



HEADQUARTERS 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE DIVISION COMMANDER

A.P.O. 469. U.S. ARMY

19 March 1945.

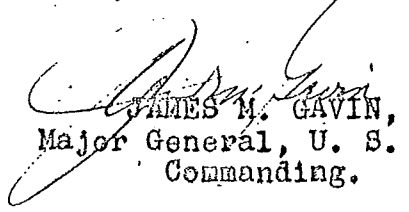
SUBJECT: Award of the Silver Star Medal.

TO : First Lieutenant James Megallas, 0439607,
504th Parachute Infantry, U. S. Army.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in letter 200.6 (AG) Headquarters XVIII Corps Airborne, dated 31 August 1944, the Silver Star Medal is awarded to the following named individual:

CITATION:

JAMES MEGALLAS, 0439607, First Lieutenant, 504th Parachute Infantry. For gallantry in action on 28 January 1945 near HERRESBACH, BELGIUM. After breaking a trail across country for twelve hours in deep, dry snow, First Lieutenant MEGALLAS, a platoon leader, was ordered to advance with his platoon and two supporting tanks along the main road leading into HERRESBACH. About one mile from the town, his platoon was fired upon by about 200 Germans forming for a defense. Quickly grasping the situation, he led a frontal assault on the startled enemy who attempted to fight back. First Lieutenant MEGALLAS' direction and leadership of his men was so superb that within ten minutes the entire force of enemy was either killed, captured, or fled into the town. He then reorganized his platoon, and with the two supporting tanks followed the enemy into the town. Braving heavy enemy sniper and rifle fire, he personally took a leading part in flushing the enemy out of their houses, killing eight and capturing five enemy. As a result of First Lieutenant MEGALLAS' fearless leadership and skillful handling of his men, over 100 enemy were killed, 180 captured, and large amounts of valuable equipment fell into our hands. This feat was accomplished without the loss of a single man wounded or killed. First Lieutenant MEGALLAS demonstrated a remarkable degree of tactical skill and a brand of courageous leadership which reflects highly upon himself and the Airborne Forces. Entered military service from FON DU LAC, WISCONSIN.


JAMES M. GAVIN,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

16 May 1945

SUBJECT: Award of the Silver Star Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster

TO: First Lieutenant James Megallas, 504th Parachute Infantry.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in letter 200.6 (AG) Headquarters XVIII Corps Airborne, dated 31 August 1944, the Silver Star Medal having been previously awarded, the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal is awarded to the following named individual:

JAMES MEGALLAS' 0439607, First Lieutenant, 504th Parachute Infantry. For gallantry in action on 20 December 1944 near CHENEUX, BELGIUM. While attacking across the barren crest of a hill toward their ultimate objective, Lieutenant MEGALLAS, with utter disregard for his personal safety, fearlessly charged down the hill toward the enemy, calling for his men to follow him. Reaching a small patch of woods, Lieutenant MEGALLAS sighted a large force of enemy armor and infantry and an AT gun firing on friendly Tank Destroyers. Unhesitatingly, Lieutenant MEGALLAS opened fire upon its crew, killing all eight. The enemy raked the trees with a curtain of intense fire, wounding one of the men. Lieutenant MEGALLAS fearlessly picked up the wounded man and led his small force to cover, reformed it and led them to seize the objective. Lieutenant MEGALLAS' initiative and aggressiveness reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Airborne Forces. Entered military service from FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN.

JAMES M. GAVIN
Major General, USA
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BATTALION
504TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY
APO 469 US ARMY

"B A T T L E of the B U L G E"
(Belgium and Germany)

17 Dec 1945 - 21 Feb 1945

Commanding Officer - Lt. Col. J. A. Cook

Executive Officer - Major A. K. Zakby

Staff Officers

S-1 1st Lt. T. F. PITT
S-2 1st Lt. V. F. CARMICHAEL
S-3 Capt. H. B. KEEP
S-4 1st Lt. T. E. Utterback

Company Commanders

Hqs. Co. Capt. G. M. WARFIELD
G. Co. 1st Lt. J. H. GOETHE
H. Co. Capt. C. W. KAPPEL
I. Co. Capt. J. F. GRAY
I. Co. Capt. T. M. BURRISS

17 Dec 44

2230- Bn alerted - be ready to move by 0900 18Dec 44.

