jumped into the river and pulled the unconscious officer to the shore. The heroic action of Sergeant Hougen undoubtedly saved the life of the officer and is in accord with the traditions of the military service. Entered military service from California.

III -- BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following enlisted men, now missing in action:

First Sergeant Dale M McClara, 37085127 (then staff sergeant), Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of \* \* \*, Germany on 12 and 13 December 1944. During the assault crossing of the \* \* \* River, the assault boat in which Sergeant McClara, an acting first sergeant, was riding overturned. He swam ashore and continued forward with his company in its advance toward its objective, although his weapon and helmet had been lost in the river. On the following day, Sergeant McClara, armed with a German rifle, played an important role in repulsing an enemy counterattack. He located a well-concealed enemy machine gun and directed fire which succeeded in knocking out the weapon, enabling his unit to move forward and facilitating the advance of a unit on the left. Throughout the action, Sergeant McClara moved among his troops with complete disregard for personal safety, making the mission at hand his primary consideration. Entered military service from Nebraska.

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Technical Sergeant Charles H Pettit, 38422949, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of \* \* \* , France on 17 November 1944. Sergeant Pettit, a squad leader, and another noncommissioned officer volunteered to reconnoiter the positions of enemy mortars and rifle emplacements. Sergeant Pettit and his companion advanced a distance of about 1600 yards into enemy territory, located the enemy emplacements and returned with the information which proved of primary importance in facilitating assault plans since the initial assault involved the crossing of open ground. The courageous action and resourcefulness of Sergeant Pettit reflect credit upon his character and training as a soldier. Entered military service from Texas.

Private Charles M Ricketts, 35813049, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \* , Germany on 14 December 1944. When the strength of his unit had been greatly depleted in the course of a fierce enemy counterattack near \* \* \* , and personnel had to be used to maximum advantage to cover all strategic positions, Private Ricketts fired his Browning Automatic Rifle against the advancing Germans from the window of a building. While so engaged, he was temporarily dazed and badly bruised by concussion from an exploding bazooka shell, but regained his position and continued to direct a stream of fire against the enemy until his Browning Automatic Rifle ammunition was exhausted. He then grabbed a German rifle and persisted in his efforts until the counterattack had been successfully repulsed. Private Ricketts' daring and resourceful actions, performed alone in the face of a greatly superior enemy force, were largely responsible for the success of his unit in thwarting the enemy assault and reflect credit upon his character and training as a soldier. Entered military service from Kentucky.

IV -- BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following officers and enlisted men of this command:

Major Hal N Briggs, 01285182, Corps of Military Police, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France and Belgium from 11 July to 31 December 1944. Entered military service from North Carolina.

Major Irving Favus, 0386350, Medical Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France from 11 July 1944 to 1 January 1945. Entered military service from Illinois.

Captain Everett G Brillhart, 0390017, Medical Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France from 11 July 1944 to 1 January 1945. Entered military service from Nebraska.

Captain Logan E Jackson, 0517822, Medical Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France from 8 November 1944 to 1 January 1945. Entered military service from Oregon.

Captain Joseph D Lea, 026401, Medical Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France from 11 July 1944 to 1 January 1945. Entered military service from Louisiana.

First Lieutenant Samuel L Kahn, 01798266, Corps of Military Police, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France and Belgium from 12 July 1944 to 6 January 1945. Entered military service from Ohio.

First Lieutenant August M Renner, 0536913, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \* , Germany on 14 and 15 December 1944. When the Commanding Officer of Company F, \* \* \* Infantry, became a casualty, Lieutenant Renner assumed



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command of the unit and successfully led it across the \* \* \* River and into the woods above the town of \* \* \*. There the company was subjected to an artillery barrage of such intensity that only twelve men were left for duty the following morning. It was only through the inspiring leadership and example of personal bravery on the part of Lieutenant Renner that the remnant of his company was imbued with an aggressive determination which enabled it to defend its sector and later participate in a battalion attack against the enemy. Lieutenant Renner accomplished his task under conditions and over terrain normally requiring the deployment of a full-strength company. His brilliant and daring direction of this operation reflects credit upon Lieutenant Renner's character and training as an officer. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

