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Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....	I
Award of Silver Star.....	II
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster.....	III

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 soldiers for gallantry in action.

RICHARD A. POLASEK, 20803549, Technical Sergeant, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in Italy. When Company K entered a town well fortified by the enemy, the attacking soldiers were pinned down by intense machine gun and sniper fire from the buildings. Locating one of the gun emplacements, Sergeant Polasek left the comparative safety of his position and advanced toward the enemy weapon. He was wounded by the fire from a machine gun at the end of the street, but he continued forward, inflicting several casualties on the enemy force, until he was killed by the rapid bursts of gun fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Angelina Polasek (Mother), Route #3, Shiner, Texas.

THOMAS L. RUTLEDGE, 35259920, Technical Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Rutledge led his platoon in an aggressive movement across open terrain toward the strongly fortified hostile positions in a town. He and his men were pinned to the ground by sweeping machine gun and rifle fire directed from the front and the flank. With thoughts only for the furtherance of the attack and the safety of his men, he stood upright, braving the intense machine gun cross fire, to urge his men to continue the assault and direct them forward to covered positions. His courage and aggressive leadership contributed materially to the success of the attack, but he was killed by small arms fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Rutledge (Mother), New Harmony, Indiana.

GLENN E. MANN, 33764357, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 June 1944 in Italy. Private Mann was assigned as radio operator to the 1st Battalion Communications Platoon during an attack on well fortified enemy positions. When heavy artillery and tank fire shattered all the wire lines, radio was the only available means of communication. In spite of the continuous enemy shelling, he steadfastly maintained his position and remained with his radio, transmitting the necessary orders to coordinate the troop movements in the attack. In order to continue operating the radio it became necessary to move to another, more exposed position. While fearlessly advancing under the heavy barrage, he was killed by the shell fire. Next of kin: Mrs. Leona Mann (Wife), Chestnut Street, Mill Hall, Pennsylvania.

(over)

- 1 -

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

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.

ROUE L. HOGAN, 0314441, Major, 751st Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. Major Hogan advanced on foot to within 75 yards of enemy infantry positions to give orders to a platoon of tanks. In spite of continuous mortar and small arms fire, he led the tanks to a point from which they could direct fire on a large group of enemy infantrymen gathering for a counterattack. Because of the aggressive and courageous leadership of Major Hogan, the tanks succeeded in killing many of the hostile soldiers and scattered the remainder. Entered the Service from Falls Church, Virginia.

CLIFTON J. BUNKER, 36868845, Private First Class, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Bunker was lead point man in his company's advance up a road. When the enemy was reached he refused to take cover, but stood upright, firing devastating blasts with his automatic rifle, giving the rest of the company time to take cover and execute a flanking maneuver. This action left Private First Class Bunker cut off, but through his own resourcefulness he was able to make his way to his company. During the ensuing fight he took his place on the left of the light machine gun, adding his effective fire power against the enemy. When the company was forced to withdraw to better fighting positions, he stayed at his post and furnished covering fire. Because of his courageous action the company was given time to reorganize without loss and continue its attack successfully. Entered the Service from Highland Park, Michigan.

DAVID W. CHENEY, 32919592, Private First Class, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in Italy. As first scout for a rifle platoon, Private First Class Cheney was leading his unit in an advance toward its objective when an enemy force suddenly opened fire from a draw in front of him. Although he was caught in the intense cross fire of several machine guns, he disdained cover and assaulted the enemy positions. Running in the face of the hostile fire, he charged the gun emplacements in the draw, delivering rapid, accurate fire with his sub-machine gun on the enemy force. He killed one gunner, forced three enemy soldiers to surrender and the rest to withdraw. By his quick-thinking and daring, he penetrated the hostile line and enabled his platoon to continue on to its objective. Entered the Service from Orange, New Jersey.

LEONARD L. WILLS, 37610198, Private First Class, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 June 1944 in Italy. Company B was instructed to capture an enemy position and construct road blocks at the junction of a road and a railroad. Private First Class Wills, the lead scout of his squad, advanced aggressively toward the hostile emplacements and penetrated the position before he was discovered by the enemy. When a soldier crept up behind him and attacked him for the rear, Private First Class Wills whirled around and killed his adversary. He then directed accurate fire on the enemy position, thus enabling the remainder of his squad to deploy and, later, eliminate the hostile force. Entered the Service from Greenville, Missouri.

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- 2 -

R E S T R I C T E D

SECTION III — AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

WILLIAM H. KAUPERT, 0407833, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 June 1944 in Italy. When the commander of the 2d Battalion was wounded, Captain Kaupert assumed his duties and almost immediately led the unit forward in an attack. He made numerous forward reconnaissances and, skillfully coordinating the movements of his companies, fearlessly led them through mine fields and booby-trapped areas. He maintained his observation post forward of his leading companies, and directed accurate artillery and heavy weapons fire on enemy positions. The success of the attack depended upon the crossing of a swift river, and Captain Kaupert, under ceaseless enemy artillery fire, reconnoitered the area and located spots where the river could be forded. His intelligent leadership and daring aggressiveness were key factors in the success of the final assault against the objective. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

IRVING FINK, 01309923, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Fink led the 2d Platoon of Company C forward across mine fields cleverly booby-trapped and through barbed wire entanglements in an attack against staunchly defended enemy positions. When the platoon was pinned down by hostile fire, a scout indicated the location of a sniper; and Lieutenant Fink exposed himself in order to direct fire on the enemy position, successfully silencing it. Although painfully wounded by sniper fire from the right flank, he killed the enemy sniper with accurate fire from his carbine. Mastering the intense pain of his wound, he continued crawling about among his men, directing and encouraging them; and, before he was evacuated, he issued careful instructions which enabled his men to continue the attack. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

ALBERT J. FROST, 01307533, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Frost, leader of the weapons platoon of Company C, was instructed to support the 3d Platoon in an attack against strongly fortified enemy positions. The heavily wooded terrain afforded poor observation, and Lieutenant Frost determined to move forward and lay a wire line for a sound power phone in order to direct mortar fire on the hostile emplacements. He advanced under intense artillery, mortar and small arms fire until he reached the 3d Platoon positions. When he was told that the platoon leader had been wounded and evacuated, he immediately assumed command and led the men forward through barbed wire entanglements, pressing on against stubborn enemy resistance. When the platoon was ordered to retire under the intense hostile fire, Lieutenant Frost, although wounded by a hurtling shell fragment, directed an orderly withdrawal, then reorganized the platoon and held the new positions until the unit was relieved. Entered the Service from Woodbury, New Jersey.

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- 3 -

R E S T R I C T E D

EARL O. WASCHER, 36044552, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in Italy. While on patrol duty on the outskirts of an important Italian city, the 1st Platoon contacted a force of enemy soldiers and engaged them in an intense fire fight. When the entire platoon was pinned down by the sweeping hostile fire, the platoon leader shouted an order for Sergeant Wascher to lead his squad in a flanking movement against the enemy. Although his squad was unable to move, he left his covered position and went from man to man, directing each to the most advantageous firing position on the flank. Fearlessly exposing himself to the rapid bursts of hostile fire, he succeeded in maneuvering his squad into position on the enemy's flank, thus blocking their only route of escape. During the fight, which lasted four hours, Sergeant Wascher distinguished himself by his exemplary leadership and daring. Largely as a result of his aggressive deeds, the platoon killed one enemy soldier and captured 37 prisoners. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

STAFF SGT T. VINCENT  
Colonel, General Staff Corps  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

*John U. Deane*

JOHN U. DEANE

Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department  
Adjutant General

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