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Danglary, 5/20/44

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

26 April 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 107

Posthumous Award of Silver Star I
Award of Silver Star, Missing in Action II
Award of Silver Star III

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:

✓ ASHBELL G. MCCLUNG, 0421401, First Lieutenant, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 8 December 1943 in the vicinity of ~~***~~, ~~Italy~~. When the assault of the infantry units to which he was attached as artillery liaison officer was stopped by enemy defensive wire and a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire, Lieutenant McClung courageously moved forward so that he could accurately direct artillery fire on the enemy positions. Although under observation by the enemy, he dauntlessly worked his way ahead over difficult open terrain to a position from which he could successfully accomplish this mission. He repeatedly broke from cover to obtain the maximum effectiveness for the artillery support which he was directing, and while thus exposed, he was killed by the burst of an enemy mortar shell. His aggressive determination and outstanding bravery contributed materially to the success of the attack and greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Hazel McClung (Mother), 406 S.E. Fourth Street, Kerens, Texas.

✓ STANLEY A. UJAZDOWSKI, 33315258, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~***~~, ~~Italy~~. Sergeant Ujazdowski, a mortar section leader, moved forward with the company to cross the swift and treacherous ~~***~~ river and attack the well fortified and heavily defended enemy positions on the East side. When the company was stopped by intense artillery and mortar fire, he dauntlessly moved among his men, attempting to find any available cover for them and assisting many wounded men to the rear. While so doing he was fatally wounded. His great fortitude, outstanding leadership and selfless devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Miss Stella Ujazdowski (Sister), 2081 East Albright Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

✓ JOHN (NM1) SPOONER, 32236581, Staff Sergeant, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action in the vicinity of ~~***~~, ~~Italy~~, on the night of 20-21 January 1944. Sergeant Spooner was a squad leader in a rifle platoon assigned the mission of attacking the well fortified and heavily defended enemy positions, across the swift flowing ~~***~~ river. While crossing the treacherous stream, Sergeant Spooner and his squad came under fierce and intense enemy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. Having crossed the river, he dauntlessly moved among his men, reorganizing his squad and encouraging them on to their objective. While so bravely serving he was fatally wounded. His great fortitude, outstanding

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leadership, and selfless devotion to duty, greatly inspired all who witnessed his deed. Next of kin: Mrs. Shirley Spooner (Wife), 162 Chester Street, Brooklyn, New York.

✓ CHARLES O. CAMPBELL, 36055395, Private First Class,
Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mrs. Clara Mae Campbell (Mother), Carrier Mills, Illinois.

✓ JOHN E. CREWELL, 36055291, Private First Class,
Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mrs. Beulah Crewell (Mother), Bridgeport, Illinois

For gallantry in action on 1 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. After seizing its objective, Hill ***, the company was in the process of establishing defenses on its newly acquired position when it became subjected to an intense artillery and mortar barrage. Displaying outstanding calmness and devotion to duty despite the continued shelling and insufficient time to complete the establishment of their mortar emplacement, these men dauntlessly remained in their exposed position and delivered effective fire on the enemy installations. During the enemy concentration, an artillery shell struck the mortar emplacement, killing both men instantly. Their gallant action reflects great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

SECTION II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSING IN ACTION

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded the following named individual, missing in action:

✓ WALTER J. BIELSKI, 31344797, Private, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Bielski, a company aid man, crossed the *** river and courageously advanced over flat terrain through mine fields, barbed wire entanglements, withering mortar and small arms fire. Without thought of self he skilfully administered to the wounded carrying the more seriously hurt across the fireswept battleground to the other side of the river. After sixteen hours continuously devoted to this hazardous and exhausting task, Private Bielski volunteered to help litter casualties from a position abandoned by friendly troops. His exemplary devotion to duty and outstanding valor saved many lives and inspired all who witnessed his deeds. He was subsequently reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Bielski (Mother), Uncasville, Connecticut.

