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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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GENERAL ORDERS

22 July 1944

NO. 251

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 to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

DAN R. LONGINO, 01315431, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 May 1944 in the vicinity of *, ITALY. When Company C, attacked cleverly concealed and stubbornly defended enemy positions, Lieutenant Longino assumed the difficult responsibility of leading a platoon from another unit. Although he had taken command only four hours before the attack, he maintained excellent control of his men, leading them across flat terrain swept by enemy machine gun and rifle fire and shelled by hostile mortars in the assault on the enemy positions. While moving fearlessly over the treacherous terrain, pointing out targets to his men, he spotted a soldier trying vainly to repair his automatic rifle. Aware that additional fire power was essential, he immediately went to the man and calmly repaired his weapon under the heavy shell fire. As he pointed out an enemy target to the soldier, he was killed by a hurtling shell fragment. Next of kin: Mrs. Charline L. Astleford (Sister), 608 East Howard Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi.**

CARL E. HARGIS, 38036288, Sergeant, Battery A, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 5 June 1944 in the vicinity of *, ITALY. Sergeant Hargis was chief of the 4th Section of Battery A when the battery moved into a firing position northwest of ***. The position had just been occupied and the gun section was improving the pit when the enemy unexpectedly blasted the area with a heavy mortar bombardment which wounded several men and set the camouflage net and powder ablaze. Sergeant Hargis immediately left his place of shelter some 15 yards from the howitzer and, without waiting for the shelling to cease, ran toward the wounded men and burning gun in an attempt to render assistance. Before he could reach the gun position, several mortar shells exploded near him and he was instantly killed by the shell fragments. Next of kin: Mrs. Jewel Coleman (Mother), Scotland, Texas.**

SECTION II — 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.

DONALD A. CURRY, 0409046, Captain, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Madison, Wisconsin.

DANIEL A. JUNELL, 20817965, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Sulphur Springs, Texas.

BERT D. V. HEINLEN, 36173623, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Company, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Benton Harbor, Michigan.

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R E S T R I C T E D

RANDALL J. BONNETTE, 20817500, Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion. Entered the Service from Port Arthur, Texas.

The above named officer and enlisted men formed a reconnaissance patrol instructed to check the road from the forward command post to the center of ***. They followed a battalion of infantrymen into the town and parked their jeep in the shadow of a building. After the infantry troops passed through the town, the above named officer and enlisted men, awaiting further instructions by radio, observed a heavily armed enemy patrol approaching from another section of the village. Remaining completely motionless, they allowed the patrol, consisting of 27 enemy soldiers, to pass. Then they quickly and cautiously approached the patrol from the rear, utterly surprising the enemy. The hostile soldiers, presuming themselves surrounded by a superior force, capitulated immediately. Because of their quick-thinking and aggressiveness the above named officer and enlisted men succeeded in capturing 27 enemy prisoners.

ABBOTT D. ABBOTT, 01309153, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. As platoon leader of a heavy machine gun platoon Lieutenant Abbott was instructed to support the 3d Battalion in the fighting on a strategic beach-head during the invasion of Italy. The battalion advanced against stiff enemy resistance and under heavy artillery and mortar shelling until the friendly troops were pinned down by the direct fire from several enemy tanks and the hostile infantry. Lieutenant Abbott immediately seized a bazooka and, leaving his covered position, pressed forward to an exposed location from which he could direct fire on the hostile tanks. Engaging the enemy singlehandedly, he took careful aim and fired his bazooka, seriously damaging one of the tanks. When the tanks had withdrawn under heavy naval fire, he again exposed himself to the intense, rapid enemy fire to organize all the riflemen near him and, supported by a heavy machine gun section, valiantly led a fire fight against the hostile force, directing the men with such skill and accuracy that the enemy infantry was forced to withdraw. Entered the Service from North Adams, Massachusetts.

RALPH J. EASTBERG, 01316997, First Lieutenant, (then Second Lieutenant), 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. When he learned that the company transportation and mortar positions had been subjected to heavy, direct fire from enemy tanks, Lieutenant Eastberg swiftly moved forward 1000 yards to the scene of battle. Ignoring the intense hostile fire, he assisted in loading wounded men onto vehicles which removed them to a place of safety. He then found an undamaged vehicle and towed four company jeeps out of the impact area. Although he was painfully wounded by shrapnel, he courageously continued removing vehicles, guns and ammunition. He assisted in reorganizing the mortar platoon, working efficiently and fearlessly, until, weak from loss of blood, he was forced to be evacuated. Entered the Service from Iron Wood, Michigan.

ROBERT A. FINDLAY, 01112686, First Lieutenant, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, Entered the Service from Hohokus, New Jersey.

JORGE A. DIAZ, 32406772, Private, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

The above named officer and enlisted man advanced in the face of continuous enemy small arms fire on a road reconnaissance toward the town of ***. In ***, a partisan chief warned them that an enemy force was located in a nearby building and indicated his own unwillingness to risk an encounter with the hostile soldier. The above named officer and enlisted man courageously entered the building and

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captured four enemy soldiers including one officer. One of the four men was released and ordered to contact the remainder of the enemy in the area and relay the demand to surrender. During the night a seemingly endless stream of enemy troops filed into the town; and, by noon of the following day, there were 244 enemy soldiers under apprehension. The enlisted man, riding a horse, led the procession of prisoners over the mountain while the officer followed in a jeep; in this way 244 enemy soldiers were herded to a prisoner of war stockade.

