

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

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 399

16 October 1944

Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....	I
Award of Silver Star, Prisoner of War.....	II
Award of Silver Star.....	III
Corrected Award of Silver Star....	IV
Award of Purple Heart.....	V
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster.....	VI

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.

SAMUEL J. VASCHAK, 37704672, Private First Class, Company A, 14th Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 August 1944 in France. While his platoon was guarding the left flank of a road block to prevent the enemy from destroying an important bridge, Private First Class Vaschak occupied an out-post position. When a company of enemy troops, in attempting to reach the bridge, attacked the road block, Private First Class Vaschak leapt from his fighting hole and braved heavy small arms fire as he advanced on an enemy automatic rifle position. He moved over 60 yards of exposed terrain, firing his rifle as he ran, and succeeded in killing the automatic rifleman. With the harassing fire from that hostile weapon eliminated, the platoon was able to maneuver into a draw and there force the enemy to surrender. Private First Class Vaschak was later killed by an enemy hand grenade. Next of kin: Mrs. S. J. Vaschak (Wife), 119 South Jackson Street, Denver, Colorado.

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.

JOHN J. BEATY, 36035704, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters & Service Company, 11th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 25 August 1944 in France. When a numerically superior enemy attacked a recently captured town, friendly troops were forced to withdraw and establish better defensive positions on the outskirts. After Sergeant Beaty had left the village, he discovered that five men had remained behind to man and protect a .50 calibre machine gun, covering the withdrawal of their comrades. Aware that they would soon be over-powered by the crushing enemy forces, he determined to assist them in effecting their own withdrawal and immediately began the hazardous return trip to the town. With thoughts only for the safety of his comrades, he crawled forward under small arms fire, over terrain where cover and concealment were negligible. When he reached the town, the hostile troops had arrived and he was completely surrounded by enemy foot soldiers and tanks. From this engagement Sergeant Beaty was reported a prisoner of war. Next of kin: Mrs. Lula L. Beaty (Mother), Box 1344, Gladewater, Texas.

- 1 -

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SECRET

RESTRICTED

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.

CHARLES D. RUDD, JR, 0534003, First Lieutenant, 93d Armored Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 25 August 1944 in France. When Lieutenant Rudd, liaison pilot and observer, was informed that a column of enemy tanks and personnel carriers was advancing toward the rear of the 36th Infantry Division, he immediately took off from the airfield and flew over the head of the column. Adjusting fire on the leading tanks, he succeeded in dispersing the entire force, driving it from the road. Although antiaircraft guns opened fire on him, he kept adjusting fire on each vehicle, destroying one tank and a half-track personnel carrier and disabling two other tanks. During this action, which lasted two hours, Lieutenant Rudd was the only observer engaging this column, and no friendly forces were in contact with it at the time. Displaying unusual skill and courage, he flew back into the cone of antiaircraft fire time after time, wreaking heavy damage on the enemy forces. Entered the Service from Kansas City, Missouri.

ANDREWS D. CROWL, 35791571, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 14th Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Crowl was guide for the leading platoon in the battalion's advance against one of the first tanks encountered in the invasion of Southern France. As the platoon advanced cautiously down a narrow street under cover of darkness, the sound of an approaching enemy tank halted the column and the order to take cover was given. The tank directed sweeping machine gun fire straight down the street, and a squad of enemy infantrymen following the tank began hurling hand grenades. While his comrades sought cover from the heavy fire, Sergeant Crowl, aware that the company commander and platoon leader were already wounded and the entire company threatened, seized a bazooka and advanced 50 yards in the face of point blank antitank and machine gun fire to a position 20 yards from the tank. He scored two direct hits on the tank, setting it on fire and killing the driver. He then assisted his platoon sergeant in evacuating the men from the area in which the blazing tank finally exploded. Entered the Service from Lewisburg, Ohio.

EARL W. WRIGHT, 38036410, Private First Class, Company B, 14th Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 August 1944 in France. Private First Class Wright was advancing with the leading platoon of his company when he and his comrades encountered heavy fire from an enemy force occupying a well-entrenched dugout. He moved cautiously toward the enemy emplacements and silenced a machine pistol which was covering the position. Then, contemptuous of personal danger, he jumped into the dugout with his bayonet fixed and subdued eight enemy soldiers who had delayed the advance of his company. Because of this during act the organization was able to move forward and continue its attack. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

SECTION IV — CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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In accordance with Section II, General Orders Number 340, ss, this Headquarters, awards a Silver Star to EARL WRIGHT, 38036410, Private, Company B, 14th Infantry Regiment, in respect to, and the following substituted therefor.

