

**R E S T R I C T E D**

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

16 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 141

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

SECTION -- 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:

✓ JOHN M. CRUTE, JR., 01298506, First Lieutenant, 143rd Infantry Regiment.  
Next of kin: Mrs. Mary S. Crute (Mother), Route 1, Farmville, Virginia.

✓ JOHN A. MEEHAN, 33257665, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 143rd Infantry Regiment.  
Next of kin: Mrs. May Meehan (Mother), 1211 - 7th Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania.

✓ REGINALD J. MAGUIRE, 6629373, Private First Class, Company K, 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Next of kin: Mr. Charles H. Maguire (Brother), 636 Williams Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

✓ PAUL (NMI) MALIBORSKY, 33604607, Private First Class, Company C, 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Next of kin: Mr. Peter Maliborsky (Father), 120 Chestnut Street, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

✓ J. B. (IO) PEARSON, 34709782, Private First Class, Company K, 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Next of kin: Mrs. Alta Pearson Baker (Sister), Route 1, Bremen, Alabama.

✓ EARL W. WRIGHT, 34495854, Private First Class, Company K, 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Next of kin: Mrs. Ada Alice Wright (Mother), Route 1, Rickman, Tennessee.

✓ RUFUS L. BEAVER, 34593512, Private, Company A, 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Next of kin: Mrs. Caroline W. Beaver (Mother), Route 2, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

✓ MATTHEW K. BURGER, 32814622, Private, Company G, 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Next of kin: Mrs. Mildred Burger (Mother), 671 West 162 Street, New York, New York.

✓ EMORY T. BUTTS, 35754293, Private, Company E, 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Next of kin: Mrs. Rena M. Butts. (Mother), Route 2, Box 40, Hedgisville, West Virginia.

✓ FRANK (NMI) WEIS, 32899590, Private, Company E, 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Next of kin: Mrs. Helgrade Weis (Wife), 130 Menahan Street, Brooklyn, New York.

✓ ROY E. WENRICH, 33508935, Private, Company E, 143rd Infantry Regiment.

Next of kin: Mrs. Anna Wenrich (Mother), 1848 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

For gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* \* \*,  
Italy. The 143rd Infantry Regiment was ordered to cross the \* \* \* \* River and

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attack the enemy entrenched in the terrain beyond. The attack was launched under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire across a deep, fast-flowing river and over ground further protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. Cover was negligible in the last seven hundred yards of the river approaches which further complicated the difficulties encountered in bringing boats and other equipment to the river line. Many boats were destroyed before leaving the river, and many others were destroyed in the water by short range enemy small arms fire. Some of the occupants of boats destroyed in the river were hit and all were thrown into deep water. In the face of all these obstacles, these officers and enlisted men pressed home the attack with indomitable fortitude, crossing the river and penetrating deeply into enemy held territory. Subsequently, repeated savage counterattacks by the enemy succeeded in over-running the positions. In the furious fighting which continued over a two-day period and which cost the enemy enormous casualties in killed and wounded they lost their lives. Their fortitude, tenacity of purpose and devotion to duty against vastly superior enemy forces constitute an outstanding example of fighting courage that will long endure as an inspiration to all who witnessed or have knowledge of their valorous deeds.

ROBERT E. ALSPAUGH, 0471225, Captain, Chaplain's Corps, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. When word was received at a reserve position that several seriously wounded men had been brought into a forward aid station, Chaplain Alspaugh immediately went forward to provide spiritual attention for them. Undeterred by an intense concentration of enemy artillery fire, he courageously entered the barrage area and successfully reached the wounded men. He remained with them and administered to their religious needs when the aid station itself came under the deadly barrage. Chaplain Alspaugh was killed by shell fragments from a nearby explosion while calmly performing his spiritual duties. His unfaltering loyalty, determination and exemplary devotion to duty inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Rachel W. Alspaugh, (Wife), 1403 South Gary Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

LANSSEL O. WILLIAMS, 0411633, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Acting as company commander, Lieutenant Williams had command of Company G defensive positions on the mountain side. Although constantly harassed by artillery and mortar fire and subjected to intermittent local enemy attacks, he moved about fearlessly, supervising the preparation of the defensive positions and inspecting the fortifications. The problem of supplying the troops with ammunition and water was rendered difficult by the steep slippery trails necessarily utilized as supply routes. To expedite the delivery and distribution of the vital supplies, Lieutenant Williams frequently worked his way over the tortuous mountain trails. While so engaged, he was killed by the explosion of an artillery shell near him. His courage and selfless disregard for personal security greatly inspired all the men under his command. Next of kin: Mrs. Vera J. Williams (Wife), Lockhart, Texas.