JESSE W. BEWLEY, 20805393, Technical Sergeant, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 and 14 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. While moving from house to house during the attack on strongly fortified enemy positions in ***, Sergeant Bewley's platoon was pinned down in one of the houses by the intensity of enemy machine gun and rifle fire. Aware that this enemy resistance had to be destroyed before his unit could continue its advance, he moved forward, exposing himself to the sweeping hostile fire, to a position from which he could return the fire with his machine gun and hand grenades. He delivered effective fire on the enemy and neutralized their positions. Then, displaying outstanding qualities of leadership, he inspired his men to follow him further into the town to a position where they fought valiantly for ten hours until the hostile element was forced to withdraw. Entered the Service from Canyon, Texas.

WILLIAM BROUSSARD, 20807786, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. As platoon guide, Sergeant Broussard advanced at the head of his unit, pressing forward under heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire across fields of grape vines which afforded excellent concealment for the enemy. Many casualties resulted from the furious fire fight, and Sergeant Broussard, aware that the medical personnel had been instructed to wait 600 yards to the rear, for calls from the forward elements, unhesitatingly recrossed the fire swept terrain and made his way toward the aid men and litter bearers. With outstanding skill he led them along a route which afforded a maximum of cover to the positions where the wounded lay. Upon returning to his own platoon he discovered that the platoon leader and the platoon sergeant had been wounded and evacuated. He immediately assumed command and led his men forward in the face of intense enemy fire. When an enemy squad succeeded in penetrating to the rear of the advancing platoon, he moved alone toward the hostile force, taking careful aim, fired into their midst, killing two soldiers and scattering the others. He then continued to lead his men dauntlessly forward against the enemy positions. Entered the Service from Beaumont, Texas.

CASIMER G. GIESEL, 36652679, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 May 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Giesel, leader of a machine gun squad, was ordered to hold the center of the company line against expected enemy assaults. The nature of the terrain gave the enemy an advantage in the counterattack, enabling the hostile force to advance under cover to within 20 yards of the squad's position. During the furious fighting Sergeant Giesel continually exposed himself to the sweeping machine gun and rifle fire to move about among his men, many of whom were experiencing combat for the first time, and encourage them to maintain their positions in the face of the intense enemy onslaught. For three hours, until the enemy was forced to withdraw, he fearlessly covered the area, pointing out targets to his men. When their supply of ammunition was depleted, Sergeant Giesel crawled to other machine guns which had been shattered by the enemy fire and returned with the much needed ammunition. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

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KENNETH W. PATTERSON, 20805447, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 and 14 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. In the attack on strongly defended enemy positions in the town of ***, Sergeant Patterson led his squad aggressively forward from building to building until the advance was delayed by heavy enemy machine gun and small arms fire. He instructed his men to remain in one of the houses, and he pressed dauntlessly forward to locate the enemy gun emplacements. He exposed himself to the sweeping fire to reach a position from which he could direct fire against the machine gun nest. So accurate was his fire that the enemy crew was forced to withdraw. He then led his men further into the town to a position where they fought valiantly for ten hours until the enemy force retreated from the town. Entered the Service from Canyon, Texas.

TROY R. BARNETT, 34631461, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Private First Class Barnett, assigned as aid man to the 1st Platoon of Company C, advanced with his unit in an attack on strongly fortified enemy positions pressing forward 400 yards across open terrain in the face of stubborn enemy resistance. Continually exposing himself to sweeping machine gun and rifle fire, constantly imperilled by exploding artillery and mortar shells, he moved among the wounded, administering speedy expert first aid. When the intensity of enemy fire forced the company to retire to its original positions, he crawled 100 yards forward over flat terrain to a wounded soldier who had been left behind. Working in the darkness under continuous small arms fire, he treated his wounds and then assisted his injured comrade back to the safety of the friendly lines, directing litter bearers to the spot where he lay. Entered the Service from Eupora, Miss.

ANTONIO J. SAN ANTONIO, 31187967, Private, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 Mar 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Private San Antonio, as first scout for the 1st Platoon, advanced at the head of his unit in an attack on a well fortified enemy strong point. When the platoon approached a group of houses with a series of deep trenches around them, the friendly troops halted while Private San Antonio moved aggressively forward to search the trenches and the buildings. As he neared the houses, he was subjected to sweeping enemy machine gun fire and was wounded as he continued to press forward. Ignoring his painful wound and the increased intensity of the hostile machine gun fire, he moved to the houses and, from a position very near the enemy force, threw several hand grenades into the openings. His valor and quick-thinking enabled his comrades to adjust their line and to direct the maximum fire power against the enemy. Entered the Service from Lawrence, Massachusetts.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL

John J. Deane
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Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
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