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E.S. Deeter
RESTRICTED

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

10 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 129

Award of Silver Star, Missing in Action.....I
Award of Silver Star.....II
Corrected Award of Silver Star.....III

SECTION I - AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSING IN ACTION

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded the following named individuals, missing in action, for gallantry:

HAROLD W. DEETER, 35125518, Sergeant, Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. On a foggy morning the 2d Platoon, in which Sergeant Deeter was a squad leader, advanced with the 1st Battalion to attack an enemy position on ***. In the inferno of enemy fire which greeted the attackers, the platoon was separated from the remainder of Company D. In the absence of the platoon commander, Sergeant Deeter, acting entirely on his own initiative, assumed command of the platoon and skillfully led his men through a narrow defile under constant enemy machine gun and rifle fire, thus successfully rejoining the main body. Sergeant Deeter then put his machine gun into action, bringing effective fire on the enemy and protecting the battalion as it advanced along the trail. He continued operating his gun until he was seriously wounded by opposing machine gun fire. Sergeant Deeter, with contempt for personal danger, by his valorous deed materially assisted the successful completion of the battalion's mission. From this engagement he has been reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Sophia Deeter (Mother), Route #3, Troy, Ohio.

ALTON B. WILSON, 20805262, Private First Class, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private First Class Wilson, ordered to move a machine gun to a position of support for an attacking platoon, made his way under heavy enemy machine gun and sniper fire to the original position of the gun and, with consideration for the safety of the men manning the gun, instructed them to remain in their positions. Then, unassisted, Private First Class Wilson, still the object of enemy fire, removed the gun to its new position of support and put it into action. Protected by the machine gun fire, the attacking platoon successfully advanced against its objective. In moving and operating the gun without assistance, considering the safety of his comrades while heedless of personal risk, Private First Class Wilson exemplified the Army tradition of initiative and valor. He has subsequently been reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mr. Frank C. Wilson (Father), Sweetwater, Texas.

SECTION II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

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ORIGINAL ORDER - RETURNED FOR INFO
DLK. 6-7-44

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LeROY L. BELL, 0418651, First Lieutenant, Battery B, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

JAMES G. WILLIAMS, 20816403, First Sergeant, Battery B, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

REMSON R. COVER, 20816018, Staff Sergeant, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

MELVIN B. HALEY, 20816410, Corporal, Battery B, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

JOHN L. McNEILL, JR., 20816035, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

CLEBURNE H. SCHMIDT, 20816040, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

JOHN V. BANSE, 20816022, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

JULIUS (NMI) SHOCKO, 36195091, Private, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Eckerman, Michigan.

JOHN (NMI) GENNA, 32867545, Private, Battery B, 155th Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Jamaica, New York.

For gallantry in action on 18 March 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When the enemy discovered the position of Battery B of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion, the three guns composing the battery were subjected to such furious artillery shelling that the casualties inflicted among the gun crew were extremely numerous. Despite the hazards of the shell blasted field, these men exposed themselves to the continuous intense shelling, moving from one gun position to another to render first aid to the wounded men. Often stunned by the shell bursts, they continued treating the men, helping them to endure the pain until they could be evacuated. When the intensity of the shelling lessened they secured an ambulance and a weapons carrier in which they transported the wounded soldiers to safety. By their capable and intelligent handling of casualty cases in the inferno and confusion resulting from numerous direct hits by the enemy artillery, they saved the lives of many of their comrades. Their gallant action reflects great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

ROY F. SENTILLES, 01300225, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Lieutenant Sentilles, commanding Company I, was assigned a sector on the hill and ordered to hold it at all costs. He defended his positions in the freezing temperatures of a bitter winter night and in the face of ceaseless artillery, mortar and small arms fire and numerous counterattacks. Although the rocky terrain prevented the digging in of positions and afforded little cover, Lieutenant Sentilles, heedless of personal danger, moved up and down the lines within hand grenade range of the enemy, advising those men

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with hands too numb to fire a rifle to throw grenades and inspiring the slightly wounded to continue fighting. Despite heavy casualties, the position was held as a result of his inspiring leadership. His devotion to duty in the face of great danger exemplifies outstanding heroism and courage. Entered the Service from Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

FREDERICK A. BOOTH, 0379452, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When the enemy launched a powerful mechanized counterattack during the initial stages of the establishment of the beachhead, no communications for support were available with the exception of a radio lying in an exposed area in which there was no cover for a distance of 150 yards. On his own initiative and with magnificent daring, Captain Booth attempted to run the perilous gauntlet of artillery, mortar and small arms fire to obtain the vital radio. While making his courageous dash, he was severely wounded by shell fragments. Although suffering great pain, he directed and encouraged the men around him and refused evacuation until other wounded soldiers had received medical attention. His calm fortitude and outstanding devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from San Benito, Texas.

RAYMOND E. WEBB, 0395322, First Lieutenant, 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Ordered to establish an observation post on ***, a patrol from Lieutenant Webb's troop attempted to skirt the base of another mountain and approach their objective from the north. Enemy fire pinned the patrol down and forced it to abandon its equipment and withdraw. An extremely important radio set was left in serviceable condition about two hundred yards from an enemy strongpoint. This fact was reported to Lieutenant Webb by the returning patrol. Realizing the security of the division's radio communication system would be gravely imperiled if the radio set were taken in operating condition by the enemy, Lieutenant Webb set out to recover it. Guided by a member of the patrol, he followed a protected way along a ravine to within one hundred yards of the radio. Cautiously he crept forward alone over the exposed ground to the set and reached it without receiving fire; but as he attempted to return with the radio his presence was detected and the enemy opened fire on him with rifles, machine guns and small mortars. Despite this he reached a small shell hole that gave him cover. About three feet away was a deep well. Realizing the impossibility of his getting the radio back safely, he pushed it into the well, denying its use to the enemy. For one hour he crouched in the shell hole before the fire abated enough for him to reach the ravine and rejoin his troop. Entered the Service from Santa Rosa, New Mexico.

MARTIN L. WRIGHT, 20803159, Technical Sergeant, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. After the platoon leader was killed during the attack across a vital river, Sergeant Wright assumed command of the platoon and led them under terrific artillery and mortar fire through mine fields where markings of most of the cleared paths had been destroyed by enemy shelling. Under his bold leadership the men succeeded in carrying a pontoon foot bridge to the crossing point where they assisted the engineers in throwing it across the treacherous currents of the river. Sergeant Wright's gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Luling, Texas.

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SECTION III - CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR

So much of Section III, General Orders Number 107, dated 26 April, 1944, this Headquarters, as awards a Silver Star to LEE ROY BILLINGSLEY, 39065126, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor.

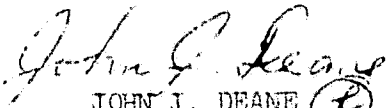
"Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded the following named individual:

"LEE ROY BILLINGSLEY, 39065126, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 February 1944 on ***, Italy. Preceding an imminent enemy counterattack, Company I was subjected to a heavy concentration of enemy artillery and mortar fire, which destroyed the outpost communication lines to the 2d Platoon. Sergeant Billingsley, realizing the dire necessity of communication, upon his own initiative, repeatedly left his place of safety to repair the lines. Although under continuous enemy mortar and artillery fire, he traced and repaired his platoon's lines thereby restoring vitally needed contact with the company command post. The holocaust of fire caused casualties all around him but he dauntlessly carried on with his self-appointed task. His magnificent courage and outstanding calmness greatly inspired all members of his platoon. Entered the Service from Monahans, Texas."

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:


JOHN J. DEANE
Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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