Second Lieutenant LeRoy E Anderson, 0887644 (then technical sergeant), Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of \* \* \*, Normandy, France on 11 July 1944. When enemy artillery and machine gun fire forced Company F, \* \* \* Infantry, to fall back to prepared positions near \* \* \*, a wounded non-commissioned officer was left behind. Lieutenant Anderson and an enlisted man made their way to the wounded man's side and administered first aid, then placed him in a covered position. Enemy fire increased in intensity, and these soldiers remained in contested terrain for a period of twelve hours until dark, when they placed the wounded soldier on a shelter-half and dragged him to the safety of our lines. The courage, coolness and disregard for personal safety on the part of Lieutenant Anderson resulted in saving the life of a wounded comrade. Entered military service from Kansas.

Second Lieutenant James E Shipps, 0887595, Medical Administrative Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France from 18 September 1944 to 1 January 1945. Entered military service from Nebraska.

Technical Sergeant Fred B Barker, 39014713, Field Artillery, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \*, France on 22 November 1944. Entered military service from California.

Staff Sergeant John Belan, 35747947, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \*, Germany on 21 December 1944. On 21 December, a forward observer for the mortar section of Company D, \* \* \* Infantry, who had established his post well ahead of friendly lines, was seriously wounded by a shell fragment, and his prompt evacuation was necessary not only to make medical assistance possible, but also to prevent his capture by an advancing enemy. Sergeant Belan, together with four comrades, made his way forward over two miles of rugged terrain to reach the wounded observer, braving observed enemy artillery and mortar barrages. He then assisted in placing the wounded man on a stretcher and carrying him to a covered position, from where he could be driven to an aid station. A section of the perilous route led over the crest of a hill which had to be traversed by crawling so that the silhouettes of the men would present the smallest possible targets to the enemy. Sergeant Belan's heroic determination to save the life of a wounded comrade in spite of all obstacles honors his character as a soldier. Entered military service from West Virginia.

Staff Sergeant William A Flory, 20725324, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of \* \* \*, Germany on 15 December 1944. During an enemy counterattack launched in the early morning hours of 15 December, German riflemen infiltrated to the vicinity of the command post of Company F, \* \* \* Infantry. Sergeant Flory, a squad leader, grabbed his sub-machine gun and stepped to the doorway of the building his unit was occupying. The enemy opened fire and, when Sergeant Flory closed the door, fired a rifle grenade which demolished the door. Without regard for his personal safety, Sergeant Flory fired through the open doorway and killed three of the enemy. The Germans countered with another rifle grenade which exploded near Sergeant Flory but did not injure him. He stood fast and continued firing at the enemy until the Germans were repulsed. By his courage under fire, he eliminated a direct threat to the company command post. Entered military service from Kansas.

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Staff Sergeant Jake Janesovsky, 37034536, Field Artillery, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \* , France on 22 November 1944. Entered military service from Kansas.

Staff Sergeant Virgil A Ritter, 36560659 (then private first class), Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France from 11 July to 20 December 1944. Entered military service from Michigan.

Sergeant Elston D Birge, 35105050, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \* , Germany on 15 December 1944. While other units of the First Battalion, \* \* \* Infantry, engaged enemy troops defending the town of \* \* \* from well fortified positions on the outskirts, Company A infiltrated through the enemy lines into \* \* \* . Sergeant Birge, a machine gun squad leader, volunteered to return through the enemy lines to establish contact with Company B and lead that unit into \* \* \* by the same route. He crawled through a flare-lighted area for about 200 yards under heavy enemy fire, moving at times within two yards of enemy positions, to reach Company B. Returning by the same perilous route at the head of Company B, he was on two occasions forced to engage in hand grenade duels with enemy troops, but succeeded in leading the company into the town without casualties. His courage, initiative and disregard for his own safety exemplify the high traditions of the military service. Entered military service from Kentucky.

Sergeant John L Claus, 35321172, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France and Luxembourg from 19 June 1944 to 3 January 1945. Entered military service from Ohio.