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

R E S T R I C T E D

"GEORGE F. DAUGHERTY, 37616042, Private, Company L, 144th Infantry Regiment, for bravery in action on 5 June 1944 in Italy. Private Daugherty was automatic rifleman with 1st Platoon, Company L, as it moved by motor convoy toward a strategic city. An enemy force attacked and engaged the platoon in a fire fight. From his covered position, Private Daugherty saw an enemy machine gun crew going into action. Realizing the gravity of this threat and the casualties it could cause, he left his place of safety and advanced headlong into the enemy gun fire, answering with deadly blasts from his automatic rifle. By his courageous action he destroyed the gun crew and materially aided his platoon to defeat the enemy, killing twelve, wounding thirteen and capturing thirteen. Entered the Service from St. Louis, Missouri."

SECTION V -- AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Purple Heart is awarded to each of the following named individuals of the 121st Field Artillery Battalion, for wounds received as a result of enemy action in Italy.

BENJAMIN J. GAMBINO, 01178304, Second Lieutenant, 14 June 1944. Entered the Service from East Boston, Massachusetts.

LAUREL R. BERRY, 34238927, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 21 January 1944. Entered the Service from Jonesboro, Tennessee.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Purple Heart is awarded to each of the following named individuals, for wounds received as a result of enemy action in France.

GEORGE WITTSCHUL, 01109922, First Lieutenant, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 10 October 1944. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

THOMAS G. NICHOLS, 20417863, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters & Service Company, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 22 September 1944. Entered the Service from Bowie, Texas.

LEWIS J. ARNOLD, 38026360, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 2 October 1944. Entered the Service from Victoria, Texas.

LEE B. LASSITER, 20817797, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 23 September 1944. Entered the Service from Sunset, Texas.

FREDERICK W. HOUSTON, 22819937, Staff Sergeant, 46th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Moz), 10 October 1944. Entered the Service from Edinburg, Texas.

CHARLES F. TREMBLE, 13019125, Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 7 October 1944. Entered the Service from Arizona, Pa.

DEE WISE, 20817347, Corporal, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 23 September 1944. Entered the Service from Bowie, Texas.

BENJAMIN E. FENNEL, 38037600, Technician Fifth Grade, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 1 October 1944. Entered the Service from Decatur, Tex.

ARTHUR L. ROSE, JR, 30173723, Private First Class, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 23 September 1944. Entered the Service from Clarkston, Mich.

PAUL F. LAFIA, 32702369, Private, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 23 September 1944. Entered the Service from Ridgewood, New York.

ANTHONY C. ADAMI, 31333532, Private, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 10 October 1944. Entered the Service from Boston, Massachusetts.

SAMUEL B. HOWARD, JR, 31245909, Private, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 10 October 1944. Entered the Service from Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

RICHARD H. HANLEY, 35099070, Private, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, 1 October 1944. Entered the Service from Indianapolis, Indiana.

R E S T R I C T E D

LAWRENCE E. HAWKINS, 38036279, Private, Battery C, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, 5 October 1944. Entered the Service from Vernon, Texas.

SECTION VI -- AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Purple Heart is awarded to each of the following named individuals of the 142d Infantry Regiment, for wounds received as a result of enemy action in France.

1st

JAMES H. ARONER, 32663012, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 7 October 1944. Entered the Service from Hoosick Falls, New York.

JOSEPH V. MAGNUSSELLMAN, 4202351, Private First Class, Company F, 8 October 1944. Entered the Service from Buffalo, New York.

WALTER L. TAYLOR, 30454104, Private First Class, Company B, 7 October 1944. Entered the Service from Lansing, Michigan.

WILFRED W. FROMHOLD, 14190638, Private, Company F, 8 October 1944. Entered the Service from Birmingham, Alabama.

CHARLES W. FLOYD, 30729572, Private, Company B, 7 October 1944. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

2nd

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a second Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a third Purple Heart, is awarded to each of the following named individuals of the 142d Infantry Regiment, for wounds received as a result of enemy action in France.

JOHN A. ALLSOP, 30779991, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 13 September 1944. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pa.

JOHN ALLONADO, 30779131, Private First Class, Company A, 13 September 1944. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

LELAND L. ELLISON, 39909129, Private First Class, Company B, 12 September 1944. Entered the Service from Reno, Nevada.

WILLIAM L. ROBERTS, 31146072, Private First Class, Company F, 25 September 1944. Entered the Service from Millbridge, Maine.

WILLIAM J. SPALL, 30642738, Private First Class, Company C, 24 September 1944. Entered the Service from Cicero, Illinois.

OSWALD L. WEBB, 31230662, Private First Class, Company C, 24 September 1944. Entered the Service from Springfield, Massachusetts.

By command of the Adjutant General DARLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

Harold E. Kelson
Harold E. Kelson
Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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- 4 -

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