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

746  
4 April 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 90

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

WILLIAM P. CUSHING, 38039135, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. A lineman in the communications platoon, Private First Class Cushing was assigned the mission of repairing a vital wire line leading to one of the forward battalions under severe enemy artillery fire. Having tested the faulty wire, he called the Communications Officer and explained that the highway along which the line lay was being subjected to a heavy artillery barrage. Upon learning that this line was essential to the attack, Private First Class Cushing doggedly stuck to his task checking and repairing the damaged line in the face of the bitter enemy artillery barrage. While proceeding forward on his mission he was wounded by shell fragments and although weakened by the loss of blood persisted at his work until his task had been completed. His outstanding courage, calmness under fire, and devotion to duty were instrumental in the success of the attack. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

MANUEL (NMI) SILVA, 31291120, Private First Class, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Private First Class Silva, an automatic rifleman, advanced over open mountainous terrain until his company was pinned down along a stone wall by deadly machine gun fire from heavily fortified enemy emplacements. When several attempts to cross the wall were repulsed by the withering fire of one of these emplacements, Private First Class Silva courageously led a squad of men over the wall to wipe out this enemy stronghold. Moving steadily forward not only in the face of the intense enemy fire but through a hail of hand grenades as well, he attacked the enemy position at close range with his automatic rifle. Maintaining his assault when the squad was ordered to withdraw, he covered the remainder of the men until they had reached the safety of the wall and then successfully returned by himself. His magnificent daring and outstanding aggressiveness greatly inspired all who witnessed his deed. Entered the Service from Providence, Rhode Island.

EDGAR W. WERNLI, 38026842, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 February 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Driving a ration and water truck in daylight over a narrow road under direct enemy observation, Private First Class Wernli was caught in a heavy artillery concentration. His way was barred by a disorganized mule pack train whose leaders had sought cover. Realizing the resultant chaos offered an excellent enemy target, he brought the terrified animals under control and led them out of the way. Removing the dead mules and men from the road, he cleared the way for essential traffic to the front and completed his own mission. By superior initiative and coolness under fire, Private First Class Wernli materially assisted in

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maintaining an uninterrupted flow of vitally needed supplies to the fighting men. Entered the Service from Taylor, Texas.

STONY N. PLEMPER, 20808251, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8-9 December 1943 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. Company A, to which Private First Class Plemper was attached as a litter squad leader, was the assault company in the vicious attack on enemy positions on the slopes of the mountain. The company advanced up the steep, slippery, and rocky terrain under the cover of darkness. At daylight there were numerous casualties and Private First Class Plemper assisted in carrying them down the exposed mountainside for a distance of two miles to the aid station. As time was of paramount importance in getting the men to the aid station, he personally reconnoitered a route from the crest of the mountain down the difficult, exposed trail under heavy enemy fire and observation. Returning to the crest of the mountain he continuously exposed himself to intense enemy small arms and mortar fire going from position to position rendering first aid and assisting in the evacuation of the wounded. He doggedly stuck to his task and worked for two days and nights without rest until he was seriously wounded and evacuated. His magnificent courage, fortitude, and devotion to duty were instrumental in the saving of many lives and inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Caldwell, Texas.

BERNARD C. VIERGE, 20809318, Private First Class, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. In the afternoon, under cover of a smoke screen and fog, Company K advanced to the ~~\*\*\*~~ river crossing site where it obtained boats and successfully crossed the river in the face of bitter enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Private First Class Vieregge was an assistant gunner in a mortar squad and as his platoon advanced across the flat, exposed and fire swept terrain, his platoon leader and several other non-commissioned officers were wounded. Displaying outstanding ability as a leader he immediately took command, reorganized his men and welded them into an effective fighting unit while being subjected to withering machine gun fire and intense mortar and artillery fire. In the face of this bitter enemy opposition while many of his comrades were being killed or wounded, he moved about giving encouragement and urging the men on to their objective. His magnificent courage, outstanding leadership, and devotion to duty inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

EDWARD N. BARR, 13175470, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. Private First Class Barr served as an aid man in a defensive position along the ~~\*\*\*~~ river under constant mortar, artillery and machine gun fire. A shell burst at the fighting holes along the main line of resistance and wounded three men. Private First Class Barr dauntlessly climbed over the forward banks of the river bluff in full view of the enemy snipers and constantly was exposed to withering machine gun fire which was directed at him. He calmly dressed the wounds of the men with mortar shells falling within ten yards of his position and then assisted these men back to a draw where they were evacuated. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

