

RESTRICTED

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

29 April 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 110.

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:

ROWLAND E. MCWILLIAMS, 20304066, First Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***. ~~Italy~~ When heavy fog hindered visibility during an assault by his company against a strongly defended hill, Sergeant McWilliams accompanied one attacking platoon in a voluntary attempt to maintain contact between it and the others. Moving fearlessly among his men and encouraging them while exposed to sweeping machine gun and small arms fire, he took command when the platoon leaders became separated in the dense fog and closely coordinated their attack with that of the other units. Leading them with magnificent daring, he closed with the enemy and captured five prisoners in the fierce hand to hand struggle which ensued. His aggressive leadership and outstanding courage were an inspiration to his men and materially assisted in the successful taking of the company objective. Sergeant McWilliams was later killed in another engagement. Next of kin: Ella M. McWilliams (Mother), Ballinger, Texas.

GORDON H. KOHNKE, Staff Sergeant, 36236309, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on ***. ~~Italy~~ Subjected to an intense enemy mortar and artillery barrage, Sergeant Kohnke, perceiving an enemy counterattack, and with thoughts only for the security of his unit's position, upon his own initiative left his place of comparative safety and skillfully worked his way under this withering enemy fire to alert his men and check on casualties. He moved from place to place encouraging his men and assisting in making their positions more secure. While returning to his own position he was fatally wounded by an enemy mortar shell. His magnificent display of leadership, calmness under fire and extraordinary devotion to duty materially aided in repulsing the subsequent enemy counterattack. Next of kin: Mrs. Anna Kohnke (Mother), Route #2, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin.

WILLIAM G. YOKOM, 32474467, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***. ~~Italy~~ Sergeant Yokom, platoon leader, was checking his group in preparation for crossing the *** river when artillery fire hit two of his men. Exposed at all times to intense enemy fire, he immediately ran to the wounded men to render aid. While thus nobly engaged, he was hit and fatally wounded by a shell burst. Sergeant Yokom's magnificent courage, calmness under fire and extraordinary devotion to his fellow soldiers greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Willelum Yokom (Mother), 40 Wade Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

- 1 -

(over)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

IVAN J. LANDRY, 34150805, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Landry, leader of a five man patrol assigned to make immediate contact with the battalion preceding an attack against strongly held enemy positions, bravely chose a direct route despite the intensity of artillery fire falling in the area. Moving forward into enemy held territory, he alertly discovered a twelve man enemy patrol returning to their lines with information of the impending attack. With magnificent daring, Sergeant Landry skillfully deployed his patrol, surprising the numerically superior enemy and capturing them before resistance could be offered and their outposts alerted. Disarming his prisoners, he then swiftly completed his mission. His aggressive leadership and outstanding courage prevented the enemy from receiving information which would have jeopardized the position of the entire battalion. He was later killed in another engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Jane Landry (Mother), Maringouin, Louisiana.

JOSEPH W. KIELIAN, 32236275, Sergeant, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Kielian, a mortar squad leader, was directed to move his squad with Company B when it crossed the *** river. He oriented his men and gave them excellent encouragement while enroute to the river, meanwhile maintaining good contact with his company. In progressing down a steep ravine leading to the river, heavy enemy artillery fire fell on his men, wounding some of them. Inspiringly calm, he immediately led those who had not been wounded to protective cover. In the face of continued fire, he then rushed back to the wounded and attempted to remove them to a place of comparative safety. While thus engaged, he was fatally wounded by an artillery shell. Sergeant Kielian's superior leadership and unselfish devotion to his fallen comrades greatly inspired his men. Next of kin: Mr. Joseph Kielian (Father), 9 Mary Street, Saverville, New Jersey.

HOMER MEADORS, 35267699, Corporal, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Corporal Meadors, gunner on a light machine gun, had participated for nine days in the movement of Company B from Hill *** to a position east of Hill ***. Enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire caused numerous casualties. Due to constant rain, strong winds and low temperatures, many men including Corporal Meadors suffered from fatigue, exposure and painfully swollen feet. Near exhaustion, he cheerfully performed the work of fallen comrades in addition to his own. After the attack on Hill ** stopped, Company B acted as a holding force on the reverse slope while a regiment of Special Service Force troops continued the attack. The light machine gun section of Company B was ordered to support the attack. Corporal Meadors and one private, the remaining man of his squad, set up their gun and opened fire on the enemy. Then entirely on his own initiative, Corporal Meadors picked up his machine gun and went over the ridge to more effectively support the attack. Ignoring the withering enemy fire falling about him, he neutralized many enemy gunners and artillery and mortar observers with his devastating fire, making possible the advance of the Special Service Force troops. Though aware of the extreme danger of his position, he continued to place effective fire on the enemy until killed by a direct hit from an enemy artillery shell. Corporal Meador's boundless fortitude and unequalled courage under adverse conditions were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Polly Meadors (Mother), Jellico Creek, Kentucky.