18 Dec 44

1045- Bn cleared area in Air Corps Simi's. (camp Sissinne)

19 Dec 44

- 0130- Bn less one truck (Capt Thomas) closed in Werbomont.
0200- CP established (537001)
0930- Col cook, Capt Keep & CO's go on Recon.
1000- Capt Thomas' truck arrived. (Skipped off road)
1130- Col cook & Capt return from Recon. Cow now digging in.
1250- Col cook & Capt reports to Cider.
1310- Above returned:- Bn will out post line along river to our right.
1325- Col cook & Capt Keep & CO's leave on Recon.
1630- Above returned:- Start moving out; G+Sec LMG's on right;
H+Sec LMG's on left, I in reserve.
1700- Col cook returned:- Capt Keep setting up forward CP. Col
goes to Cider to get new situation.
1710- Rear CP closed out.
1730- Col cook returned with Major Zakbys, who is now Bn Exec.
Our situation is well in hand. Big picture is SNAFU.
1820- CP established (574999)
2130- Col cook called meeting of CO's --situation changed--
1st & 2nd Bn's moved out at 1900 to cross river & go into
position north of Rahier. 3rd Bn will move out & take up
support position between 1st & 2nd Bns on order from
Cider. Order of March I, G, Hq & A.T.'s. G & I companies
will move into position South of chevron to support 1st &
2nd Bns. H in reserve.

20 Dec. 44

- 0210- Cider notifies Bn to move out.
0325- CP closed out.
0355- Bn cleared area
0555- Bn closed in vicinity of Froidville.
0605- CP established in Froidville. G Co in reserve. 81mm
mortars at (706004).
1115- I Co & 2 57 AT's took over road blocks from 2nd Bn
(606-003 to 606-015)
1230- 508 contact patrol reached here.
1600- 5men from intelligence section left to check blown bridge
at (607034) to see if Germans are attempting to bridge river.
1650- Plat from G Co (24 EM & 2 Off) left to Recon high ground

- along "Bais Laid-ghere".
- 1840- Intelligenece patrol returned-- Reports they contacted 119th Inf at (607034). Small foot bridge across river at that point. No enemy information.
- 1945- I reports 119th Inf contacted them.
- 1950- G patrol returned-- encountered nothing.
- 2130- G moves out to help 1st Bn.
- 2330- White reports 4 man patrol (2Off & 2 EM) following compass course to contact 505. May return through H about 0100. H Co notified.

21 Dec 44

- 0845- Col Williams called-- Alert Bn & prepare to move. Col & Capt Keep report to Gider.
- 0945- Col & Capt Keep returned from Gider. called meeting of C.O's. Bn less G will move as soon as possible to sweep area to our east.
- 1030- Bn pushes off--H, I, & Hq.
- 1600- H encountered flak wagon & small arms fire in Monceau. Are Pinned down. Col calls for I to come up. Arty requested.
- 1750- H & I move out to go into position from (638019 to 644016). H on right, I on left.
- 2015- 1st Bn contacted.
- 2230- All Co's in position.
- 2230- Col Cook & Capt Keep recon positions.

22 Dec 44

- 1330- Shelling of all positions by heavy arty. Small arms fire from ridge chateau.
- 1345- I sent out patrol to investigate chateau. 5Em & 1 Off.
- 1500- Lt Ray (FO) reports activity indicates our troops in Stoumont. Fire from there toward La Glese. Enemy vehicles movement toward La Glese from Stoumont. Arty fire from Bois de P'Ancre area into La Glese. Arty from north landing in La Glese; possibly 3oth; Reg't informed.
- 1515- 4 M10's taken away from us and assigned to challenge. 2 57's given to us as replacements.
- 1525- Report American TD's firing from SE La Glese toward tunnel.
- 1530- All Co's report 3 TD's & Infantry in vicinity of Stoumont moving and firing East.
- 1555- I reports Infantry battle developing in La Glese vicinity. American tanks East of Stoumont firing into I position. (Tracers out of La Glese-North) (Tracers from South).
- 1620- Lt Ray (FO) reports that our armour is moving into La Glese from East or North. (Based on type of fire). Kraut half-tracks coming in from SW. Enemy Inf w/MG's at (645-028).

