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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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GENERAL ORDERS

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SECTION I -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

MICHAEL LUCHIK, 01311662, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. During the advance on ***, one of the leading companies was delayed by the fire from two enemy antitank guns covered by machine guns and snipers. Lieutenant Luchik was instructed to lead his platoon against the enemy position. After expertly directing his men in bringing fire on the snipers and forcing their withdrawal, he skillfully deployed his group, placing them in advantageous positions in order to bring effective fire on the enemy guns. When he and his men were suddenly pinned down by the increased tempo of enemy fire, he fearlessly advanced across an open field, leading his platoon in a flanking movement to neutralize the enemy position. He continued forward in the face of the sweeping fire until he was killed. His valor and selflessness inspired the men of his company to redouble their efforts and repel the enemy force. Next of kin: Mrs Anna Luchik (Mother), 1517 Forsythe Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

WILLIAM S. PALMER, 01015036, Second Lieutenant, 753d Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 25 May 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. When his tank battalion was supporting the French infantry in an attack on ***, Lieutenant Palmer placed his tanks in the most advantageous position and then proceeded to make a foot reconnaissance in advance of the main body of infantry to secure information concerning the location of enemy defenses. He advanced into the town which had just been evacuated by the enemy, and he and his party were probably the first friendly troops to enter the booby trapped and sniper infested village. Although the area was constantly blasted by artillery shell fire, he continued on to complete his reconnaissance and returned with invaluable information which materially expedited the attack and capture of the town. In a later engagement, while supporting the 141st Infantry Regiment, he continued down a road in the face of enemy shell fire until he was killed by a direct hit on his tank. Next of kin: Mrs Florence E. Palmer, (Wife), 220 North Clark Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

WILLIAM VODLICK, 35277379, Technical Sergeant, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Vodlick was instructed to lead his platoon against the left sector of a hill defended by a strong enemy force. As he advanced aggressively toward the enemy positions, his platoon was subjected to intense small arms, artillery and mortar fire and was pinned to the ground. Aware that the furious shelling and sweeping automatic weapons fire threatened to confuse and disorganize his men, Sergeant Vodlick valiantly exposed himself to move about the area, encouraging them and reorganizing his platoon into an effective combat force. As he led his unit in the attack, he was killed by enemy machine gun fire, but his display of valor and

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fortitude inspired his men to redouble their efforts and sweep forward to their objective. Next of kin: Mrs Anna Vodlick (Mother), 1108 Cherry Street, Barberton, Ohio.

FLOYD C. DOHERTY, 20804873, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Doherty a member of the command group of his company, was assigned the tasks of communications sergeant when his unit moved forward in an attack on a hill occupied by the enemy. After advancing to the edge of a field near the hill, the company was pinned down by sweeping machine gun fire, and three soldiers of the six-man command group were wounded. Cognizant of the vulnerable position of his comrades, Sergeant Doherty voluntarily left his place of cover and started at a run to direct friendly tanks to his unit. Moving under the cross fire from six machine guns he succeeded in contacting the tanks, but, while returning to his position, he was killed. His courageous and selfless deeds resulted in the repulse of the enemy attackers and enabled the company to reach the safety of a draw. Next of kin: Mrs Lois Doherty (Wife), Millersview, Texas.

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.

W. T. MCFARLAND, 01299772, First Lieutenant, Antitank Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Lieutenant McFarland, leader of an antitank gun platoon, had his weapon in position on the right flank of the 1st Battalion when enemy tanks attacked a sector of the battalion positions. One of the gun squads fired at the enemy force, then withdrew in the face of the charging tanks. Without hesitation Lieutenant McFarland ran across terrain blasted by artillery shelling and swept by intense machine gun fire to the gun position and put the gun back into action. He made the enemy tanks button up and, with accurate fire from his carbine and the antitank gun, forced them to withdraw. He supervised the extinguishing of the camouflage net, placed over the gun, which had been ignited by the hostile fire, and reorganized the original gun crew. Entered the Service from Flint, Michigan.

