

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS FOUR INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 400, U. S. ARMY

ORIGINAL ORDER

5 May 1944

1 Award of Silver Star I
2 Award of Silver Star II

SECTION I — POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-40, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded the following named individuals:

Private G. L. HENRIS, 3419491, Private First Class, Company A, 14th Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of 0000, Italy. The enemy shelled the company's defensive positions with an intense mortar and artillery barrage and immediately launched a vicious attack. When the remainder of his platoon withdrew to reorganize, Private Henris, manning an automatic rifle, valiantly maintained his position to provide covering fire and forestall the enemy's advance. With outstanding courage and unerring accuracy in the face of heavy enemy fire, he destroyed two machine gun emplacements and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy forces. Only when his weapon jammed did Private Henris attempt to rejoin his unit and, as he moved the remains of enemy fire, he was struck down and killed by enemy machine gun fire. His heroic example inspired the remainder of his unit to a better display of courage in repelling the enemy. Next of kin: Mrs. Lilla Henris (Mother), 9029 North 24th Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Charles W. Willis, 20004254, Private, Service Company, 14th Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 January 1944 in the vicinity of 0000, Italy. Private Willis was hit during a concentrated enemy artillery barrage. Private Willis immediately left his place of cover and went to the assistance of the wounded. Realizing that prompt medical attention was essential, he courageously defied the onslaught of enemy shells to run to a nearby trench and obtain a first aid kit. Returning determinedly to the wounded man, he applied the first aid. While moving toward a protected cave; but while still exposed, he was instantly killed by the explosion of a shell within a few feet of him. Private Willis' outstanding courage and extraordinary devotion to duty were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deed. Next of kin: Mrs. Lilla Willis, (Mother), 45 Paloma Avenue, Santa, California.

Private J. G. Hill, 3003440, Private, Company A, 14th Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 December 1943 in the vicinity of 0000, Italy. Private Hill, a light machine gun squad, participated actively for the remainder of the day in the movement of Company A from Hill to a position east of Hill. He was severely wounded and the numerous casualties due to enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, plus constant rain, strenuous marching, and the loss of his platoon and the voices of fallen comrades in addition to his own. After the attack, Private Hill, despite his wounds, continued to fire in the direction of the enemy. Special Service Force troops continued the attack.

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withstanding the almost complete lack of effective fire, he voluntarily left protective cover and sought a better position over the ridge for supporting the attack. In the intense enemy fire, he successfully neutralized enemy gunners and observers, making possible the advance of Special Service force troops. While thus engaged, continuing to lay withering fire upon the enemy, he was killed by a direct artillery hit. Next of kin: Mrs. Dorothy Sias (Wife, 1234 Main Street, Union, Kentucky).

SECTION II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-43, a Silver Star is awarded to the following named individuals:

SAMUEL S. SHANAHAN, 313939, Lieutenant Colonel, 1424 Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, in action on 26-27 January 1944 and 1 February 1944 in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Lieutenant Colonel Shanahan, commanding the assault battalion moving across the swift flowing Tevere river, was given the difficult and extremely hazardous mission of attacking and capturing Hill 260. He dauntlessly and vigorously led his men forward, over rough and treacherous mountain terrain, all the while under intense enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. As the enemy forces desperately strove to prevent the battalion from moving forward, he moved forward, driving, encouraging and leading personal reconnaissance and sniping parties, ever vigilant in leading his men on to their objective. While so doing, he was wounded and forced to be evacuated. His great fortitude, outstanding leadership and devotion to duty greatly inspired all members of his command and materially aided in the successful capture of the objective. Entered the Service from Hunt-County, Texas.

WILLIAM W. ANTON, 311133, Lieutenant Colonel, (then Major), 1424 Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, in action on 1 February 1944 in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Lieutenant Colonel Anton was commanding the 1st Battalion in its advance toward the heavily defended and well fortified enemy positions and under intense enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, he dauntlessly moved and encouraged his men, from one position to another, leading the men encouragement and inspiration. While so doing he was wounded by enemy shell fire, but refusing to be evacuated, he continued to lead his men under continuous shelling to their objective. Although painfully wounded, he stayed on and supervised the installation of important defense positions, until forced to be evacuated. His great fortitude, outstanding leadership, and calmness under fire greatly inspired all who witnessed it and set a high example for members of his command. Entered the United States Military Academy from California.

ROBERT M. SAEHLER, 313930, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 1424 Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, in action on 19 January 1944 in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. During the Tevere river attack, Captain Saepler was assigned to an assault mission for reconnaissance purposes. Under heavy and intense enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, he aggressively led his men forward to the crossing point. Upon reaching the river he discovered the bridge had been blown out by enemy mortar fire and he immediately led his men across a log, shell fire to another point on the river. As they approached the river, loud detonations indicated they had been hit by enemy fire, resulting in the wounding of many men. He immediately ordered the men to lie flat on the ground and with their hands behind their heads. He then calmly led the men to the river and across it. Although he was wounded, he continued to lead his men to the river and across it.

