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

5/17/44
8 April 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 92

Posthumous Award of Silver Star I
Award of Silver Star II

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:

MARSHALL P. ZAPATA, 20801811, Sergeant, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Zapata landed with his company in the pre-dawn hours of D-Day, crossing the beach under intense enemy artillery and machine gun fire. He fought his way with his comrades to their assigned objective, serving as a guide from the forward elements to the rear elements. His duty called for him to signal with a flash light signifying the route behind him was clear. These actions attracted sniper fire on him but he dauntlessly engaged these snipers with his rifle and caused them to disperse. In a second encounter with snipers he was killed. His quick action, outstanding fortitude and devotion to duty materially assisted in the success of the operation. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Zapata (Mother), 1838 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

FRANK J. HIMMELSBACH, 12078488, Corporal, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 November 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. His squad was returning from a patrol deep in enemy occupied territory when they encountered sudden enemy rifle and machine gun fire which seriously wounded a member of the squad. With utter disregard for his own life, Corporal Himmelsbach left his position of comparative safety and exposed himself by crossing an area which was being swept by withering enemy fire from the front and both flanks, to render first aid to his stricken comrade and move him to a position of safety. Corporal Himmelsbach then continued on and successfully accomplished his important patrol mission in the face of bitter enemy opposition. His courageous and unselfish act saved the life of his comrade; and his initiative, dogged determination, and devotion to duty inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Corporal Himmelsbach was later killed in action by an enemy artillery shell while on another dangerous patrol mission. Next of kin: Mrs. Minnie Himmelsbach (Wife), 551 Second Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

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 R. AARON, 20806013, Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Aaron, a squad leader, was assigned the mission of leading a patrol from *** into enemy occupied territory to locate enemy positions, determine their strength,

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and report upon their activity. Under the cover of darkness and in heavy rain, he dauntlessly led his patrol across swollen streams and heavily mined fields to penetrate into the enemy area. As the group moved forward to reconnoiter an enemy held cross-road, it became pinned down by heavy enemy automatic rifle and mortar fire. In the face of this fire, Sergeant Aaron reorganized his patrol and continued on the mission without loss of a single man. Upon his return to the company he related valuable information as to enemy strength and disposition, thereby aiding the security of his company's position. His outstanding calmness and aggressive vigor greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Ranger, Texas.

ADAM STOCK, 35277380, Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Stock was assigned the mission of leading a patrol into enemy occupied territory to reconnoiter the strength, disposition, and activity of the enemy. As Sergeant Stock skilfully led his group forward over swollen creeks, mined fields and through a blar of fog into enemy territory, the patrol suddenly became pinned down by enemy automatic rifle fire and mortar fire. In the face of the enemy fire, he located the enemy positions and estimated the strength, reorganized his patrol and continued on his mission in the hazardous area. Sergeant Stock, in addition to obtaining vitally needed information, led his patrol back to the company area without loss of life. His determination and aggressive vigor aided in the security of his company's positions. Entered the Service from Barbeton, Ohio.

JOSEPH A. REED, 20809037, Corporal, 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, for gallantry in action on 24 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Corporal Reed and three men were assigned the difficult mission of penetrating far behind the enemy outpost line of resistance to obtain information sorely needed by the 141st Infantry Regiment. The patrol penetrated to the strongly-held village of ***, and in carefully investigating the high ground surrounding this enemy strong point, Corporal Reed discovered two enemy machine gun and one enemy mortar position. Having obtained his patrol information he skilfully directed his small group in a hand grenade attack against these positions, destroying all three. He then dauntlessly led his group back to report his information. Entered the Service from Moody, Texas.

VIVIAN REYES, 20801094, Technician Grade 5, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20-21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Technician Grade 5 Reyes was a lineman of a wire party whose mission was to install and maintain wire communications between the regimental forward switchboard and the command posts of the assault battalions which were to attack across the *** river. The approach area was under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire, further protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. Technician Grade 5 Reyes and his party on the night of the assault laid heavy wire by hand twelve hundred yards to the crossing sites, going in with the assault companies and having communications established when the battalion command post arrived at the river. Within the forty-eight hour duration of the crossing assault the continued maintenance of communications required this party to use more than six miles of wire which they laid over exposed terrain in concentrations of enemy fire that drove other personnel to cover. To avoid this constant destruction within the heaviest impact area of the enemy fires, this party altered the wire route to run through unmarked mine fields where other personnel had been and were being killed by mines. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

