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

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J. W. Allen
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GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 80

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

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

WILLIAM B. MOBLEY, 0330424, Major, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on Mount ***, Italy. During the early morning a determined enemy attack, preceded by an intense artillery preparation, was launched on positions held by the 1st Battalion, commanded by Major Mobley. Maintaining calmness and cool judgment under fire, without regard for his own safety and with thoughts only for the efficiency and security of his command, Major Mobley moved gallantly about the areas occupied by the forward elements, issuing orders and giving encouragement. As the battle raged, increasing in intensity, he committed the reserve company to a frontal counterattack forcing the enemy to give ground. His presence on the front lines inspired and encouraged his officers and men to the eminent success in routing the enemy from this sector, where enemy success would have endangered the whole *** corner. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Amarillo, Texas.

GEORGE C. FUGATE, 01286818, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Company C, under command of Lieutenant Fugate, was assigned the mission of attacking and capturing Hill 720 at dawn. Knowing only the general direction of the objective since there was no time for reconnaissance, he personally led his company in the attack. Confronted with the enormous obstacle of intense fog, which covered the slippery, strange terrain, and despite heavy machine gun and mortar fire along the route of advance, he fearlessly made his way along the entire front of his unit from left to right flank in order to keep it intact. When the holocaust of enemy fire became more intense, Lieutenant Fugate still remained in the most forward position encouraging the men, directing their fire and inspiring them to the ultimate effort. His company successfully completed its mission without suffering a casualty, capturing twenty-one of the enemy. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Hazelhurst, Mississippi.

MICHAEL (MMI) KRISTAL, 01286856, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During the night attack on Mount ***, the company commander of Company F was wounded and evacuated. Lieutenant Kristal, executive officer, immediately assumed command and led his men forward to the assigned objective. While advancing with the leading platoon, he discovered a cave occupied by the enemy. Armed only with a carbine he audaciously dashed into the dugout completely surprising three enemy

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soldiers and taking them prisoner. He then continued to advance with his company, so skillfully leading and deploying his men that many prisoners were captured. His cool fearlessness, inspiring aggressive leadership and devotion to duty materially aided in the success of his company's mission. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

LLOYD W. HART, 20806500, First Sergeant, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action 7 January 1944 on Mount ***, Italy. Company L was in a defensive position along barren slopes near a creek bed. Since the physical strength of the enemy defending the creek was unknown, Sergeant Hart, without command and on his own initiative, proceeded with a comrade to reconnoiter the area. The rocky slope was made more dangerous by rain and sleet but he moved dauntlessly toward the enemy and upon reaching the near side of the creek bed was suddenly pinned down by three enemy machine guns. The area was devoid of cover but Sergeant Hart audaciously remained in his position for nearly an hour under intense enemy fire carefully noting the enemy dispositions and strength. He then worked his way from the fire-swept area and returned to his company with information invaluable to the planning of a subsequent attack. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Breckenridge, Texas.

JAMES P. DERRICK, 20805011, Technical Sergeant, Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on Mount ***, Italy. The vital sector defended by the 1st Battalion was subjected to an intense artillery barrage by the enemy and followed swiftly by vicious and strong attacks. Sergeant Derrick, heavy weapons platoon sergeant, perceiving the imminent peril to security, obtained a rifle and went forward boldly in the face of intense enemy fire to inspect his emplacements. On two occasions he found his guns temporarily out of action and the enemy infiltrating to within grenade range. While his gunners worked feverishly to restore their fire power, Sergeant Derrick dauntlessly advanced in front of the positions bringing devastating rifle fire upon the attackers until the machine guns were able to resume deadly fire upon the enemy. His daring display of total disregard for his own life, outstanding calmness and aggressive vigor under fire inspired every member of his platoon to their greatest effort and materially aided in the successful repulsion of a determined enemy attack. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Stephenville, Texas.

