

RESTRICTED

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

CENTRAL ORDERS

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NO.

411

ORIGINAL ORDER - 0026

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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 the following named individual for gallantry in action.

LOOMIS J. OATLEY, 15302111, Private, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1944 in France. During an attack on an enemy strong point in a small town, Private Oatley, armed only with a sub-machine gun, drove 15 enemy soldiers from dug-in positions on a hill and pursued them over 200 yards of open ground into the town. When the enemy, now approximately 50 in number, stopped to hitch horses to a light artillery piece, Private Oatley frustrated their attempt and again forced them to flee. Two friendly tanks approached, and he preceded them on foot through the town, signalling them at each corner and examining all likely points of ambush. Braving hostile mortar and small arms fire, he continued dauntlessly forward, advancing cautiously along the streets ahead of the tanks, until the town was completely cleared. Private Oatley was killed in action in a later engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Samuel J. Oatley (Father), 734 Chesbrough, Toledo, Ohio.

SECTION II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR, PRISONER OF WAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to the following named individual, a prisoner of war, for gallantry in action.

DAVID A. NEWCOMER, 012240, Colonel, U. S. Army, for gallantry in action on 25 August 1944 in France. Colonel Newcomer, a War Department observer, was accompanying three platoons of the 11th Engineer Combat Battalion in establishing a defense line within a recently captured town when superior enemy troops launched a savage counter-attack. As soon as the first shots were fired, Colonel Newcomer assisted several men in setting up a .50 caliber machine gun in a position which commanded both entrances to the town. Although the intensity of the attack forced the engineer platoon to withdraw to more favorable positions outside the town, Colonel Newcomer courageously remained with the soldiers manning the machine gun and directed them in covering the withdrawal of the platoons. Displaying unusual intrepidity and calmness in the face of almost certain death or capture by the enemy, he refused to seek a place of safety for himself and in spite of a painful wound received during this action, continued delaying the advance of the attackers until the enemy completely surrounded his position and took him prisoner. Next of kin: Unknown.

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SECTION III -- 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.

PARKHURST C. HOUGH, 01288056, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 August 1944 in France. Captain Hough, commander of Company F, was protecting the front and right flank of his battalion, which occupied flat, open ground overlooking an enemy-held town. When the enemy launched a series of counterattacks, Captain Hough spotted a hostile platoon moving around the battalion right flank. He personally led one of his own platoons, supported by two tanks, against the enemy and, overrunning several strong points, wiped out the German group with heavy blasts of fire. After completing this action without casualties to his own platoon and with 52 of the enemy killed, wounded or captured, he left his men to guard the prisoners and led three other squads against a second hostile platoon which he had located in the vicinity. Driving the enemy into a wooded draw, he blasted them with fire from his mortars and tanks, inflicting heavy casualties. He returned to his own company area in time to lead his unit in breaking up another savage counterattack, thereby preventing the enemy from cutting an important battalion supply route. Entered the Service from Fredericktown, Missouri.

DORDE PICKLESIMER, 35267295, Staff Sergeant, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in Italy. In support of the 1st Platoon of Company C in an attack against an enemy strong point, Sergeant Picklesimer led his machine gun section to within 50 yards of the objective, then was halted by a heavy barrage of hostile fire. The rifle platoon was forced to withdraw 150 yards for reorganization, and Sergeant Picklesimer ordered his men to remain in their perilous position and fire continually to cover the platoon's withdrawal. When the enemy rushed the machine guns, he hurled hand grenades and directed small arms and machine gun fire into their midst, driving them back. In order to maintain control within his section he moved continually from one gun to the other, encouraging the men and controlling their fire. After the riflemen had effected a successful withdrawal, he remained in position to cover his machine gun crews who followed the rifle platoon to the rear. When every man had left the area, he rejoined his section and, after reorganizing, attacked again with the infantry and took the objective. Entered the Service from Pikesville, Ky.