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CARL E. LAWHORNE, 33533957, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. As Company C advanced, under cover of darkness, in the attack on ***, the weapons platoon was cut off from the rifle platoons by enemy patrols. Private First Class Lawhorne, first gunner in a machine gun squad, immediately, without assistance, secured ammunition and set up his machine gun, determined to disperse the enemy patrols. Although enemy mortar and small arms fire were directed on his position, he fired his gun with deadly accuracy, killing four of the enemy and driving the remainder back. His prompt and effective action enabled the weapons platoon to reestablish contact with the company and continue on to the successful completion of its mission. The outstanding courage, determination and aggressive vigor displayed by Private First Class Lawhorne greatly inspired all members of his company. Entered the Service from Lynchburg, Virginia. ✓

FRANK C. VASQUEZ, 39560352, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private First Class Vasquez was a member of a squad assigned to establish telephone communications with a rifle squad entrenched on the west side of the *** river. Taking charge of a rubber assault boat, he led the way through an enemy sown minefield to the bank of the river. During the river crossing the enemy laid down heavy concentrations of mortar fire, and a soldier was thrown from the rubber boat. Instantly perceiving the great danger to his comrade, Private First Class Vasquez dove into the icy water and battled the swift current to successfully rescue the struggling soldier. Entered the Service from Los Angeles, California.

L. A. (IO) CLEM, 38035527, Private First Class, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private First Class Clem was assigned the task of carrying the engineer bridge to the bank of the *** river for the crossing of foot troops. The final 700 yards of the river approaches were almost devoid of cover and ingeniously sown with enemy mines and booby traps. As they approached the river several of the mines were detonated causing severe casualties. Although suffering from a head wound, Private First Class Clem secured a stretcher and assisted in the evacuation of the more seriously wounded men. Although wounded a second time, he continued with his efforts of mercy. His calm courage and utter disregard for his personal safety greatly inspired all who witnessed his deed. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

HERBERT C. HARWOOD, 32639626, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. As messenger and orderly for the battalion commander Private First Class Harwood moved forward with the battalion commander in the attack to cross the *** river. The enemy laid down a terrific barrage of nebelwerfer, artillery, and mortar fire but Private First Class Harwood carried vital messages from the battalion commander to both company and regimental command posts during the height of the attack. During a particularly heavy concentration of fire the battalion commander and several other staff officers were seriously wounded. Private First Class Harwood ignored instructions to remain under cover and ran 300 yards through exploding mortar and artillery shells to telephone the regimental commander and advise him of the situation. Later he led two litter squads through the intense fire to evacuate wounded. Entered the Service from Queens Village, New York.

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BERNARD H. MERRITT, 35538552, Private, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20-21 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Merritt was a lineman of a wire party whose mission was to install and maintain wire communications between the regimental forward switchboard and the command posts of the assault battalions which were to attack across the ***, river. The approach area was under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire, further protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. Private Merritt and his party on the night of the assault laid heavy wire by hand twelve hundred yards to the crossing sites, going in with the assault companies and having communications established when the battalion command post arrived at the river. Within the forty-eight hour duration of the crossing assault the continued maintenance of communications required this party to use more than six miles of wire which they laid over exposed terrain in concentrations of enemy fire that drove other personnel to cover. To avoid this constant destruction within the heaviest impact area of the enemy fires, this party altered the wire route to run through unmarked mine fields where other personnel had been and were being killed by mines. Entered the Service from Toledo, Ohio.

HERMAN POWELL, 34584220, Private, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Powell was directed to lay a telephone line across the ***, river. Attached to the leading platoon of Company C, he was crossing the swift-flowing river when the boat capsized under heavy concentrations of enemy mortar and artillery fire. One of the men in the boat became entangled in the wires being carried across and was in imminent danger of drowning. Private Powell, although himself weighted down with wire, swam through the icy water and cut the wire in which the drowning soldier was entangled. He then successfully pulled the man ashore. His great fortitude and dauntless disregard of personal danger saved the life of a comrade and greatly inspired all who witnessed his deed. Entered the Service from Fayette, Alabama.

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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