- 1650- I patrol returns: chateau occupied by both American & Kraut wounded. Picked up one wounded man from 2nd Armored Div who had been prisoner.
- 1945- G reports in position.
- 2005- I reports physical contact with D.
- 2010- Gider warns of probable enemy parachute drop at 2030. All companies alerted.
- 2015- H patrol returned: From (6680200) witness scrap at (671025). Krauts on top of hill; Americans attempting to take hill moving E. Heard much armored movement in La Gleze. Town on fire.
- 2030- Gider informs us of possibility of enemy attempting to push 50 tanks across bridge through us.
- 2200- Col Cook & Capt Keep return from Gider. Present from across river seems to be averted. Red is to be pulled out & set up in support of 325. G will move back cheneau and take up positions in defense of town on our left flank and actively patrol to river. Meeting of CO's and they are informed of plan.

23 Dec 44

- 0330- G moves out to cheneau.
- 0500- G closes into new position.
- 0930- Intelligence men reports sighting trailer type vehicle on enemy side of bridge at (662018).
- 1130- Lt Sims reports sighting red equipment chute at (646024) between river and rail road. Also small fire fight Approx 2000 yds E of this point.
- 1150- Lt Sims reports another Red equipment chute SE of Stoutmount at (633022) in trees.
- 1130- 3 man patrol from I left to contact 119th Inf at (648027).
- 1200- I reports digging of American infantry S of chateau.
- 1215- Intelligence men in from patrol/ From Beauloup they observed what they thought to be an enemy traler on bridge (6622019).
- 1225- Above patrol out again to confirm report of traler on bridge.
- 1305- Capt Burriss reports they have Kraut Flak Wagon W/20mm and plenty of Ammo- both in good condition and plan to use same against enemy.
- 1400- I patrol returns: contacted 119 at (649024). Their line runs (643020) to (650032) . Stopped by AT fire from La Gleze. They have with elements of 3rd armored who are awaiting more armor. Lt Megellas observes 88mm W/ crew digging in at (650029) Arty called on target.
- 1600- Intelligence returns/ 8 Germans in Vicinity of La-Venne.
- 1605- Arty fire refused by corps on 88mm at above location. Our 81's will fire on the target.

- 1705- Starting at 1700 I will send out contact patrol (3 men) to 119 - Give them our situation & get theirs
- 1710- Lt McLain called: Range to great for 88. Will move gun forward & fire again.
- 1530- G sent Group to pick up enemy equipment bundles.
- 1700- Group from G to pick up enemy equipment bundles returned: Bundles contained Gas & 88mm Ammo. Same sent to Cider.
- 1735- Lt Stooling reports permission was granted to fire on tank-fired, good results, but not sure of direct hit.
- 1900- I patrol back from 119: contacted them at St Glieze station. 119 stoped by tanks & infantry. Right flank same as this PM. will try left flank sweep tomorrow.
- 1905- At 1700 H sent patrol of 6 men to S of La Vanne. Patrol found 3 chutes: 1 camoflague, 1 pilot & 1 white - 2 drums of gas (50 gal ea) one spilled)- will go back later & get above. Heard lots of noise in La Venne. Requested Arty.

24 Dec 44

- 0550- Bn less G alerted - will move as soon as possible by truck. G will maintain road blocks and send out patrols. (30th Div has pushed up from our left and squeezed us out).
- 0825- CP closed out.
- 0940- Bn cleared cheneux.
- 1030- Bn closed in at Jevigne.
- 1145- CP established in Baneux.
- 1400- Bn in position.
- 1500- Col Williams visits CP- Calls G to sweep area to their E as far as Red & mop-up any Germans who might have swam river.
- 1620- I calls: in hot fire fight; one plat cut off on right flank; are committing remainder of go.
- 1645- Cider informes us that Krauts are wearing snow suits.
- 1650- Col Cook calls I/ They report fight has died down. Plat not cut off now. Are withdrawing & consolidating on secondary road block.
- 1755- Lt Stooling informs that left Plat of H at (598878). Right flank on hill oppisite side. Reserve Plat at CP. Mines on road lifted. 80th AT's at CP. White Bn Approx 1000yds forward H position. 325 is cut up pretty bad and dribbling back in large numbers.
- 1800- Cider alerts Bn to be able to move immediately; Col Cook reports to Cider.
- 1810- I has consolidated around secondary road block. Few wounded and MIA.
- 1815- H reports 325 reorganizing one go to extend their right flank to I. contacted Red to left front of CP.