SECTION III -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

✓ WILLIAM L. BARNETT, 01289027, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. While in defensive positions along the hazardous slopes of Hill **, Captain Barnett's company was subjected to an intense continuous barrage of enemy mortar and artillery fire. Under this tremendous concentration of heavy fire, several unit installations were knocked out and enemy snipers infiltrated into positions threatening the security of the company. With outstanding courage and magnificent determination, Captain

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Barnett moved openly among his men, encouraging them and reorganizing his defenses. His defiance of the holocaust of enemy fire and the calm disregard which he displayed toward it were an inspiration to his men. By his daring leadership and extraordinary devotion to duty, he was able to rout the snipers and maintain his position. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

CHARLES A. FRANCIS, 0496277, Captain, Chaplain's Corps, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 November 1943 on ~~***, Italy~~. When word was received by Chaplain Francis that three men had been killed and buried under by enemy shell fire at an advanced outpost, he immediately organized a litter party to evacuate them. Fearlessly leading the group up the steep hazardous ascent and continually exposed to deadly mortar, machine gun and small arms fire, he moved forward to the outpost line. Although under enemy observation and subjected to intense aimed fire at this vital position, he worked tirelessly for five hours excavating the bodies. Then with dogged determination and despite physical exhaustion, he helped carry them back down the tortuous trails to the collecting point. His magnificent courage and valor greatly inspired the men of his party. Entered the Service from Bethel, North Carolina.

LEE ROY BILLINGSLEY, 39065126, Staff Sergeant,
Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment,
Entered the Service from Monahans, Texas.

JOSEPH R. KOLIBAS, 32919459, Private,
Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment,
Entered the Service from Elizabeth, New Jersey.

For gallantry in action on 9 February 1944 on ~~***, Italy~~. Preceding an imminent enemy counterattack, Company I was subjected to a heavy concentration of enemy artillery and mortar fire, which destroyed the outpost communication lines to the 2d Platoon. These men, realizing the dire necessity of communication, upon their own initiative, repeatedly left their place of safety to repair the lines. Although under continuous enemy mortar and artillery fire, they traced and repaired their platoon's lines thereby restoring vitally needed contact with the company command post. The holocaust of fire caused casualties all around them but they dauntlessly carried on with their self-appointed task. Their magnificent courage and outstanding calmness greatly inspired all members of their platoon.

GEORGE N. TULLER, 36177189, Technician Fourth Grade, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 February 1944 in the vicinity of ~~***, Italy~~. Motor trouble in one of the self-propelled 105mm howitzers rendered the position of the platoon temporarily helpless. Realizing that repairs must be made hurriedly so they could move to an alternate position, Technician Fourth Grade Tuller, a mechanic, set to work on the motor. Enemy observers soon spotted the disabled howitzer, and a terrific barrage was poured in upon them. Despite the intensity of the fire, Technician Fourth Grade Tuller refused to take cover and continued on with his work until it was possible to move the valuable gun to a new location. Entered the Service from Monroe, Michigan.

GERALD W. LEIGHTON, 31616703, Private, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1943 in the vicinity of ~~***, Italy~~. The 2d Battalion launched an attack against the well fortified and viciously defended enemy positions east of ~~***~~. Terrific artillery and mortar fire, coupled with

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withering machine gun fire from rock and concrete emplacements, blocked the progress of Company F as they reached a stone wall. All attempts to cross this wall failed. Private Leighton, automatic rifleman, dauntlessly joined a squad in an effort to dislodge the enemy. He crossed the wall and crawled under a hail of bullets until he could lay direct fire on the enemy position. Grenades and the combined fire-power of the squad were insufficient to break the powerful enemy emplacement and two men of the squad were killed, and the squad leader wounded. With great fortitude and deadly accuracy, Private Leighton laid down intense fire with his automatic rifle, enabling the squad to return to their company. Entered the Service from Roman, Montana.

JEAN C. ARSENAULT, 31334918, Private, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Private~~ Private Arsenault, an aid man, was assigned to the leading platoon of the company attacking the *** river. The attack was launched under intense enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire which resulted in many casualties. Private Arsenault, disregarding the continuous enemy fire, calmly administered aid to more than a score of his wounded comrades. After crossing the river, he crawled under intense machine gun fire to treat and evacuate the injured. His magnificent courage, calmness under fire, and devotion to duty inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from New Haven, Connecticut.

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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