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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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GENERAL ORDERS

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NO. 284

Posthumous Award of Silver Star..... I
Award of Silver Star..... II
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster..... III

SECTION I -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

STANLEY J. BIENIEK, 12067454, Technical Sergeant, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, (for gallantry in action on 27 May 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Bieniek was stationed at an ammunition dump, supplying his machine gun platoon with rations and ammunition. When he was told that an enemy sniper was harassing the ammunition bearers as they moved along the supply route, he put another man in charge of the supply dump and advanced toward the sniper's position. The enemy blasted the area with a concentrated artillery barrage, but Sergeant Bieniek continued dauntlessly forward. Thinking only of clearing the supply route for the ammunition carrying party, he advanced over 300 yards of shell blasted terrain until he was killed by an artillery shell. Next of kin: Mr. Jacob Bieniek (Father), 5 Brant Avenue, Fort Johnston, New York.

CLARK K. KIDNEY, 32029690, Private First Class, Company C, 111th Medical Battalion, (for gallantry in action on 28 May 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Kidney, while working at a battalion aid station as litter bearer, volunteered to go to the front line positions to aid a number of wounded soldiers. He advanced fearlessly in the face of intense machine gun and mortar fire; and, as he approached the wounded, the area was subjected to a heavy artillery barrage. Heedless of personal safety, he worked indefatigably, administering expert first aid and evacuating the injured men. While he was so engaged, Private First Class Kidney was mortally wounded by a shell explosion. His sacrifice inspired his comrades to a greater display of courage in caring for the wounded. Next of kin: Mrs. Clark K. Kidney (Wife), R.D. #1, Kent, New York.

WILLIAM D. LUFKIN, 31385465, Private, Company C, 111th Medical Battalion, for gallantry in action on 28 May 1944 in Italy. As aid man with 2d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, during an attack against a key city in the enemy defense line, Private Lufkin volunteered to attempt the rescue of some wounded soldiers who lay under fire. Advancing in the face of intense machine gun and mortar fire, he moved toward the wounded through an area under heavy artillery barrage. Additional soldiers were wounded by this shelling. As he courageously worked, treating and evacuating the injured, he was mortally wounded by fragments from a nearby shell burst. Sacrificing his life to duty, he helped alleviate the suffering of wounded comrades and made possible their removal to safety. Next of kin: Mrs. Elsie C. Lufkin (Mother), Providence, Rhode Island.

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-- 1 --

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R E S T R I C T E D

SECTION II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

DALE W. BODALL, 01301400, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Bodell was leader of a machine gun platoon supporting a rifle company in an attack on enemy positions. When the enemy launched a determined counterattack and threatened to penetrate the company's exposed flank, he led his platoon forward in the face of intense small arms and mortar fire, and directed his gun crews in bringing rapid, accurate machine gun fire on the enemy. Then, heedless of personal security, he moved among the rifle elements, directing the men to positions offering better fields of fire. Largely as a result of his splendid leadership and aggressive action, the counterattack was repelled. Entered the Service from Newport, Washington.

FRANK FESSLER, 01010610, First Lieutenant, 753d Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 24 May 1944 in Italy. The 2d Platoon of Company D, commanded by Lieutenant Fessler, was ordered to support an infantry unit in attacking and securing a low lying ridge heavily fortified by the enemy. The attack progressed slowly under an intense barrage of artillery, mortar, bazooka and small arms fire, and Lieutenant Fessler's tank was hit by the bazooka fire and disabled. Undaunted, he directed his crew to safety, immediately mounted another tank and continued to lead the assault. When the second tank was knocked out by antitank fire, he again evacuated his crew and, moving forward under the heavy fire on foot, directed his tanks to a new route of approach. He then mounted another tank, raced to the head of the column and successfully led his platoon in a charge against the hostile machine gun nests, covering infantry troops with such effective fire that they were able to storm and capture the enemy positions. Entered the Service from Quincy, Illinois.

CHESTER R. PETERSON, 37448469, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in Italy. During an attack against an enemy hill, Sergeant Peterson observed an enemy machine gun crew go into action against his platoon's left flank. Realizing the gravity of this threat, he left his men and with his assistant squad leader charged boldly toward the weapon position, killing the gunner and his assistant and protecting riflemen. By eliminating the machine gun at such risk to his life Sergeant Peterson enabled his platoon to continue its attack to success. Entered the Service from Omaha, Nebraska.

CHARLES H. COOLIDGE, 34286521, Sergeant, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

WILLIAM J. MAC DONALD, 35023609, Sergeant, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Cleveland, Ohio.

PERRY L. GILLIT, 20803758, Corporal, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Lyford, Texas.

GEORGE L. FERGUSON, 32639408, Private First Class, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Long Island, New York.

For gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in Italy. The above named soldiers were members of a heavy machine gun section and had participated in a forced night march to cut off the enemy garrison in a beleaguered strongpoint. Shortly

R E S T R I C T E D

after daylight the battalion made contact with the enemy and deployed for a fight. Operating in support of a rifle company, the machine gun section received severe sniping and point blank fire from self-propelled guns. When the enemy counter-attacked in strength, the above named soldiers greeted them with devastating fire and inflicted many casualties. Approximately a company of enemy threatened the left flank. Quickly moving their guns to an exposed position only twenty-five yards from the nearest enemy, these soldiers used a free traverse to place such effective fire on the onrushing foe that those not killed or wounded were panicked into scattered disorganization and made easy to capture. Thus the threat was dispelled largely because of the quick-thinking courage of these brave soldiers.

WILLIAM E. CLOUGH, 35751373, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 December 1943 in Italy. During an enemy artillery and mortar barrage, all the communication lines within the battalion were shattered, and the battalion communication officer and wire section leader were wounded and evacuated. Three linemen were killed attempting to repair the lines. Private First Class Clough, a switchboard operator, asked his sergeant to assume his duties at the switchboard while he attempted to reestablish communications. Braving the heavy shell, small arms and rifle grenade fire, he ran a line to the battalion on his unit's right which was fighting off an enemy counterattack. He continued running lines, and repairing them when they were repeatedly knocked out, until he was relieved by two linemen. He then returned to his switchboard and worked indefatigably without rest or sleep for twenty-four hours, alternating as switchboard operator and wireman. Entered the Service from Wheeling, West Virginia.

ROYAL B. LIGHT, 38025689, Corporal, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in Italy. When the building in which the company command post was located was subjected to intense fire from enemy tanks, Corporal Light left the comparative safety of the building and braved the hostile fire to help two wounded soldiers back to the command post. He again left the building in order to man an unoccupied mortar position and bring fire on the enemy attackers. In spite of direct small arms fire and continuous fire from the tanks, he succeeded in putting the mortar into action against the enemy, firing it with unusual effectiveness. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Tex.

DONALD B. FITCHETT, 33518690, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 January 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Fitchett was a member of the point squad during an advance by 3d Battalion. As it moved forward the squad was pinned down by enemy machine gun fire. When the fire slackened, the squad was told to draw more fire so that the guns could be located. Courageously Private First Class Fitchett moved ahead over flat, open terrain. Uncertain where the machine guns were located he threw rocks at what he thought was a likely spot for the emplacement. This tricked the enemy into betraying their location by fire. While bullets missed him by inches, he recrossed the open ground and joined his squad. Entered the Service from Urbanna, Virginia.

ROY M. THUT, 33435228, Private First Class, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in Italy. During an attack on well fortified enemy positions, Private First Class Thut moved forward of his squad, within 20 yards of the hostile emplacements. Fearlessly exposing himself to intense small arms fire, he spoke to the enemy soldiers in their own language, cleverly persuading them to surrender two machine gun positions. Entered the Service from Farrell, Pennsylvania.

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- 3 -

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

SIDNEY G. HUTCHINSON, 33656683, Private, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 June 1944 in Italy. While the remainder of his platoon was pinned down by the intense cross fire of five machine guns, Private Hutchinson, as assistant squad leader, courageously stood up, exposing himself to the ceaseless hostile fire, and led his squad forward against the enemy emplacements. Advancing in the face of the rapid bursts of machine gun fire, he forced the enemy to withdraw and enabled his platoon to move forward and take its objective. Although he was wounded during this engagement, he continued on with his unit until the objective was secured. Entered the Service from Waynesboro, Virginia.

SECTION III — AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

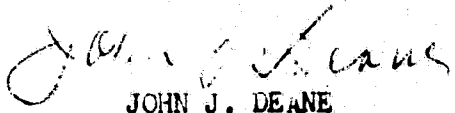
Under the provisions of Army regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Silver Star is awarded to the following named officer for gallantry in action.

DAVIS M. FRAZOR, 0222230, Major, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 June 1944 in Italy. Major Frazor, commander of the 1st Battalion, was advancing at the head of his unit when he was warned that a strong enemy force had been located 200 yards to the front. He immediately ordered an attack and personally led the combat platoon in assaulting the enemy positions. When heavy artillery fire threatened to disorganize the leading company, Major Frazor, displaying unusual intrepidity and aggressiveness, moved along the column, calming the men and reorganizing them in the face of intense enemy fire. He directed the machine guns in bringing accurate fire on the enemy and led his attacking elements with such effectiveness that the entire hostile force was completely routed. This engagement resulted in the capture of 56 prisoners, while 8 of the enemy soldiers were killed. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:


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

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