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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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GENERAL ORDERS

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NO. 230

Posthumous Award of Silver Star..... I
Award of Silver Star..... II

SECTION I -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

HAROLD L. REESE, 0145069, Lieutenant Colonel, Inspector General's Department, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in the vicinity of * * * , ITALY. Lieutenant Colonel Reese, serving in a command liaison capacity, voluntarily pressed forward with the advance elements in the attack to break the final enemy defenses before * * * . As the bitter battle grew in intensity, with terrific small arms, mortar and high velocity artillery shells crashing all around him, Lieutenant Colonel Reese dauntlessly moved forward to better observe and assist in the severe fight. While in position in front of our tanks and tank destroyers, then engaging the enemy with direct fire, he was instantly killed by a ricocheting artillery shell. Next of kin: Mrs H. L. Reese, (Wife), 1301 Montgossy Avenue, Hymnwood, Pennsylvania.

DAVID B. BARTON, 015261, Lieutenant Colonel, Signal Corps, 36th Signal Company, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in the vicinity of * * * , ITALY. Lieutenant Colonel Barton, Division Signal Officer, pressed forward to personally supervise the laying of wire in the forward areas as the break through to * * * was beginning. Commanders were operating from the most forward positions, relentlessly pushing the attack against fiendishly defended positions. Fully realizing the urgency of constant communications, Lieutenant Colonel Barton drove on reconnaissance in front of our lines and was killed by enemy artillery and small arms fire. Next of kin: Mrs Polly C. Barton, (Wife), 239 North Pitt Street, Mercer, Pa.

AUGUST A. FLEITMANN, 38036990, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1944 in the vicinity of MOUNT * * * , ITALY. Private First Class Fleitmann, as runner for his company commander, was advancing with the leading elements of his company to relieve a unit of another division occupying positions on the mountainside when the enemy directed heavy machine gun fire against the advancing company from the left flank. Private First Class Fleitmann remained with his company commander, protecting his movements about the area and killing or wounding several enemy soldiers with his effective fire. Acting with extraordinary coolness and consciously exposing himself to the bursts of machine gun fire, he continued covering his commanding officer until he himself was killed by the enemy fire. Next of kin: Mrs Catherine Fleitmann (Mother), Box 105, Muenster, Texas.

JAMES DEATON, 34674167, Private, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 May 1944 in the vicinity of * * * , ITALY. Private Deaton was a member of a patrol with the mission of clearing a forward area of enemy snipers and gaining contact with troops of another battalion. While members of the

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patrol were pinned down by heavy enemy fire from a nearby house, Private Deaton, determined to destroy this threat to the security of the group, ignored the danger of mortar shelling and intense small arms fire, and moved calmly away from his place of cover to advance toward the house. Catching the enemy completely unawares, he quickly destroyed them, and enabled the patrol to continue forward, however he was killed in the final stages of this assault. Next of kin: Mr. Price B. Deaton (Brother), Biscoe, North Carolina.

SECTION II — AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

JAMES E. SEELEY, 35276657, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of MOUNT *** ITALY. During a strong, well-organized enemy attack on the 1st Battalion positions, Sergeant Seeley, a squad leader, directed his men in bringing effective fire against the onrushing enemy. Attracted by the screams of a wounded man, he spotted one of the enemy, with fixed bayonet, charging mercilessly toward the helpless soldier and an unarmed aid man who had been treating him. Unhesitatingly Sergeant Seeley sprang from his fighting hole and threw himself into the path of the enemy soldier, firing as he ran until he killed the enemy only a few feet from the wounded man. Entered the Service from Peninsula, Ohio.

ALLEN L. ISHAM, 32840752, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2-4 February 1944 in the vicinity of *** ITALY. Volunteering on three successive nights to make dangerous reconnaissance patrols of the enemy held bank of the *** River, Staff Sergeant Isham courageously crossed the treacherous waters and skillfully obtained invaluable information of enemy emplacements, strength and disposition. Constantly exposed to enemy fire and repeatedly risking discovery by the hostile troops, he completed a thorough reconnaissance of the area where severe casualties had already been sustained; and his information contributed materially to later operations in this sector. Entered the Service from Houghton, New York.