CHELSEA E. SHERADEN, 36321244, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Company L was in a defensive position near *** with the enemy holding a strong outpost line across a nearby creek. Sergeant Sheraden, platoon sergeant, upon his own initiative and without command, armed himself with a sniper rifle and moved into an exposed position to harass the enemy's defensive positions. The enemy soon observed him and immediately directed intense small arms fire upon him. With calm disregard for the holocaust of enemy fire he dauntlessly remained at his position and with unerring accuracy killed six of the enemy soldiers. Completing his self-assigned mission, Sergeant Sheraden skillfully routed his way from under the enemy fire and returned to his platoon. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

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JOHN B. JOHNSON, 38036877, Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 3 December to 11 December 1943, in the vicinity of Mount ***, Italy. On 9 December 1943, Company A moved from Hill 907 to the vicinity of ***, a distance of two miles. Sergeant Johnson, communications sergeant, laid a wire line between his company and the Battalion Command Post, advancing over extremely treacherous terrain while under heavy enemy artillery fire. The tortuous route he was required to take was under direct observation by the enemy and the slightest movement brought down a concentration of fire from the enemy artillery. Despite his full knowledge of these facts, with great fortitude he returned five times to secure more wire and complete the vitally needed communications. Throughout the entire period, Sergeant Johnson vigorously carried out his assigned missions over slippery, rocky trails made more hazardous by sleet, snow and rain. His untiring efforts, fearlessness under fire, and outstanding initiative were of material assistance in the successful attainment of the company objective. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Gusting, Texas.

HOMER L. WISE, 34150846, Sergeant, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action 7 January 1944 on Mount ***, Italy. Company L, 142d Infantry was in a defensive position along barren slopes near a creek bed. Since the physical strength of the enemy defending the creek was unknown, Sergeant Wise, without command and on his own initiative, proceeded with a comrade to reconnoiter the area. The rocky slope was made more dangerous by rain and sleet but he moved dauntlessly toward the enemy and upon reaching the near side of the creek bed was suddenly pinned down by three enemy machine guns. The area was devoid of cover but Sergeant Wise audaciously remained in his position for nearly an hour under intense enemy fire carefully noting the enemy dispositions and strength. He then worked his way from the fire-swept area and returned to his company with information invaluable to the planning of a subsequent attack. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

JESSIE L. WHITFIELD, 20804675, Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on Mount ***, Italy. The vital sector defended by the 1st Battalion was subjected to an intense artillery barrage by the enemy and followed swiftly by vicious and strong attacks. Sergeant Whitfield made his way forward to inspect an outpost and discovered that two men assigned to the position had been captured. Cognizant of the importance of this position, Sergeant Whitfield was about to return for reinforcements when he suddenly observed an enemy machine gun nest fifty yards to his front. Despite the intense fire throughout the area he valorously engaged the machine gun with only his rifle and with his deadly accurate fire destroyed the enemy emplacement. Only then did he return to his unit and secure the outpost replacements. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Coleman, Texas.

TOM H. FITCH, JR., 38036051, Sergeant, Company H, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Fitch, signal and reconnaissance sergeant, was assigned the mission of maintaining communication lines to his mortar platoon during the 2d Battalion's assault on the enemy occupied Hill 875. In accomplishing this mission, Sergeant Fitch was constantly endangered by enemy sniper and artillery fire, while the rugged

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terrain which afforded very little cover. Added to the difficulty of the success of his assigned duty. When the rifle companies encountered heavy enemy machine gun fire, Sergeant Fitch, realizing the necessity for mortar support, without command immediately advanced in the face of the intense enemy fire to an advantageous observation point. He then directed effective fire support, until his communication line was severed by artillery fire. Without delay, he proceeded in checking the line until he became painfully wounded in the head by shell fragments. Although bleeding and suffering from shock, he remained calm and was evacuated only after carefully instructing other personnel of his responsibility in the coordinated attack of the battalion. By his outstanding leadership and aggressive determination with utter disregard for his personal safety he materially aided the forward observers in registering fire missions upon the enemy. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Arlington, Texas.

✓ ANTHONY J. ARENDT, 32301603, Sergeant, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1943 on Mount ***, Italy. After having taken part in his unit's successful advance on Mount ***, Sergeant Arendt volunteered to join an important three-man patrol to locate enemy defenses deep in enemy-occupied territory. He stealthily advanced through darkness and rain over steep muddy trails, encountering hostile as well as friendly artillery fire. On several occasions he encountered enemy patrols and skillfully evaded them, remaining in the hazardous area most of the night. His courageous initiative and utter disregard for his personal safety materially contributed to the securing of valuable enemy information thereby greatly aiding the security of the positions held by Company F. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Jersey City, New Jersey.

