

RESTRICTED

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

6 July 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 231

Posthumous Award of Silver Star I
Award of Silver Star II

SECTION I -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-15, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded each of the following named individuals:

✓ JAMES N. HARRISON, 01317394, Second Lieutenant, 112d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in the vicinity of *** ITALY. Lieutenant Harrison, commander of the 2d Platoon, was assigned the mission of leading an attack by Company A near ***. In closing in on the objective, the platoon was pinned down by heavy machine gun and rifle fire. Realizing the urgency of additional fire power, and unwilling to weaken his lines by withdrawing any of his men, Lieutenant Harrison skillfully deployed them in the most advantageous positions, returned to his support squad and carried forward the weapon and ammunition of a wounded automatic rifleman. In moving into a firing position he was killed instantly. However, the rapidity of fire brought upon the enemy enabled the company commander to move the remainder of the company into position and repel the vicious assault. Next of kin: Mr. Henry D. Harrison (Father), RFD #3, Edinboro, Pennsylvania.

✓ H. LAWRENCE, 20806636, Technical Sergeant, Company M, 112d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in the vicinity of *** ITALY. When enemy forces launched a vigorous attempt to retake newly won positions of Company M, Sergeant Lawrence was ordered to move his mortar platoon into position and repel the attack. Determined to make a personal reconnaissance of the area and select the most advantageous gun positions, although the enemy was shelling the area with continuous artillery fire, he moved about fearlessly, scouting the terrain for positions affording a maximum of cover and clearance for the field of fire. Before he had completed his reconnaissance, an enemy shell exploded less than five feet from him and killed him instantly. However, Sergeant Lawrence's heroism inspired his platoon to move bravely against the enemy and successfully repel the attack. Next of kin: Mr. William Lawrence (Father), 1504 W. 13th Street, Wichita Falls, Texas.

✓ CHARLES S. TULIN, 36320190, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 February 1944 in the vicinity of *** ITALY. Assigned as communications sergeant during the defense of a precarious mountain position, Sergeant Tulin courageously risked repeated concentrations of enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire while determinedly maintaining the important wire lines. Exposing himself to the observation and direct fire of the hostile positions in order to make prompt repairs or replacements of communications which were being knocked out by the heavy barrages, he contributed materially to the successful defense of the sector. During his aggressive performance of these hazardous tasks, Sergeant Tulin was fatally wounded by a direct hit of a mortar shell. Next of kin: Mrs. Emily Tulin (Mother), Galesburg, Illinois.

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R E S T R I C T E D

PAULIE C. BUSS, 20803535, Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Ordered to withdraw his squad from positions rendered untenable by heavy shell fire and small arms fire, Sergeant Buss reconnoitered the open terrain to select the most covered route for his squad. He then led his men forward under the intense enemy fire until the withdrawal was stopped by an enemy force firing from the flank. Unhesitatingly, Sergeant Buss braved the holocaust of enemy rifle and machine gun fire, consciously exposing himself, to scout a new route. While struggling over the difficult, mountainous terrain he was killed by enemy fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Elvora Buss (Wife), 2008 New De Loon Street, Victoria, Texas.

HAROLD M. PICKETT, 20801868, Sergeant, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 November 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Pickett's squad was assigned a sector to protect against enemy patrol action from which they could observe the movements of the enemy forces. Believing that he could secure better observation from high ground, he moved his squad forward toward the vantage point which he had chosen. As the squad was effecting the move, the enemy blasted the area with a heavy artillery barrage. Sergeant Pickett willfully exposed himself to the shell explosions and hurtling fragments in order to scout the terrain for an alternate position which would afford a maximum of protection for his men. He then led his squad to the new position and directed them to take cover while he returned to the original vantage point. While moving toward the high ground he was fatally wounded by enemy fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Ida May Mayton (Mother), 301 Warren Street, San Antonio, Texas.

WALTER L. ZEEB, 32769942, Sergeant, Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Zeeb led his light machine gun section to support his company in an attack on strongly fortified enemy positions. Advancing in the face of sweeping machine gun and rifle fire, he selected an advantageous, but exposed, position for the weapon. When his gunner was killed by the enemy fire, he unhesitatingly took his place and manned the gun himself. He moved the weapon to an even more forward position which afforded a better field of fire and continued covering the friendly troops with his accurate and rapid bursts of machine gun fire. The enemy located the position which had been inflicting such damage on their force and directed fire on it. Sergeant Zeeb was wounded, but he maintained his gun position until he was later killed by sniper fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Ernestine Zeeb (Mother), Mount Pleasant Parkway, Livingston, 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:

JAMES G. BALLUFF, 019955, Lieutenant Colonel, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 30 May to 11 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. During this period the battalion which Lieutenant Colonel Balluff was commanding was assigned several heavily fortified objectives between ***. Lieutenant Colonel Balluff remained constantly with the advance elements of his battalion, exposing himself to enemy sniper fire in order to better direct the movements of his weapons and troops. He established his command post on the front lines, and maintained an observation post in a building which was struck nine times by artillery shells. He personally led the attack on the strongly entrenched enemy positions at *** and was one of the first to enter the city. After overcoming all resistance between that town and ***, he and his command group preceded the other elements of his battalion into the city. Lieutenant Colonel Balluff's exemplary conduct, outstanding leadership and calm demeanor inspired his men to redouble their efforts and accomplish their difficult missions. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