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as a flying machine; and exposed to the ground on the occasions of exploding mines, remained in his four gears until all men were evacuated. His great courage, outstanding leadership and devotion to duty are an inspiration to all United Air Guards. Entered the Service from Denver, Colorado.

JAMES E. HANFORD, Captain, 1st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 December 1943 in the vicinity of Fort, Italy. During an attack against a heavily defended hill of the enemy, the right platoon of Captain Hanford's company became pinned down by a concentration of machine gun fire directed against it. With great courage, he led a vicious assault on the first platoon. He used intense artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Constantly exposed to enemy fire of the enemy, he kept bravely moved forward upon his men, directing the defense against the well fortified emplacement. Inspired by his magnificent valor and outstanding conduct, Captain Hanford maintained the attack determinedly and destroyed the machine gun nest and trapped his comrades. His aggressive leadership and exemplary devotion inspired the successful taking of the objective. Entered the Service at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Hallard E. Everett, 016730, Second Lieutenant, 1st Infantry Regiment, was acting in action on 11 February 1944 near Cass, Italy. The magnitude of his officer's courage is best shown in a report of his actions composed by three soldiers who fought under him: "Company C had the attack on Hill 66. The 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, fighting heavy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire that killed a large number of men and all of our officers but Lieutenant Everett. It was the hard and dangerous job of keeping the company under control without being wounded himself. He was so short of men that the runners had to go back to him fighting hard to help hold the ground he had. The enemy was coming up three sides of the hill; our men were losing out fast. Lieutenant Everett kept the company fire with everything they had while he went off the side of the hill and called fire orders to our mortars. Our mortar fire stopped the incoming enemy. He located an enemy mortar that had been giving us trouble all day long and our mortar aimed it out, a direct hit on the third round. He also located an enemy sniper that had wounded several of our men. For three days and four nights he risked his life by going from one position to another alone, keeping our fire, keeping the men under control. At times he helped the wounded to a safe place. Lieutenant Everett was sick during all this time, but he forced himself to stay for the sake of the men who might have lost their lives if he had not been for him. The results of his courageous task: the enemy was killed and the hill was ours." Entered the Service from Millersville, Maryland.

ALLAN H. HASSI, Waco/7533, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for
distinguished action on 2-1 January 1944 in the vicinity of Foss, Italy. Company
B, assault company for the 1st Battalion, crossed the Santa River and
the Santa River despite a heavy concentration of enemy artillery, mortar
and machine fire. Lieutenant Hasi, assigned the task of evacuating the wounded
from the area, crossed the river to secure a boat. Realizing one boat would
be insufficient to evacuate the men and material, he personally supervised the
construction of a raft bridge from salvage material. The bridge was under attack
and the immediate target of enemy fire. Dearthlessly, with great physical
courage and aggressiveness he continued to expose himself to and withstand the
enemy fire until the men and material across the river until all the wounded were
evacuated. His gall courage and outstanding leadership saved the lives of many
of his men. He was severely injured and was withdrawn from service.

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FRANK M. COSTABILE, 01237868, Second Lieutenant, 11th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in action on 28 February 1944 in the vicinity of Rome, Italy. Lieutenant Costabile was the leader of a small combat patrol assigned to destroy observation post deep in enemy occupied territory. Moving skillfully over treacherous terrain, he led his men in a daring approach on their objective, alertly protecting them from enemy snipers until they had reached a point from which to launch their assault. Alertly detecting a slight movement before them and in an exposed position, Lieutenant Costabile immediately opened up a fierce and accurate fire by surprise. With cool determination and outstanding courage, he directed a withering concentration of small arms fire against his enemy's position, quickly destroying the position and withdrawing his men before the heavy mortar and machine gun fire of the main enemy line could be brought to bear. His aggressive leadership and magnificent valor inspired his men to accomplish their objective against terrific odds in the face of sudden danger. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

JOHN F. ROMAS, 083609, Sergeant (then Corporal), Company 1, 11th Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of Rome, Italy. When the beach head advance of his company was stopped by an intense concentration of artillery fire, Sergeant Rogers, a team mortar man, voluntarily moved to an exposed position to set up his weapon and engage the heavy guns of the enemy. Working coolly and skillfully despite the intense fire directed at him, he successfully fired a series of mortar rounds against the artillery emplacements, destroying them and his crew and forcing the personnel to withdraw. Sergeant Rogers' calm and aggressiveness enabled his company to move successfully to its objective and inspired all the witnesses to do the same. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

By command of Major General Walker:

STEWART I. VIGOR
Colonel, 1st Infantry Division
Chief of Staff

For file:

John J. Deane
JOHN J. DEANE

Colonel, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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