BOBBY G. CARR, 20809027, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Carr occupied an outpost on the forward slope of a hill 200 yards beyond his platoon's position. While at this vantage point he spotted an enemy train, a convoy of trucks and a large concentration of troops making preparations for a mass movement 2000 yards away. Ignoring the heavy artillery barrage and small arms fire with which, to cover their movement, the enemy raked the area, Sergeant Carr remained determinedly in his exposed position and calmly directed effective artillery fire on the enemy. His accurate fire orders resulted in many direct hits which destroyed numerous trucks and inflicted widespread casualties. Two hours later, when another concentration of troops appeared in a nearby area, Sergeant Carr realized the need for a communication line between his outpost and the mortar positions at the base of the hill. Working without assistance, he ran a reel of wire from the mortars to his position, then skillfully directed their fire on the hostile force, again inflicting heavy casualties. Entered the Service from Belton, Texas.

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JOSEPH A. STAMATO, 33140762, Private First Class, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. As automatic rifleman in the 3d Platoon of Company I, Private First Class Stamato was covering the right flank of his platoon position when the enemy launched a savage counterattack. Although hostile soldiers were infiltrating through the friendly lines and were raking the area with machine gun, rifle and grenade fire, he remained steadfastly in position and continued firing until his automatic rifle jammed. Aware of the necessity for maintaining the fire power of his platoon, Private First Class Stamato crossed an open field to secure a rifle, then began running back toward his original position. Even when a bullet struck the automatic rifle belt which he was wearing, he disdained stopping for cover and continued forward until he was wounded in the throat by grenade fragments. In spite of the pain of his wound he made his way back to his position and again opened fire on the enemy, killing two of the hostile soldiers and wounding another. Displaying unusual fortitude and determination, he refused evacuation until the enemy threat to his company had been eliminated. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

GEORGE E. HILL, 36887507, Private First Class, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 August 1944 in France. During an attack against enemy positions, Company A was stopped 200 yards short of its objective by heavy automatic weapons and tank fire. When patrols were sent forward to discover the gun and tank positions, an enemy tank suddenly appeared over a knoll in front. Aware of the danger to his comrades, Private First Class Hill, a bazookaman occupying an outpost position, covered the members of one patrol with his accurate fire, enabling them to reach the safety of his own position. Then, in order to shorten the range to the tank, he left his place of cover and, with the patrol leader, advanced 30 yards over open terrain toward the tank. Fearless exposing himself to enemy observation and fire, Private First Class Hill scored two direct hits on the tank with his bazooka and drove it back before it could bring fire on the company. By his courageous and aggressive action he prevented casualties within his unit and enabled the patrol to continue on its mission. Entered the Service from River Rouge, Michigan.

CECIL R. HENDERSON, 20804408, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 September 1944 in France. As driver for the battalion executive officer, Private Henderson was assigned the task of leading the battalion motor column as it advanced behind the forward elements of the organization. While moving through a densely wooded area, the motor column was suddenly attacked from the left flank by enemy soldiers. Private Henderson immediately stopped his vehicle and, fearlessly exposing himself to hostile machine pistol and rifle fire, manned the machine gun mounted on his jeep. In spite of the vigor of the enemy action, he remained in position and, unassisted, drove back the attackers. He killed three, wounded three, and completely disorganized the remainder, successfully repelling the assault. Entered the Service from Brownwood, Texas.

SECTION IV — CORRECTED AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

So much of Section II, General Orders Number 352, as, this Headquarters, as awards a Silver Star to ROBERT L. COLLIER, 36754183, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor.

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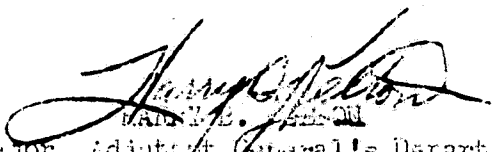
"Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Silver Star is awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action.

✓ "ROBERT L. COLLIER, 36734183, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May and 1 June 1944 in Italy. When a strong enemy force launched a determined attack against his platoon's position, Sergeant Collier, in the absence of his platoon leader and platoon sergeant, quickly adjusted the unit's defenses and opened fire on the attacking force. During the course of the assault, he continually exposed himself to heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire in order to move from squad to squad, maintaining organization within the platoon and encouraging the men to hold their positions against the savage thrusts. After two hours of bitter fighting, the order was given to withdraw from the untenable position. Sergeant Collier skillfully maneuvered the platoon, one squad at a time, to a place of safety. He himself covered the withdrawal of the last squad with effective fire from his sub-machine gun, waiting until the last man had retired before seeking cover for himself. Entered the Service from Libertyville, Illinois."

By command of Major General DANLQUIST:

CHARLES H. OLMS
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


Major, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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