MANUEL R. RIVERA, 20802340, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 January 1944 in the vicinity of *** ITALY. Sergeant Rivera was ordered to lead his light machine gun section to support the riflemen in an attack on enemy positions across the *** River. Putting his machine guns into action on the hostile bank of the river, he directed accurate fire against enemy gun emplacements which had pinned down the attacking troops, and he successfully knocked out four machine guns. When the enemy began shelling the area with mortar fire, he kept his machine guns firing to cover the withdrawal of the riflemen. When the platoon leader was wounded, Sergeant Rivera assumed his duties, organizing a defensive position and initiating the evacuation of the wounded across the river in a rubber boat. While he was assisting in the evacuation, he was wounded by the explosion of a mortar shell and, in spite of his painful wounds, refused to take up room in the boat and insisted upon swimming to the friendly bank of the river. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

WILSON M. DERRICK, 20800458, Sergeant, 36th Signal Company, Special Troops, 36th Infantry Division, for gallantry in action on 17 February 1944 in the vicinity of *** ITALY. When an intense enemy artillery barrage shattered all the telephone lines into the switchboard located in a newly captured town, Sergeant Derrick led his detachment of linemen to repair the lines. While the shell fire was still

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heavy, he guided his men into the streets, taking cover in doorways, shell craters, and behind walls to avoid the hurtling shell fragments. They reached an exposed area where the buildings could no longer afford protection, and Sergeant Derrick encouraged his men to master their fears and continue on to complete their mission. With bombs falling so close that the men were lifted off the ground by the concussion, he directed the linemen in repairing the numerous breaks. He worked rapidly and skillfully, never hesitating until the vital communications were restored. Entered the Service from Denison, Texas.

HLRBERT R. WILLIAMS, JR, 37667289, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Leading the foremost elements of his unit in an assault on strongly fortified enemy positions across a strategic river, Private First Class Williams advanced under constant artillery and mortar shelling and sweeping machine gun fire into enemy territory, skillfully guiding the company through mined wire entanglements. Upon reaching a second wire fence he was severely wounded by the intense enemy fire; but, heedless of his painful wounds, he rendered efficient first aid to his wounded comrades and assisted in evacuating them across heavily mined, shell torn terrain to an aid station. Entered the Service from Corydon, Iowa.

URBAN L. BRACKEN, 36038619, Corporal, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Although not specifically trained in the tactics of the infantry combat soldier, Corporal Bracken, a clerk in the personnel section, landed with his company on the strategic beachhead along with the first assault waves. Advancing in the face of intense enemy small arms fire, he reached a point in the immediate vicinity of hostile gun emplacements. While acting as a rifleman, Corporal Bracken observed that a number of men had become separated from their squads and he determined to reorganize them into an effective combat unit. After skillfully and speedily collecting the men, he led them in a successful attack on an enemy machine gun nest, forcing the gun crew to withdraw. Then, after establishing his position near the enemy gun emplacements, he led his squad in capturing two enemy snipers who had been harassing the friendly troops. Entered the Service from Lemont, Illinois.

JOHN BIELLO, 31361413, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. During the attack on stubbornly defended enemy positions in ***, while Company L was engaged in reorganization, enemy troops launched a vigorous assault. Private First Class Biello, an automatic rifleman, was the first man to detect the enemy activity. He immediately alerted his platoon by firing repeatedly into the onrushing attackers, and he continued to bring effective automatic fire against the enemy, disorganizing the hostile troops. When two of his comrades were wounded, he volunteered to carry them across the fire swept area to a position of safety. While effecting the evacuation of the casualties, Private First Class Biello was himself wounded by the enemy fire, but he ignored his painful wound and returned to his position on the front line. While a comrade loaded magazines, he operated two automatic rifles, directing accurate fire against the enemy attackers until the assault was repelled. Entered the Service from Fall River, Massachusetts.

EDWARD S. CAHOON, 32679570, Private First Class, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 May 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Advancing at the head of his squad, Private First Class Cahoon, first scout, was fired upon by two enemy machine guns only 30 yards away. He unhesitatingly opened fire with his sub-machine gun and continued firing into the enemy emplacements while the remainder of

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his squad hurried to advantageous positions. When his weapon fell apart in his hands, Private First Class Cahoon ran back under intense machine gun fire to secure a rifle, then returned to his original position and covered the advance of his comrades as they rushed the position, successfully destroying the nests, killing two enemy soldiers and capturing 22. Largely as a result of his aggressiveness and quick thinking, the squad suffered few casualties and continued on to its objective. Entered the Service from White Plains, New York.

CHARLES W. HAVENS, 35460100, Private First Class, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 May 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. When the platoon of which Private First Class Havens was a member launched an attack against enemy positions in ***, the advance was stopped by rapid bursts of machine gun fire from an enemy dugout. Determining to remove this threat to the security of his unit, Private First Class Havens moved forward across 100 yards of terrain, constantly imperilled by exploding hand grenades and machine gun fire, and cautiously approached the dugout. Fully aware of his hazardous position, he began firing into the emplacement and forced the three terrified soldiers manning the enemy weapon to surrender. In this way he removed the obstacle preventing his platoon's advance and continued with the attack. Entered the Service from Manchester, Ohio.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart
VINCENT M. LOCKHART
Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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