✓ LESTER L. MIZE, 20806271, Corporal, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Company K was in a defensive position two miles west of ***, Italy. Corporal Mize was dug in with his squad on a terraced hillside, which for several days had been subjected to heavy enemy artillery shelling. The enemy were firing delayed action shells, causing large craters and hurling dirt and rocks a great distance. One shell landed directly between two fighting holes, completely covering the men with dirt. Corporal Mize, with utter disregard for his own life, under a continued heavy enemy artillery shelling, dauntlessly left his place of safety, procured a shovel and worked diligently with a comrade until the buried men were successfully removed to safety. By his valorous and quick action, he contributed to saving the lives of the two men who would otherwise have suffocated. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Stamford, Texas.

✓ GLEN R. VAN DE STEEG, 37663432, Private First Class, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Company K was in a defensive position two miles west of ***, Italy. Private First Class Van De Steeg was dug in with his squad on a terraced hillside, which for several days had been subjected to heavy enemy artillery shelling. The enemy were firing delayed action shells, causing large craters and hurling dirt and rocks a great distance. One shell landed directly between two fighting holes, completely covering the men with dirt. Private First Class Van De Steeg, with utter disregard for his own life, under continued heavy enemy artillery shelling, dauntlessly left his place of safety, procured a shovel and worked diligently with a comrade until the buried men were successfully removed to safety. By his valor-

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ous and quick action, he contributed to saving the lives of the two men who would otherwise have suffocated. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Sioux City, Iowa.

JAMES V. JENKINS, 34380509, Private First Class, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During the attack on Hill 875, his platoon engaged a determinedly resisting enemy in close combat, steadily pushing the enemy back, although handicapped by difficult and exposed terrain and subjected to intense small arms and mortar fire. His platoon was further being harassed by enemy hand grenades, one of which landed beside his platoon leader. Without hesitation and with utter disregard for his own life, Private First Class Jenkins grabbed the hand grenade and hurled it back in the midst of the enemy. This display of magnificent courage, outstanding calmness and alertness under fire, undoubtedly saved the life of his platoon leader and other members of his platoon. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Bryson City, North Carolina.

ROY J. GRABE, 36735918, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944, on Mount ***, Italy. When Private First Class Grabe, a first machine gunner in support of the center rifle platoon during a determined enemy attack, was unable to fire on the enemy approaching along a deep draw, he threw hand grenades into their midst. The onrushing enemy pushed to within close proximity of his emplacement, and, still being unable to deliver effective fire from a fixed position on the attackers, he disengaged his machine gun from its mount and arose in the face of withering enemy fire. Holding the machine gun in his hands, he blasted at the enemy from a kneeling position with such effective results that the attack in his vicinity was repulsed. This demonstration of aggressive determination and valiant devotion to duty, greatly inspired his comrades and materially aided in successfully crushing the entire counterattack. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

JOHN J. MICKLER, 38036652, Private, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on Mount ***, Italy. During a determined enemy attack on the 1st Battalion, Private Mickler was on an outpost position in advance of his squad. As the enemy moved two machine guns forward to a position from which they could fire upon the entire platoon, Private Mickler gallantly leaped from his shelter in order to bring more effective fire upon the enemy, and succeeded in killing one of the gunners with his rifle, while another member of his squad disposed of the remaining gunner. In the meantime, enemy riflemen had infiltrated to within close range, and although exposed to intense enemy small arms fire, Private Mickler, thinking only of the menace to the security of his unit, remained in this hazardous position and with unerring accuracy, killed three more of the onrushing attackers. This magnificent display of outstanding devotion to duty was an inspiration to all who witnessed the act and materially aided in successfully crushing this determined enemy counterattack. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.


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HOWARD J. GRAHAM, 33526185, Private, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During the attack on Hill 468, Private Graham, acting assistant squad leader, observed an enemy sniper and a machine gunner who had infiltrated behind the attacking platoon. The area was swept by intense enemy small arms fire, artillery and mortar shells, but he cautiously worked his way to an advantageous point and with unerring accuracy killed the sniper and machine gunner. After neutralizing this serious threat to the security of his company he continued on with his unit and contributed materially to the successful seizing of the vital objective. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Richmond, Virginia.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:


JOHN S. DEANE
Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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