

TAG  
11/16/47

R E S T R I C T E D  
HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO #56, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS

29 August 1944

NO. 304

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

ANDREW P. SMYTHE, 02055792, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 June 1944 in Italy. Forward observer for his mortar section in support of the attack of a rifle company against an enemy occupied hill, Lieutenant Smythe undertook to lead a squad to secure a vantage point from which to direct fire against the hostile positions. He completed this aggressive action and directed effective fire until the enemy withdrew from the hill to a town behind it. Realizing that the attack could be pressed forward if another good observation post could be established in the town itself, Lieutenant Smythe then courageously advanced with his squad across a mine field and into the town under intense mortar, small arms, and tank fire. His group attacked and occupied a high building and again contributed terrific mortar fire, reducing several enemy emplacements and inflicting heavy casualties. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

SCOTT T. SCHROEDER, 0187073, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 May 1944 in Italy. Two assault platoons had become separated during a fast moving attack against hostile positions, and Lieutenant Schroeder alertly detected the start of an enemy drive on the left flank. Realizing the urgency of protecting this flank, he risked heavy machine gun and tank fire to contact the support platoon and lead it in heading off the enemy attack. Directing the furious fight which ensued, Lieutenant Schroeder suddenly came upon two hidden enemy soldiers and was wounded while killing one and overcoming the other. His aggressive action enabled his company to regroup and rout the hostile forces. Entered the Service from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

RALPH J. MCCORROW, 01311220, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in Italy. While his rifle platoon was pinned down by heavy machine gun fire, Lieutenant McCorrow spotted an enlisted man working frantically to put a 37mm antitank gun into action. Aware that a column of tanks was approaching the battalion positions, he braved incessant hostile fire to assist the man in operating the gun. He expertly removed the sticky waterproofing material from the weapon and repaired the damage caused by landing and unloading the gun. He then loaded the weapon while the enlisted man fired it. They succeeded in stopping the charging tanks within 75 yards of the gun.

-1-  
(over)

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

position by knocking out one tank and crippling another. These tanks formed an effective road block which forced the others to withdraw under the rapid, accurate antitank fire. In addition to the tank commander killed during the fight, two enemy soldiers were captured by Lieutenant McIlhorrow and his companion. Entered the Service from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

WILLIAM A. E. KINS, JR., 1503883, First Lieutenant, Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944. Lieutenant Fawkins was assigned as commanding officer of and was instructed to support the battalion in an offensive against a well organized enemy road block. In the face of artillery and small arms fire he expertly directed his section to the most advantageous positions. When a part of Company A was pinned down by an artillery barrage and sweeping machine gun fire, Lieutenant Fawkins made his way to an observation post located in a shell shattered building to direct the laying of a smoke screen on the company positions. The beleaguered elements of Company A withdrew in safety under cover of the smoke screen. When the battalion communications were knocked out, Lieutenant Fawkins went to the regimental command post in order to inform regimental headquarters of the situation, pick up stragglers and bring back ammunition. Upon reaching the command post he quickly made his report, collected a group of four men, and loaded a truck with rifles and ammunition. He returned to his unit and, in the face of heavy enemy fire, distributed the urgently needed ammunition among the soldiers. Entered the Service from Lebanon, North Carolina.

HAROLD D. ETHRIDGE, 57138843, Technical Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 May 1944 in Italy. Intense hostile fire during a determined enemy attack pinned down the company. Sergeant Ethridge, accompanied by two runners, disdained shelter and moved along the lines distributing vitally needed ammunition. During this action his two companions were wounded, but he continued supplying the men with ammunition in spite of artillery and mortar shelling and heavy small arms fire. When his platoon leader was wounded, he immediately assumed command of the platoon and skillfully directed his men in order to maintain a large volume of fire. Entered the Service from St. Louis, Missouri.

LUSTACE A. COX, 38051042, Technical Sergeant, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in Italy. While pursuing the retreating enemy along the road to Rome, Sergeant Cox's platoon was suddenly savagely counterattacked by the enemy. The intense machine gun and mortar fire caused many casualties, including the platoon leader. Taking charge of the badly disorganized and scattered men, Sergeant Cox left his covered position despite the continued heavy enemy fire and went from man to man, encouraging them and directing them to effective and covered positions. From an exposed position he then killed five of the enemy who threatened to flank his platoon. His courageous leadership and extraordinary calmness under fire rallied the platoon so effectively that the counterattack was successfully repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. Entered the Service from Texas City, Texas.