R E S T R I C T E D

DENEY W. MANN, 01290762, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Lieutenant Mann, commander of Company B, was advancing just behind the two leading platoons when the enemy suddenly opened fire from the left flank and pinned down the attack platoons. Lieutenant Mann unhesitatingly moved forward in the face of the heavy, continuous small arms fire and began organizing the men into a defensive position, working calmly and rapidly, urging them to return the enemy fire and directing them in digging in. He then returned to the supporting platoon and guided it to a position he had previously selected to augment the fire power of the first two platoons. Although the tempo of enemy fire had increased, he continued moving about over the battle ground, placing his machine guns and mortars in the most advantageous positions and directing the artillery observer to the vantage points from which he could best observe enemy activity. Refusing to succumb to the intense opposition, he directed his platoons so effectively that the enemy realized the hopelessness of overwhelming such determined resistance and withdrew during the night. Entered the Service from Canard, West Virginia.

GARLAND F. JONES, 20809645, Technical Sergeant, Company M, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. In an attack on strongly defended enemy positions in a strategic town, Sergeant Jones machine gun section sergeant, fractured his ankle and could hardly walk, but he refused to be evacuated and, because of the depletion of non-commissioned officers, assumed double duties in the assault. When heavy enemy shelling and machine gun fire engendered confusion, he reorganized the men and put his machine guns into action. Later, when the attacking force was ordered to withdraw from the untenable positions, he gathered up the remaining men, led them back to new positions and directed them in establishing a firm defense. Entered the Service from Lakeview, Texas.

ADOLPH T. VOLKER, 12078305, Technical Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. During the intense fighting on the strategic beachhead, Private First Class Volker spotted two friendly squads advancing unawares into an enemy trap. Unhesitatingly he collected two volunteers and, after signalling the squads to halt, led his patrol in a daring flanking movement on the enemy stronghold. Although imperilled by artillery and mortar shelling and small arms fire, he calmly directed the two soldiers in bringing effective fire on the position. During the fire fight which ensued one enemy soldier was killed, and the remaining nine, terrified and disorganized, surrendered. In addition to taking the prisoners, Private First Class Volker seized two light enemy field pieces and enabled his company to continue its advance toward its objective. Entered the Service from West Orange, New Jersey.

MITCHELL E. BROWN, 34494007, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Brown led the advance squad of his unit to aid the forces of Company B in repelling a vigorous enemy attack. Upon reaching the company positions, Sergeant Brown and his men were immediately subjected to the intense cross fire from three enemy machine gun nests. He unhesitatingly fired his machine gun at one of the emplacements and destroyed the enemy weapon. Then, with his supply of ammunition almost exhausted, he hurled hand grenades into another of the gun positions and successfully knocked it out. Still imperilled by the fire from the third machine gun, Sergeant Brown moved to his assistant squad leader's position and directed him in bringing fire on the last enemy nest. His outstanding aggressiveness and display of bravery encouraged his men to rush forward and repel the attack. Entered the Service from Pleasantville Tennessee.

R E S T R I C T E D

✓ GUILLERMO L. DE LEON, 38025577, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. When the left flank of the company positions was threatened by a vigorous enemy assault, Sergeant DeLeon moved to a sector near a friendly machine gun emplacement in an open wheat field and opened fire on the attackers. When the furious cross fire of three enemy machine guns rendered the positions almost untenable, the crew of the friendly machine gun was forced to withdraw. Sergeant DeLeon, thoughtless of personal security, maintained his position and successfully defended the sector against the onrushing enemy force. When an enemy soldier crept near enough to strike Sergeant DeLeon with the butt of his rifle and demand his surrender, he whirled and fired his sub-machine gun at the soldier, killing him. He continued to fire and delay the attacking force until re-enforcements arrived to assist him. Entered the Service from Uvalde, Texas.

BENNIE SCHOLWINSKI, 20802479, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Scholwinski, assigned as squad leader of the scout squad of his company, led his men aggressively forward until an enemy force opened fire with several machine guns. He directed his men to deploy and skillfully maneuvered them into position. Then he moved alone to the right flank and crawled to a spot from which he could bring fire on the gun emplacements. In spite of the constant threat from the rapid bursts of machine gun fire, he calmly aimed his rifle grenade launcher and fired into a machine gun nest, destroying it. He then knocked out another gun emplacement with his expert fire, and, after crawling cautiously to the dry out, he hurled a hand grenade into the opening. His fearlessness and daring initiative resulted in the death of three enemy soldiers and the capture of three more, thus enabling his squad to continue its advance. Entered the Service from Lockhart, Texas.

RICHARD O'KELLEY, 20808874, Private First Class, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. When the 2d Battalion motor park was threatened by the rapid advance of enemy tanks, Private First Class O'Kelley, a truck driver, volunteered to try to hold them back until a route could be found for the evacuation of the vehicles. He crawled forward under intense small arms fire with a bazooka and began firing at the tanks. The furious enemy fire kept him pinned to the ground in a prone position, but he knocked out a tank with his accurate fire and remained fearlessly in position until he was ordered to withdraw. Entered the Service from Galveston, Texas.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart

VINCENT M. LOCKHART

Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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