- 1915- Col Cook called from cider: Have all CO's to CP as soon as possible.
- 2000- CO's meeting: Bn will move by foot & set up defense before daylight in vicinity of Bra. Companies will move (less 1 Plat to act as shell which will pull out on Bn order) as soon as possible. G will rejoin Bn.

25 Dec 45

- 0045- Main body of Bn less G closes in Bra.
- 0200- Capt Burriss reports to CP: Unit on his right withdrew (they claim big Kraut Panzer attack coming)
- 0300- Mines laid, Arty requested (defensive fires), TD's move & At's go into position.
- 0330- Capt Keep informs Col Williams of our situation and of right flank being exposed. Col says we'll hold.
- 0400- G closed in area & are going to help I.
- 0540- Col Cook and rear parties closed in.
- 1000- Elements of 83rd Division tied in with I's right flank. G will move back to rest area in Bra.
- 1200- Situation seems to be pretty in hand now. No contact with enemy yet.
- 1505- H reports small German patrol hit their right flank at (573919). Had fire fight; patrol withdrew.
- 1515- Col Cook ordered H & I to send out patrols in pursuit of enemy patrol.
- 1535- H reports smoke in front of their positions. They called patrol in.
- 1540- G alerted.
- 1605- Lt Rivers arrived at CP with one PW: PW says he was with point of Recon Plat for his Bn who were attacking in our direction. Bn has 4 cos, 120 men per co. Lt Rivers says Approx 6 Krauts were killed in their scrap.
- 1630- H reports Approx 150 Germans at (575927) advancing NW. Arty requested.
- 1635- Arty radio reports approx 120 Germans advancing in vicinity (575923) will fire on them immediately.
- 1655- Arty reports fired on Krauts with excellent results. 81's also fired with good results.
- 1715- G informed to get ready to move out and stand by.
- 1735- H reports they had heavy fire fight on left flank-things quieten down now- no casualties, but several were inflicted on the enemy.
- 1755- G moves out to fill in gap between H & I.
- 1800- H sends up 3 more PW's.
- 1840- H reports sound of track vehicles in vicinity (574920)

11 Jan 45

Rest area, Remouchamps

24 Jan 45

2030- Col Cook & Capt Keep Report to Gider.
2300- Above returned: Bn will be ready to move by 25L500 Jan 45.

25 Jan 45

Gider Called: Move postponed for 24 hours.

26 Jan 45

1600- Switch board pulled: All troops ready to move- Awaiting trucks.
1800- Bn cleared Remouchamps by trucks.
2300- Bn closed in Hunnange/W

27 Jan 45

0900- Col COOK & Capt & Lt Goethe report to Gider to get situation.
1335- Above returned- found out nothing.
1500- Capt Keep, Lt Carmichael & 1 officer from each CO to forward assembly area to Recon route & locate points to place guides.
1500- Col Cook made reconnaissance in sub.
1925- Col Cook to Gider.
2055- Col Cook back:- calls meeting of all CO's. Bn will attack- Jump off at 0600 tomorrow. Order G, I, Hq & H. Attachments- 1 Plat of tanks, 2 Suds of Engrs & other usual attachments & 4.2 Mortars.

28 Jan 45

0335- Bn closed out.
0400- Rear CP established.
0530- Bn closed in forward assembly area.
0600- Jumped off.
0635- G contacted enemy- opposition light. Killed Approx 6 and have 7 PW's.
1030- Bn reached point 11. contacted 325- tried to contact E, but failed.
1300- H halts. I passes thru & is now leading company. (Snow wast deep, can advance only 1000 yds per hour).

