

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO #36, U. S. Army

11 March 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 65

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded each of the following named individuals:

RICHARD J. WERNER, Colonel, 0216665, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. Colonel Werner landed in the early hours of D-Day with one of the two assault battalions of his regiment at a time when the beach was continuously subjected to intense enemy artillery and machine gun fire. During the period following the landing, units of his regiment were pinned down by enemy tanks, artillery and small arms fire. Realizing the need for prompt advance, he moved from place to place continuously exposed to enemy tank and artillery fire directing operations of his troops and arranging for naval gun fire support. With utter disregard for his own safety he successfully coordinated and directed the advance of his regiment throughout the day. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from San Antonio, Texas.

ROBERT C. McCUNE, 38025461, First Sergeant, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. Company B was ordered to cross the \*\*\* River on the night of January 19th. Prior to its crossing, the company was subjected to heavy concentrations of enemy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire during which the company commander, executive officer and numerous others were killed or wounded. Sergeant McCune crossed the river with the leading elements of Company B and pressed forward into enemy territory until the company was stopped by machine gun fire and barbed wire entanglements. He assisted in reorganizing the elements of the company and supervised their digging in for a defensive position. With utter disregard for his own safety, he moved among the men after daylight on the morning of 20 January, directing their efforts under intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire. While so doing he was wounded in the arm and side. Despite his wounds Sergeant McCune insisted on remaining with his men. While attempting to locate an enemy machine gun that was harrassing his company, he was again wounded. When the company's ammunition had become exhausted, in the face of overwhelming odds and despite severe multiple wounds, Sergeant McCune successfully withdrew the remaining elements of his company to safety. His gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from San Antonio, Texas.

KENNETH M. MORRIS, Technical Sergeant, 20802721, (then Sergeant), Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. As squad leader of an assault platoon of Company G, Sergeant Morris led his squad forward during the attack against \*\*\* under heavy enemy

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artillery, mortar, machine gun and rifle fire until his squad had attained its first objective. He then volunteered to remain in a position which was constantly being subjected to severe concentrations of enemy mortar and artillery fire in order to provide covering fire for the forward movement of two assault platoons. During this movement, he again volunteered to move a distance of one hundred yards into an open and exposed position which was directly under enemy observation so he could fire his automatic rifle on an enemy machine gun blocking the path of advance. With utter disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Morris successfully neutralized the fire of the enemy machine gun until the assault platoons had reached their new positions. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Ingleside, Texas.

BENJAMIN (NMI) ROPER, JR., Staff Sergeant, 33058866, (then Private First Class); Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1943 on \*\*\* Italy. Company C had advanced up over the rugged, slippery terrain of \*\*\* to a defensive position, and had prepared for a counterattack, which developed suddenly. Sergeant Roper and ten men of his section were on outpost. As the counterattack was launched by the enemy, Sergeant Roper and all of the men on outpost duty fired effectively on them. He observed an enemy soldier firing from a well concealed position. Displaying outstanding courage, Sergeant Roper crawled forward over open ground under hostile fire to a position within a few yards of the enemy soldier where he threw a hand grenade killing him and causing confusion among the enemy. His aggressiveness materially assisted in repelling the counterattack. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Edwardsville, Virginia.

NOLAN A. PEAL, Staff Sergeant, 20802728; Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. During the attack against \*\*\*, Sergeant Peal was assigned to lead one of the assault platoons due to lack of officer platoon leaders. With complete disregard for his own safety he led his platoon forward under heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire and successfully attained the platoon's first objective. Upon reaching the first objective in conjunction with another assault platoon of Company G, the two platoon leaders decided to move the platoons in order to obtain better fighting positions. Sergeant Peal volunteered to remain on the first objective, which was being subjected to heavy concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire, and cover the movement of the two platoons with the fire of a small covering force. By neutralizing enemy machine gun and small arms fire with their own fire power and attracting enemy artillery and mortar fire to their position, Sergeant Peal's small force successfully covered the movement. Although wounded during this action, Sergeant Peal, with courage and fortitude carried on until the movement was completed. His calm courage under fire was an inspiration to all who witnessed his act. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Robstown, Texas.

WILLIAM C. WEBER, Staff Sergeant, 33270701, (then Sergeant), Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the

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vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. During the attack against \*\*\*, Sergeant Weber, squad leader in the support platoon of Company G, led his squad forward with utter disregard for his own safety in the face of heavy enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun and rifle fire. He was wounded during this action but refused to be evacuated, and although suffering from his painful wound, continued to lead his squad forward until every member of the squad was either killed or wounded. Sergeant Weber's cool bravery was an inspiration to all who witnessed his act. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Saint Morip, Texas.

HERBERT N. GOLDEN, Sergeant, 20807628, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. Company B in the attack had advanced to a position on a hill adjacent to \*\*\*, the objective, when the enemy, from a well fortified position, opened fire with machine guns. On his own initiative and with utter disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Golden crawled forward over rough, wet, slippery terrain in a flanking movement to a position where he routed the enemy, knocking out the machine gun nest with hand grenades, thereby permitting his company to move forward and occupy their objective. His calm determination and aggressive leadership were an inspiration to the company. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Mexia, Texas.