WALTER C. POLONCSE, 36370771, Technical Sergeant, (then Sergeant),

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

Antitank Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Poloncasz was in charge of a section of the anti-tank mine platoon. His section's assignment was to clear mines discovered by the reconnaissance party. As he and his men followed directly behind the most forward reconnaissance unit, Sergeant Poloncasz learned from a friendly Italian that a hill directly in their path was occupied by an unknown number of the enemy. Aware that there might be an enemy strong point on the hill, Sergeant Poloncasz deployed his men and advanced to attack. The section was pinned down by fire from a hidden enemy machine gun. To locate this lurking peril, Sergeant Poloncasz deliberately exposed himself so that the fire he drew could be traced to the gun positions. This succeeded and he led his men against the enemy emplacements. Opposed by observed machine gun and mortar fire, he and his men nonetheless overran the enemy positions. Sergeant Poloncasz killed two of the enemy while his men captured seventeen prisoners. His able leadership and skill in taking full advantage of terrain features, made it possible for him to report no casualties among his men. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

RANDALL E. MCNIGHT, 38036026, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in Italy. Company F was moving forward to engage a hostile force at a crossroad when the enemy launched a counterattack. The heavy machine gun fire which raked the area threatened to disorganize the friendly troops. In the absence of his platoon leader, Sergeant McNight assumed command of the platoon and immediately began reorganizing it. He moved about from man to man, placing each soldier in the most advantageous position and directing them in repelling the attack. After completing the reorganization of the unit, he started to take up a position himself when he was wounded by a bursting mortar shell. Entered the Service from Wills Point, Texas.

PETER VAGLIA, 32222835, Staff Sergeant, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

WILLIAM F. FORD, 31030073, Sergeant, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Methuen, Massachusetts.

For gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. The above named soldiers were members of a machine gun section that fired in support of an attack against a key city in the enemy defense line. After an intermediate objective had been taken, the section went into position on the forward slope of a hill to protect the company's reorganization. Heavy small arms fire from the enemy wounded one man and endangered the rest of the machine gunners. A prompt reply silenced this threat. Thirty minutes later an enemy tank came out of the woods on the far side of a draw 250 yards to the front and took the machine gun positions under direct fire. Refusing to withdraw their guns from the endangered area, the above named soldiers got an anti-tank rocket launcher and six rounds of ammunition and moved against the tank. Taking a stand 150 yards to the right of their guns so they would not draw heavier fire on their men, they then blasted away at the tank with the rocket launcher. Firing six rounds they forced the tank to pull back into the woods and lose its observation. A friendly mortar barrage finished the job.

(over)

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

JOE L. JAMES, 34355530, Corporal, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 13 to 19 September 1943 in Italy. With his platoon trapped by a numerically superior enemy force and many of his comrades either killed or captured, Corporal James determinedly refused to surrender to the enemy. For six days he skillfully evaded capture in enemy territory, concentrating his efforts on securing vital information of enemy dispositions and strength while steadfastly attempting to reach friendly lines. Weak from loss of food and sleep in his single-handed struggle, he fought on eventually to contact his company and delivered vital information which resulted in the destruction of enemy tanks and the successful overwhelming of their position. Entered the Service from Atlanta, Georgia.

ELBERT L. MONHOLLEN, 35267717, Private First Class, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in Italy. During the operations on a strategic beachhead, Private First Class Monhollen was ordered to return to the beach and guide two mortar squads to his company's position. While advancing toward his objective under heavy hostile fire, he discovered three men who had become separated from their organization. After instructing them to wait for him there, he proceeded on to guide the mortar squads to his company. When he returned for the soldiers, he found that they had been taken prisoner by an enemy force. He crawled under intense machine gun and rifle fire and incessant artillery and mortar shelling to a position from which he could direct fire on the enemy. He took careful aim, fired, and killed the captors. He then led the three soldiers under constant shell fire to their own organization. Entered the Service from Corbin, Kentucky.

By command of Major General DELQUIST:

OFFICIAL:

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

*Vincent M. Lockhart*  
VINCENT M. LOCKHART  
Captain, Adjutant General's Department  
Assistant Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION "A" PLUS

- 3 - The Adjutant General
- 1 - NATOUSA
- 1 - Pub Sec, G-1, NATOUSA (SOS)
- 1 - AG Awards, Seventh Army
- 1 - Each individual concerned

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO #56, U. S. Army

AD 200.6 - LT

3 September 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of General Orders.

TO : The Adjutant General,  
Attention: Decorations and Awards Branch, Munitions  
Building, Washington, 25, D. C.

1. In compliance with paragraph 4, AR 600-45, inclosed  
are three copies of General Orders No. 304, this Headquarters,  
dated 29 August 1944.

For the Commanding General:

*Vincent M. Lockhart*  
VINCENT M. LOCKHART, 6244  
Captain, A. G. D.,  
Asst. Adj. Gen.

1 Incl:  
GO 304, 29 Aug 44 (triplicate)