R E S T R I C T E D

Citation Awarded by G.O. # 134- 24, 1945
JOSEPH KOWALCZYK, 31301305, Private, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 November 1943 on ~~***, Italy~~. Assigned to maintain a vital line of communication, Private Kowalczyk was confronted by a heavy concentration of enemy artillery and mortar fire. Realizing the importance of keeping his communications open and despite the fearsome intensity of the enemy fire, he courageously entered the extremely hazardous area to repair a break in the line there. Advancing fearlessly over the open terrain, he located the break and skillfully repaired it. With calm determination, he continued to brave the holocaust of enemy fire and service the line until he was struck by a shell fragment and killed. Private Kowalczyk's coolness under fire and exemplary devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Adamina Urbaniak (Foster Mother), 18 Front Street, Chelsea, Massachusetts.

SECTION II — AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

ROBERT L. DAVEY, 01288017, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 and 23 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~***, Italy~~. Lieutenant Davey by brilliant leadership succeeded in advancing his company across the treacherous ~~***~~ river despite a heavy concentration of enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire to a point two hundred yards inland. Encountering heavy barbed wire entanglements and withering machine gun fire he sought a better avenue of approach. At this point he was severely wounded and refused to be evacuated. He again and again exposed himself to the hail of fire as he moved among his men for twenty hours, encouraging their efforts and directing their fire. When their position became untenable he gathered the remnants of his company and he led them back across the river. His magnificent courage, aggressiveness and selfless devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Zeigler, Illinois.

HAROLD L. BOND II, 01317497, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 February 1944 in the vicinity of ~~***, Italy~~. With his unit in a defensive position, Lieutenant Bond moved past the advance outposts to set up an observation post in enemy patrolled territory. Skillfully pushing forward through intense machine gun and small arms fire, he occupied a position from which excellent observation of the enemy would be possible and then daringly maintained his position through a concentration of mortar and artillery fire sweeping this area in preparation for an enemy counterattack. With cool determination and outstanding courage, Lieutenant Bond directed accurate and highly effective mortar fire against the attacking enemy, steadfastly refusing to leave his hazardously exposed post until the advance had been crushed. His magnificent valor and exemplary devotion to duty contributed materially to the successful defense of his unit's position and were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Newtonville, Massachusetts.

JOHN K. LINDSTROM, 01304750, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~***, Italy~~. The 2d Battalion was assigned the hazardous mission of establishing a beachhead on the west bank of the swift flowing and treacherous ~~***~~ river. Lieutenant Lindstrom fearlessly led the men of his platoon across a foot bridge that was the target of severe enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Successfully across, he advanced his men two hundred and fifty yards inland where they encountered terrific enemy machine gun fire and heavy barbed wire entanglements. The rising crescendo

- 3 -

(over)

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

of enemy fire inflicted heavy casualties on our troops. Lieutenant Lindstrom dauntlessly went forward alone in the face of the withering fire in search of a way through the entanglement. While then bravely engaged he was severely wounded and unable to continue on his mission. His courage, calmness under fire and devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from North Walpole, New Hampshire.

BARNARD J. ZEBROWSKI, 01301583, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22-23 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Lieutenant Zebrowski by brilliant leadership brought his platoon across the treacherous *** river and through heavy barbed wire entanglements to a point two hundred and fifty yards inland. His machine guns silenced, the group scattered by intense artillery, mortar and small arms fire, he spent the night alone in enemy territory. The following day he observed two enemy machine guns in a house nearby and dauntlessly went forward in an effort to destroy them. Enroute he suddenly came face to face with an enemy soldier armed with a machine pistol. Firing simultaneously he succeeded in killing the enemy but was himself severely wounded. Painfully he made his way back to friendly lines gathering several lost American soldiers on the way. His courage, aggressive vigor and devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York. ✓

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

DISTRIBUTION "A" PLUS

- 3 - The Adjutant General
- 1 - NATOUA
- 1 - Pub Sec, G-1, NATOUA (SOS)
- 1 - AG Awards, Fifth Army
- 1 - Each individual concerned
- 1 - AG Files