Sergeant William E Cooksey, 33730588 (then private first class), Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of \* \* \* , Germany on 13 and 14 December 1944. Sergeant Cooksey, together with three other members of a machine gun crew, successfully defended a building in \* \* \* against strong and repeated enemy attacks on 13 December. About 0230 on 14 December the enemy launched a sharp counterattack with rocket launchers and grenades. Although wounded, Sergeant Cooksey and his companions kept the machine gun in operation until it was disabled by an enemy rocket. The Germans called upon this crew to surrender. This demand was answered with rifle fire. At daybreak another machine gun was secured and set up in the building. Using the machine gun, carbines, and captured German weapons, Sergeant Cooksey and his companions stopped all enemy attempts to infiltrate into buildings in that vicinity, and held their position until reinforcements arrived at dusk. Sergeant Cooksey's courageous actions and zealous devotion to duty contributed to the success of his unit in maintaining its bridgehead across the \* \* \* River in \* \* \* . Entered military service from Washington, DC.

Corporal Benjamin Szwejkowski, 36561363, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \* , Germany on 21 December 1944. On 21 December, a forward observer for the mortar section of Company D, \* \* \* Infantry, who had established his post well ahead of friendly lines, was seriously wounded by a shell fragment, and his prompt evacuation was necessary not only to make medical assistance possible, but also to prevent his capture by an advancing enemy. Corporal Szwejkowski, together with four comrades, made his way forward over two miles of rugged terrain to reach the wounded observer, braving observed enemy artillery and mortar barrages. He then assisted in placing the wounded man on a stretcher and carrying him to a covered position, from where he could be driven to an aid station. A section of the perilous route led over the crest of a hill which had to be traversed by crawling so that the silhouettes of the men would present the smallest possible targets to the enemy. Corporal Szwejkowski's heroic determination to save the life of a wounded comrade in spite of all obstacles honors his character as a soldier. Entered military service from Michigan.

Private First Class Albert P Asta, 36899987, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of \* \* \* , Germany on 13 and 14 December 1944. Private Asta, together with three other members of a machine gun crew, successfully

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defended a building in \* \* \* against strong and repeated enemy attacks on 13 December. About 0230 on 14 December the enemy launched a sharp counterattack with rocket launchers and grenades. Although wounded, Private Asta and his companions kept the machine gun in operation until it was disabled by an enemy rocket. The Germans called upon this crew to surrender. This demand was answered with rifle fire. At daybreak another machine gun was secured and set up in the building. Using the machine gun, carbines, and captured German weapons, Private Asta and his companions stopped all enemy attempts to infiltrate into buildings in that vicinity, and held their position until reinforcements arrived at dusk. Private Asta's courageous actions and zealous devotion to duty contributed to the success of his unit in maintaining its bridgehead across the \* \* \* River in \* \* \*. Entered military service from Michigan.

Private First Class Fernand P Bell, 31320405, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of \* \* \*, Germany on 13 and 14 December 1944. Private Bell, together with three other members of a machine gun crew, successfully defended a building in \* \* \* against strong and repeated enemy attacks on 13 December. About 0230 on 14 December the enemy launched a sharp counterattack with rocket launchers and grenades. Although wounded, Private Bell and his companions kept the machine gun in operation until it was disabled by an enemy rocket. The Germans called upon this crew to surrender. This demand was answered with rifle fire. At daybreak another machine gun was secured and set up in the building. Using the machine gun, carbines, and captured German weapons, Private Bell and his companions stopped all enemy attempts to infiltrate into buildings in that vicinity, and held their position until reinforcements arrived at dusk. Private Bell's courageous actions and zealous devotion to duty contributed to the success of his unit in maintaining its bridgehead across the \* \* \* River in \* \* \*. Entered military service from Maine.