LOUIS B. JANOSEK, 20202716, Corporal, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12-13 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Corporal Janosek was put in command of a detail to keep communication wires intact between the mortar emplacements and their forward observation posts. Heavy concentrations of artillery fire frequently knocked out whole sections of the wire, and he directed his men in repairing the lines while constantly exposed to the inferno of enemy shelling. Aware of the shortage of trained linemen, he voluntarily worked

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an entire night and day without relief, tirelessly performing his duties with great efficiency and dispatch. He kept the wire lines open and secured contact between the mortar positions and their observation posts until, while repairing a telephone at the observation post, he was killed by a shell explosion. His magnificent courage constantly inspired the men working with him and was largely responsible for the maintenance of vital communications while the company was in a critical defensive situation. Next of kin: Mr. Albin B. Janosak (Father), P.O. Box 133, Clarkwood, Texas.

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:

JOHN J. GARNER, 0242264, Lieutenant Colonel, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. At that time commanding a field artillery battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Garner skillfully led a column of amphibious vehicles of his unit toward the shore during the bitterly contested establishment of the beachhead. When his approach was met with a hail of enemy artillery and machine gun fire from well established and strongly fortified emplacements along the beach, he displayed outstanding initiative in refusing to be drawn within the enemy trap and safely landed his men and equipment along an adjacent beach. From this position Lieutenant Colonel Garner repeatedly exposed himself to the concentrated fire of the enemy while scouting the area and placing his guns in the best possible positions from which effective direct support could be contributed to the infantry. Determinedly maintaining his stand in the face of formidable tank attacks, he successfully aided in the repelling of each assault and aggressively supported the establishment of the beachhead. His outstanding leadership, magnificent courage, and unfaltering loyalty to his comrades inspired the achievement of the perilous mission. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas.

JOHN E. PHILLIPS, 0513031, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22-23 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. After leading an advance over heavily mined terrain covered by artillery, mortar and nebelwerfer fire, Lieutenant Phillips crossed the \*\*\* River on a small bridge and continued for 400 yards through the fury of enemy fire to the point where his company was ordered to dig in. He moved about in the darkness, constantly menaced by the proximity of the enemy, collecting members of the company, selecting strategic positions and directing them in digging their fighting holes. While moving back and forth across the shell torn area, Lieutenant Phillips was wounded by enemy fire; but he refused to be evacuated until he had centralized almost an entire platoon under his control and supervised their preparation of defensive positions. The efficiency with which he directed his men and his determination to complete his work in spite of extreme danger and painful wounds greatly inspired all the men who were witnesses to his courageous deeds. Entered the Service from Wilksburg, Pennsylvania.

CHESTER A. WATTS, 20803175, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 5 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. When his company was assigned the detail of carrying ammunition and rations to the front line troops, Sergeant Watts immediately assumed command of the unit after the company commander was killed in a furious artillery and mortar barrage. Aware of the confusion and disorganization, engendered by the enemy shelling, he rallied the men and began running them through the barrage in small groups at three minute intervals. When the concentration of artillery shells increased in

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intensity, He moved about among the men, preventing panic and encouraging them to remain in their positions. As soon as the barrage lifted, Sergeant Watts reorganized the detail and continued on to deliver the vital ammunition and supplies. By his quick-thinking and splendid leadership he led his men to their goal with a minimum loss in casualties and successfully accomplished his mission. Entered the Service from Luling, Texas.

EDWARD M. HYDE, 33270491. Sergeant, Company F, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. When the leading elements of his company were pinned down along a stone wall by an intense concentration of enemy artillery, mortar, rifle grenade and small arms fire, Sergeant Hyde, communications sergeant, immediately undertook to establish a communications line between their position and the command post. Courageously advancing over open terrain under continuous observation of the enemy and subjected to a withering fire while reaching his comrades, he set up communications which were immediately knocked out by an enemy artillery barrage preceding an intended enemy assault. Quickly realizing the danger, Sergeant Hyde openly exposed himself to the hazardous fire in order to repair the line and maintain communications during this critical period. His outstanding daring and exemplary devotion to duty enabled the direction of supporting fire against the enemy positions and relieved the danger of a disastrous attack against his comrades. Entered the Service from Sharon, Pennsylvania.

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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