WAYNE (NMI) DENHAM, Sergeant, 20815054, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 23 November 1943, in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. While the battery position was being shelled by enemy artillery, Sergeant Denham, with utter disregard for his own safety, left his fox hole to give assistance to the battery aid man. Sergeant Denham assisted in giving first aid to three wounded men, moving one to a place of safety under cover from the rain until he could be evacuated to a hospital. He then returned to the position to find the remaining two dead of wounds. He assisted in carrying the bodies of these two comrades to cover, out of the rain, until they could be evacuated. His courageous act undoubtedly saved the life of a comrade and inspired all who witnessed his deeds. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Weatherford, Texas.

GRANT (NMI) BRUCE, Corporal, 36604940, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943, in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. Corporal Bruce, agent corporal of the mortar platoon then attached to an attacking rifle company, was acting as forward observer. During a heavy mortar and artillery barrage his communication to the company was disrupted. Because of the vital necessity for accurate mortar fire he moved out, with utter disregard for his own life, to repair the communication line. Although under intense enemy fire he proceeded to the command post and found a new line was necessary. He started out laying a new line, but was wounded seriously before completing the mission. He instructed his assistant to continue and the mission was completed. His calmness and aggressiveness under enemy fire were an inspiration to his comrades. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Chicago, Illinois.

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HENRY J. MIRANDA, Corporal, 39251893, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. In the attack on \*\*\*, Corporal Miranda's machine gun squad supported the riflemen. Carefully he reconnoitered and planned his routes of displacement well in advance. Under extremely heavy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, over rocky, muddy terrain he led his squad from position to position along the most covered routes to the most advantageous positions. During one displacement Corporal Miranda was wounded by a shell fragment. Despite the painful wound and shells bursting all around him, with utter disregard for his own life he stoutly refused to be evacuated and continued to direct the fire of his machine gun in support of the riflemen, until he received a second wound which caused his evacuation. His aggressive leadership, calmness under fire, and devotion to duty were an inspiration to his men who carried on to complete their mission. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Fallbrook, California.

KNOX (NMI) PAINE, Tec 5, 20814517, Medical Detachment, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 23 November 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. With utter disregard for his own safety, under enemy artillery fire, Tec 5 Paine left his fox hole and rendered first aid to three wounded men. With the help of another soldier, he moved one wounded man to a place of safety. While returning to get the other two, Tec 5 Paine was knocked unconscious by the concussion of an artillery shell. Upon regaining consciousness he continued on to the others, but finding them dead of their wounds, moved the bodies to shelter. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Cleburne, Texas.

ANTHONY QUAGLIATA, Private First Class, 32223164, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. As an automatic rifleman with one of the assault platoons of Company G, Private First Class Quagliata moved forward during the attack against \*\*\* under heavy enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun and rifle fire until his platoon had attained its first objective. He then volunteered to remain in a position which was constantly being subjected to severe concentrations of enemy mortar and artillery fire, in order to provide covering fire for the forward movement of two assault platoons. During this movement of the platoons, he again volunteered to move a distance of one hundred yards into an open and exposed position under direct enemy observation so he could fire directly on an enemy machine gun blocking the path of the advance. With utter disregard for his personal safety, Private First Class Quagliata successfully neutralized the fire of the enemy machine gun until the two assault platoons had reached their new positions. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the service from Brooklyn, New York.

JOSEPH A. COTROPIA, Private, 32735188, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 and 20 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. On 15 December 1943, the platoon of which Private Cotropia was a member, was in support of Company F in the attack on the well fortified and defended \*\*\*. As they advanced over rugged, muddy terrain, under heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, an enemy shell burst, seriously wounded all the non-commissioned officers of the platoon and also wounded Private Cotropia. On his own

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initiative and with complete disregard for his own life, he organized the group into an effective fighting team. He secured aid for the wounded, and then led his squad to a successful climax of the attack. Not until then did he have his wounds dressed. Again on 20 December 1943, Private Cotropia's squad was shelled by the enemy and six men were wounded, including himself. He rendered first aid to his men, secured litter bearers and evacuated the wounded. He then re-organized his squad effectively, after which he had his own wounds dressed. His aggressive leadership, calmness under fire and quick thinking were an inspiration to his men. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Rochester, New York.

TAMANDA W. NOBLE, Private, 32238068, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy. Company B was advancing up \*\*\*, over rough, mountainous terrain. Private Noble was a member of a patrol sent out by the company commander in daylight to contact the outpost of the adjacent unit. The patrol had advanced some 400 yards when it encountered enemy machine gun and machine pistol fire at close range. Private Noble, with utter disregard for his personal safety, immediately opened fire, attracting the attention of the enemy, and permitting the rest of the patrol to move in a flanking attack. His quick action resulted in complete neutralization of the enemy group, all being killed or captured. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from New York, N. Y.

By command of Major General WALKER:

STEWART T. VINCENT  
Colonel, General Staff Corps  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

*John J. Deane*  
JOHN J. DEANE  
Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department  
Adjutant General

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