- 1430- Lt Crooks made contact with 325 reserve. He observed & reported enemy vehicles withdrawing to the E.
- 1600- CP group observed Approx 20 Krauts & 5 vehicles about 500 yards to our left. Major Zakby orders H patrol to investigate.
- 1630- On objective: set up temporary perimeter defense.
- 1800- Lt Megellas & his Plat from H attack Herresbach- G will follow. Lt Megellas has three tanks attached. Ran into company of Krauts attacking down road toward us as they attack toward town.
- 1900- Town in our hands; Approximately 100 dead Krauts and about 100 PW's. PW's still coming in. We have no casualties. G defend to S, H to N, I in reserve.
- 1950- H patrol in: contacted enemy- had S/A fight. Enemy withdrew. also contacted 325- they are behind us but are getting along fine.
- 2030- 2nd Bn arrives in town- will bivouac here with us.
- 2100- G makes contact with Red. will make contact every two hours.
- 2135- Men very tired- col instructs CO's to have men get maximum rest in houses when possible.
- 2400- Approx 200 PW's & 100 killed. We have 2 MIA & 1WIA.

29 Jan 45

- 0100- H reports Krauts moving up from NE along road leaning into town. Krauts yelled they were from 325. Our men let them in. They captured two & wounded one. We got 5 PW's. Laid Arty, tanks & MG fire on them.
- 0400- col Tucker tells White to take over defense of town from S, we take over N from (954922) to (945926). col Cook calls meeting of CO's. H on right from (954922) to (952925). G from there to (945926). Will jump off at 0600.
- 0600- Attack delayed until 0730 because of delay in lifting our Arty and getting tanks ready.
- 0735- H & G push off- 4 tanks with H.
- 0900- H pinned down by S/A fire from vicinity (950923). col & Capt Keep go down to see about situation.
- 0945- H situation better- 2 tanks & 2 platoons at (954922), 1 platoon & Capt Grey at (951921) exchanging S/A with enemy on high ground to their N. H continues to push on, therefore, cutting off group of Krauts.
- 1000- G in position.
- 1130- H in position- made contact with G.
- 1215- 1 platoon from I under control of Capt Grey will clean-out pocket of Krauts between his line & town. Lt Weber in charge- will leave at 1345.
- 1230- 76 PW's since G & H jumped off. We have about 12 casualties.

- 1330- H observed 8 to 10 krauts in vicinity (963924), 30 moving S on road at (968922), 3 to 4 moving W to woods in vicinity (964922), 25 moving S at (872923). Request Arty.
- 1335- From H: Need arty on these points; (963924), Rd at (968921) to (967918), Rd (973923) to (970918). About two plats moving along above roads. could use arty observer; he can get direct observation from here. We have no radio & lines go out as fast as we run them.
- 1420- Arty observer left for H.
- 1700- I plat back from sweeping area. Found about 12 dead Krauts. very little activity.
- 1810- Col Tucker gives new plan+ 2nd Bn push out to Eimirsheid, 1st Bn to their left, 3rd Bn will defend Herrisbach. Our front looking SW, I on right, H on left. G reserve.
- 2155- Col Cook & Capt Keep leave with G & 4 tanks who will go to vicinity (954914) shoot up woods, get PW's & make Diversion s so H can move.
- 2300- G make contact on objective.
- 2340- Col & Capt Keep back: G on high ground- two tanks knocked out- one hit mine other tipped over in crater.

30 Jan 45

- 0040- I in new position.
- 0045- Lt Gothe called- 2 good tanks withdrew after flat trajectory fire placed under control of Lt Powers. Lt Andersin wounded, Lt Almond taking his place. 2 platoons with 2 knocked out tanks on high ground.
- 0420- I called- Patrol observed 25 or 30 Krauts digging in at (942914). No hit.
- 1200- Col Tucker contacts Col Cook- 3rd Bn will move to Medenhroff after our positions are taken over by 32nd Cavalry Sqd.
- 1700- Col Tucker called Col Cook on radio+ Bn will move at 1800 even if relief isn't completed.
- 1815- Bn closed out. Relief almost completed.
- 2400 2030- CO's meeting- change in plan- Bn will proceed on to Lazerath & set up defense of town.

31 Jan 45

- 0400- Bn closed in Lanzerath. G will set up road block at (008960) & defend to (00296L). I from (00296L) to (999958) H in reserve. GP in town.
- 0720- G reports enemy armor firing on their road block & coming this way. Few barb guns heard. Some infantry with tanks. (fog very heavy, visibility only about 40 yards)