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

11 March 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 66

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

VAN W. PYLAND, 0236089, Lieutenant Colonel, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action from 13 to 18 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Lieutenant Colonel Pyland, commanding officer of the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, disregarded terrific enemy artillery and mortar fire to remain at a forward observation post directing the operations of his battalion in the attack on ***. Before the pockets of resistance were mopped up, he went forward on reconnaissance and while so doing was wounded in the face by a mortar shell. He continued on his mission, not receiving medical attention until that night. Again the following morning he went forward beyond the outpost lines of the Infantry to select future positions for Company B, and while alone on this reconnaissance, he captured and disarmed an enemy soldier and took him to the command post for questioning. His outstanding example of cool courage, fortitude and aggressive leadership greatly inspired both his officers and men. His gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

MILTON J. LANDRY, 0342179, Major, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Major Landry commanded the 2d Battalion in the attack to cross the *** river under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire and over ground further protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. Cover was negligible in the last seven hundred yards of the river approaches, but Major Landry personally led his officers and men to the crossing sites. Largely through his personal efforts the greater portions of the 2d Battalion crossed the river and engaged the enemy. When units across the river became disorganized, he went forward from his command post and moved among the men, exposing himself to observed enemy machine gun and small arms fire. While so doing he was wounded three times. His great display of courage and devotion to duty without regard to his personal safety inspired his command to the utmost effort. His gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

EDGAR (NMI) FORD, 0332936, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Captain Ford was S-3 of the 3d Battalion which was ordered to attack and cross the *** river. The attack was launched under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire across a deep, fast-flowing river and over ground further protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. Cover was negligible in the last seven hundred yards of the river approaches, which further complicated the difficulties encountered. Much of the equipment was destroyed and the battalion partially

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disorganized as a result of detonations of the mines and the falling of the artillery and mortar fire. Captain Ford, upon noting this condition, moved across the mine field contacting companies and reorganizing them. He then proceeded to route them to the river crossing sites. Upon arriving at the river the enemy fire was increased in intensity but Captain Ford with utter disregard for his personal safety continued his gallant work of maintaining order. His cool courage under fire and devotion to duty inspired all who witnessed his deeds. His gallant actions reflect great credit to himself and to the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Rusk, Texas.

CHARLES J. CUSSON, 01696811, Captain, MC, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8-10 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During the vicious attack on *** and the two following days, heavy casualties had been inflicted by enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire and anti-personnel mines. In order to make possible the rapid treatment and evacuation of the wounded, Captain Cusson on his own initiative went forward to the front line positions despite the intense fire and the cleverly concealed mines. He crossed difficult rocky and muddy terrain, going from one wounded man to another administering medical treatment and personally directing the litter bearers to the wounded. Captain Cusson's display of calmness under fire, outstanding courage, and devotion to duty inspired all who witnessed his deeds. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Lydenville, Vermont.

HIRAM F. FENTON, 20804587, Technical Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on ***, Italy. The enemy laid a terrific artillery and mortar barrage on the 1st Battalion's position and followed swiftly with a determined counterattack. Sergeant Fenton, realizing the necessity of reinforcements for his platoon, left his place of comparative safety, upon his own initiative and made his way through three hundred yards of intense enemy fire to secure a squad of riflemen from another unit to bolster the defense. He personally deployed the men in the best possible position and so effectively accomplished his mission as to materially assist in crushing the enemy attack. After the counterattack had been repulsed, friendly artillery began to fall in the immediate area. Communications were severed and Sergeant Fenton, again without command, left his fighting hole in the midst of the barrage and made his way to Battalion Headquarters to report the situation, resulting in the immediate lifting of the friendly fire. His fearlessness, aggressive vigor and outstanding devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Coleman, Texas.

ROBERT L. MCKINNEY, 20805656, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. The 3d Platoon was advancing when suddenly they were pinned down by withering machine gun fire. Sergeant McKinney, acting platoon leader, dauntlessly exposed himself and skillfully and calmly directed his men in the destruction of two machine gun nests, enabling the company to continue on to its objective. After seizing Hill **, casualties were heavy and immediately the position was subjected to heavy concentrations of mortar and machine gun fire and further harassed by hand grenades, rendering it untenable. On order from the company commander to withdraw to the original objective for the purpose of reorganizing their

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defense, Sergeant McKinney led the platoon back, and then voluntarily returned over the same fire-swept route to personally assist in evacuating all wounded members of his platoon. His excellent example of outstanding leadership, fearlessness and devotion to duty, inspired all members of his command. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Snyder, Texas.

RAY J. SCOTT, 19104004, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Company L was attached to the 2d Battalion with the mission of supporting the attack on ***. Private First Class Scott had advanced to within four hundred yards of the town when all units were pinned down by intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire. The 2d Battalion commander called for smoke to screen the attack but all communications had either been destroyed or disrupted. Although he was not a radio technician Private First Class Scott worked on a radio for over an hour until it was put in working order and transmitted the message to artillery units to bring down smoke shells to screen the battalion. The radio then went dead and he volunteered to take a message to the regimental command post. He crawled over open terrain under enemy sniper and machine gun fire to deliver the message and then returned over the same ground with a message from the regimental commander. Private First Class Scott's courage in delivering vital messages while being subjected to heavy enemy fire was an inspiration to all those around him. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Seattle, Washington.

WARREN O. ALEXANDER, 38050628, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Alexander's company's position was seriously threatened by an enemy counterattack. In the face of intense concentrations of artillery and small arms fire, he constantly exposed himself to correcting and directing his mortar squad's fire against enemy weapons and personnel. After definitely destroying one enemy machine gun and silencing another, he continued to expose himself with utter disregard for his own safety in directing his mortar's fire on new targets. In so doing, he was wounded by an enemy sniper of whose presence he had been constantly aware. Sergeant Alexander's courageous action and skillful direction of his mortar squad materially contributed to crushing the enemy counterattack. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

ARTHUR H. HENRY, 38051347, Technician Grade 5, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20-21 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Technician Grade 5 Henry was a lineman of a wire party whose mission was to install and maintain wire communications between the regimental forward switchboard and the command posts of the assault battalions which were attempting to cross the *** river. The approach area was under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire, further protected by mine fields, booby traps, and barbed wire. Technician Grade 5 Henry and his party on the night of the assault laid heavy wire by hand twelve hundred yards to the crossing sites, going in with the assault companies and having communications established when the battalion command post arrived at the river. Within the forty-eight hour duration of the crossing assault the continued maintenance of communications required this party to use more than six miles of wire which they

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laid over exposed terrain in concentrations of enemy fire that drove other personnel to cover. To avoid this constant destruction within the heaviest impact area of the enemy fires, this party altered the wire route to run through unmarked mine fields where other personnel had been and were being killed by mines. The utter disregard for his personal safety and deep devotion to duty displayed by Technician Grade 5 Henry were materially responsible for the maintenance of communication during the critical assault. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Port Neches, Texas.

JAMES L. CHILDERS, 35729956, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~****~~, Italy. Private First Class Childers was assigned the detail of laying a wire line from Company C to a rifle platoon crossing the ~~****~~ river. In laying the wire he worked continuously under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire and over ground further protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. Cover was negligible in the last 700 yards of the river approach, which further complicated the difficulties encountered, but with utter disregard for his personal safety, he continued with his mission and established communication between Company C and the rifle platoon on the West side of the river. Several times communication was disrupted by mortar shells falling on the wire line and Private First Class Childers exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to repair the line. His devotion to duty and outstanding courage under enemy fire inspired all who witnessed his deeds. His gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Fulton, Kentucky.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

John J. Deane

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

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