THOMAS M. WHITTEN, 38050617, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 May 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Whitten, with two companions, was instructed to guard prisoners captured in an attack on enemy positions. When the forward element of his company had passed by, the enemy launched a vigorous assault against the building in which he was guarding the prisoners. Acting entirely on his own initiative, he aggressively fired rifle grenades into the attackers and directed the fire of his two comrades. He determinedly held his ground, disdaining withdrawal, even when an enemy tank advanced until it was only 15 feet from him. He retained his cool nerve and calm judgment and stopped the tank with his accurately fired grenades. He continued fighting furiously for more than an hour, holding the enemy force at bay until the remainder of his company could draw back and form a defensive line. When he determined the location of the company, he fired to cover his two companions as they moved back to their unit; and only then would he return to his company. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

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JAMES M. ARMSTRONG, 34076282, Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Armstrong was ordered to move his machine gun squad to the right flank of his company's area to assist in defending a newly captured house against an enemy counter-attack. When he spotted an enemy machine gun squad through his field glasses and saw it approach the company positions and open fire, he determined to change the position of his weapon so that he could direct effective fire against this new threat to his company. He guided his squad across an area covered by intense enemy fire to the new position and put his gun into action. He immediately advanced to a more exposed point from which he could observe the enemy gun emplacements; and, while bullets kicked up dirt around him, he calmly directed his gun crew in bringing accurate fire on the enemy machine gun. So accurate were his directions that the four members of the enemy gun crew were killed and the attack repelled. Entered the Service from Selma, Louisiana.

ETHEMER H. SISLEY, 36710012, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Assigned as aid man to Company F, the assault unit in an attack on a strategic crossroads, Tec 5 Sisley advanced with the attackers until they were pinned down by sweeping machine gun and sniper fire before reaching their objective. The battalion commander had advanced beyond the company positions when he was suddenly caught in the cross fire of enemy machine guns and was severely wounded. The call for an aid man was given, and Tec 5 Sisley immediately left his protected position and moved in the face of the intense small arms fire to assist the officer. He rendered effective and speedy first aid treatment to the battalion commander and to an enlisted man who had also been injured. While so engaged, he was painfully wounded by the enemy fire; but he refused to be evacuated until he had made his way back to the company commander and reported the condition of the battalion commander. Entered the Service from Rockford, Illinois.

WILLIAM E. WOOD, 38066045, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Technician Fifth Grade Wood advanced in an attack with Company G, the unit to which he was attached as aid man, until an intense enemy artillery and mortar barrage delayed the company and inflicted severe casualties. Tec 5 Wood moved fearlessly across the shell blasted terrain, rendering prompt and skillful aid treatment to the wounded. Although he was in the center of the most concentrated part of the bombardment, he worked calmly and efficiently, stopping profuse bleeding by the expert application of a tourniquet and treating a severe chest wound with extraordinary proficiency. When he was wounded in the right arm by a hurtling shell fragment, he quickly dressed his painful wound to stop the bleeding and immediately continued his treatment of the injured. He ignored the ceaseless, heavy shelling and his own wound and worked tirelessly with the men until his medical officer ordered him to desist. Entered the Service from Sweetwater, Texas.

SAMUEL ATKINSON, 35173988, Private First Class, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. The squad in which Private First Class Atkinson was a rifleman had advanced to the base of the enemy stronghold in preparation for an assault against the well defended position when enemy snipers, from concealed positions in the woods, directed harassing fire against the squad members and prevented their delivering effective fire against the enemy. Aware that this threat had to be removed before his unit could continue in the attack, Private First Class Atkinson, acting on his own initiative, left his covered position and advanced in the direction of the fire. Moving cautiously, aware that he was exposed to the enemy fire, he searched for the snipers

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and, finding them, killed one and forced the others to withdraw. His valiant deeds enabled his squad to continue on to its objective. Entered the Service from Akron, Ohio.

RICHARD J. TERNYEY, 33140068, Private First Class, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Private First Class Ternyey was the lead scout of his company as it advanced up a thickly wooded hill, and he moved forward aggressively through an area infested with enemy patrols and snipers. He was suddenly fired on by an enemy machine pistol and was severely wounded by the bullets. His first thought was of his comrades; and, realizing that his company commander was following close behind him and would advance into the fire of the well camouflaged sniper, he rallied his falling strength in an attempt to remove this danger. Although he was suffering from his painful, almost fatal, wounds, he succeeded in lifting his rifle and firing at the enemy soldier. He wounded the sniper and removed that threat to the safety of his commanding officer and the remainder of his unit. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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.

GEORGE C. FUGATE, 01286818, Captain, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Captain Fugate was commander of Company C, which was the leading unit in an attack on a strategic, enemy held hill. When his two forward platoons were caught in the sweeping cross fire of six enemy machine guns, he unhesitatingly faced the intense fire to reach the leading element. He found his men pinned to the ground in an open field, unable to move. Aware that in their present location the life of every man was imperilled, he directed the platoons forward toward a draw at the edge of the field. Constantly urging them on and encouraging them by his own bravery, he moved his men to the comparative safety of the draw, thus preventing the heavy casualties which would have resulted from remaining in the open field. Captain Fugate skillfully and speedily reorganized his unit and, during the night, led his men in taking their objective. Entered the Service from Hazelhurst, Mississippi.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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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