Private Lyle F Forsyth, 36952243, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \*, Germany on 21 December 1944. On 21 December, a forward observer for the mortar section of Company D, \* \* \* Infantry, who had established his post well ahead of friendly lines, was seriously wounded by a shell fragment, and his prompt evacuation was necessary not only to make medical assistance possible, but also to prevent his capture by an advancing enemy. Private Forsyth, together with four comrades, made his way forward over two miles of rugged terrain to reach the wounded observer, braving observed enemy artillery and mortar barrages. He then assisted in placing the wounded man on a stretcher and carrying him to a covered position, from where he could be driven to an aid station. A section of the perilous route led over the crest of a hill which had to be traversed by crawling so that the silhouettes of the men would present the smallest possible targets to the enemy. Private Forsyth's heroic determination to save the life of a wounded comrade in spite of all obstacles honors his character as a soldier. Entered military service from Illinois.

Private Donald C McMullen, 35925680, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \*, Germany on 21 December 1944. On 21 December, a forward observer for the mortar section of Company D, \* \* \* Infantry, who had established his post well ahead of friendly lines, was seriously wounded by a shell fragment, and his prompt evacuation was necessary not only to make medical assistance possible, but also to prevent his capture by an advancing enemy. Private McMullen, together with four comrades, made his way forward over two miles of rugged terrain to reach the wounded observer, braving observed enemy artillery and mortar barrages. He then assisted in placing the wounded man on a stretcher and carrying him to a covered position, from where he could be driven to an aid station. A section of the perilous route led over the crest of a hill which had to be traversed by crawling so that the silhouettes of the men would present the smallest possible targets to the enemy. Private McMullen's heroic determination to save the life of a wounded comrade in spite of all obstacles honors his character as a soldier. Entered military service from Ohio.

V -- BRONZE STAR MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER). Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, and Circular 6, Headquarters Third United States Army, 26 April 1944, in addition to the Bronze Star Medal previously awarded, a bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to the following officer and enlisted men of this command:

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First Lieutenant David R McNaught, 0437962, Field Artillery, United States Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France from 15 August to 31 December 1944. Entered military service from New York.

Technical Sergeant Joseph W Lighter, 20724979, Infantry, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France, Germany and Belgium from 1 December 1944 to 6 January 1945. Entered military service from Kansas.

Private First Class Steven C Yevich, 33459597, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \* \* \*, Germany on 21 December 1944. On 21 December, a forward observer for the mortar section of Company D, \* \* \* Infantry, who had established his post well ahead of friendly lines, was seriously wounded by a shell fragment, and his prompt evacuation was necessary not only to make medical assistance possible, but also to prevent his capture by an advancing enemy. Private Yevich, together with four comrades, made his way forward over two miles of rugged terrain to reach the wounded observer, braving observed enemy artillery and mortar barrages. He then assisted in placing the wounded man on a stretcher and carrying him to a covered position from where he could be driven to an aid station. A section of the perilous route led over the crest of a hill which had to be traversed by crawling so that the silhouettes of the men would present the smallest possible targets to the enemy. Private Yevich's heroic determination to save the life of a wounded comrade in spite of all obstacles honors his character as a soldier. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

Private Harry B Murdock, 37001321, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in the vicinity of \* \* \*, Normandy, France on 11 July 1944. When enemy artillery and machine gun fire forced Company F, \* \* \* Infantry, to fall back to prepared positions near \* \* \*, a wounded noncommissioned officer was left behind. Private Murdock and another enlisted man made their way to the wounded man's side and administered first aid, then placed him in a covered position. Enemy fire increased in intensity, and these soldiers remained in contested terrain for a period of twelve hours until dark, when they placed the wounded soldier on a shelter-half and dragged him to the safety of our lines. The courage, coolness and disregard for personal safety on the part of Private Murdock resulted in saving the life of a wounded comrade. Entered military service from Missouri.

VI -- BRONZE STAR MEDAL. So much of Section VII, General Orders, No 57, Headquarters 35th Infantry Division, 18 December 1944, as pertains to Technical Sergeant Charles H Pettit, 38422949, Infantry, is rescinded (see sec III).

By command of Major General RAADE:

MADDREY A SOLOMON  
 Colonel, G S C  
 Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

*Max E Cull*  
 MAX E CULL  
 Major, A G D  
 Asst Adjutant General

Distribution: Special