RALPH H. DICKLEMAN, 36820771, Private, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. Private Dickleman was serving in an aid station near the ~~\*\*\*~~ river under constant and intense enemy fire when it was found that several wounded American soldiers were stranded on the banks of the river. On his own initiative and in spite of the fierce enemy mortar, artillery and machine gun fire, Private Dickleman proceed-

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ed to the banks of the river and assisted in moving the casualties across the swift and treacherous stream. His outstanding courage and devotion to duty in the face of great hazards was instrumental in saving many lives. Entered the Service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

JOHN R. PENACHIO, 32803807, Private, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~, Company B, to which Private Penachio was attached as an aid man, had the difficult mission of crossing the ~~\*\*~~ river and attacking well prepared enemy positions to the west. Under cover of a smoke screen and thick fog, the company advanced to the crossing site when it was subjected to intense mortar and artillery fire. Obtaining rubber boats, the company crossed the swift-flowing river and slowly moved up the steep, slippery river bank. Because of the intense mortar and machine gun fire and personnel mines, progress was slow and many casualties occurred. In the face of withering enemy machine gun fire, Private Penachio crawled across the flat, muddy and exposed terrain rendering first aid and personally directing the litter bearers in the evacuation of the wounded. His magnificent courage, aggressiveness, determination, and devotion to duty were instrumental in the saving of many lives and inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

PETER J. HILLMAN, 32638719, Private, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. Private Hillman, ammunition bearer of the crew of a 75mm Self-Propelled gun, was assigned the mission of assisting in the repulsion of an attack by thirteen mark IV enemy tanks which were seriously threatening the 36th Division Command Post and the beachhead. During this action he was constantly exposed to the intense fire of the approaching tanks, but with great fortitude he determinedly stood his ground. Private Hillman observed that the .50 caliber machine gun could not be fully exploited from its vehicular mount, and without orders he dismounted the gun in the face of the enemy fire and set it into action from a more favorable position. His indefatigable efforts assisted in the destruction of five tanks, crushing the enemy attack. His calm and efficient performance in the face of withering fire inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Newark, Ohio.

AUBREY (NMI) HOLLAND, 33589983, Private, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. Private Holland, a medical aid man attached to an assault unit during the crossing of the ~~\*\*\*~~ river, advanced with his unit over open heavily-mined terrain through an intense concentration of enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Fearlessly exposing himself to the withering fire he moved from casualty to casualty, skillfully administering aid and helping them to positions from which they could be evacuated. With magnificent daring Private Holland crawled through a forward barbed wire entanglement to aid one of his comrades who was lying wounded exposed to the concentrated fire of the enemy. Although he was wounded himself in reaching this casualty, he continued forward and moved the man to a place of cover. After successfully accomplishing this heroic deed he was wounded again by shell fragments and was later evacuated. His exemplary devotion to duty and outstanding courage greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.

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JACK E. FULLEM, 33412592, Private, Medical Detachment, 1 for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*. Fullem was a medical aid man at a battalion aid station during the cross the \*\*\* river. He voluntarily moved forward over open, heavily through an intense concentration of enemy artillery, mortar and machine to administer aid to casualties occurring on the fire-swept river bank. He fully treated the wounded, although exposed to the withering enemy fire. Then again on his own initiative, Private Fullem accompanied a small group to the advance of some casualties who had become stranded on the enemy side of the river. Displaying outstanding courage and exemplary coolness under the deadly fire at this point, he refused to seek cover and worked tirelessly until the last casualty was evacuated. Entered the Service from Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

RAY J. BELL, 32857390, Private, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Private Bell, an ammunition carrier, crossed the \*\*\* river in the face of heavy enemy resistance, and advanced determinedly across the muddy river bank to engage the enemy. Over flat terrain through mine fields, barbed wire entanglements, artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, he crawled toward the enemy. Nearing the foe, he was seriously wounded. With great fortitude, he refused to return for medical aid and continued the painful and hazardous advance carrying with him the vital ammunition for his team's weapon. Only when their mission had been performed did Private Bell return for medical treatment. His determination and outstanding valor inspired the members of his team and directly aided the accomplishment of their task. Entered the Service from Massena, New York.

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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