

R E S T R I C T E D

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

GENERAL ORDERS

4 May 1944

NO. 116

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

SECTION I - AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

DOH (IMI) ADAMS, 20805528, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Pinned down by automatic weapons fire from both flanks while leading his squad against an enemy position, Sergeant Adams skillfully engaged the hidden enemy in a running fire fight while withdrawing his men to cover. Then on his own initiative and with magnificent daring, he surprised the enemy by a sudden fierce assault, sweeping their positions at close range with hand grenades and destroying them. Successfully moving forward to his objective, Sergeant Adams and several of his men were injured by the explosion of an antipersonnel mine. Despite his painful wounds, he immediately sought medical aid for his men and allowed himself to be cared for only after the wounds of the others had been attended. His aggressive leadership, calm determination, and outstanding devotion to duty were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds and proved a material factor in the success of the operations. Entered the Service from Snyder, Texas.

ARTHUR G. VOLANTE, 32222218, Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15-16 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. After his attacking company had reached nearly to the *** River, Sergeant Volante was sent back to lead the remaining men to the objective. Returning with the men, he found that his company had moved past the objective. He ordered his men to take cover and reconnoitered alone to find the best route forward. While so doing he was captured by an enemy patrol of one officer and seven enlisted men. The enemy patrol attempted to carry their prisoner across the river but were prevented by fire from our troops that killed one of them, driving the others to cover in a house, to await nightfall. An ever wary guard frustrated Sergeant Volante's every attempt to escape. Three times during the night the officer decided to attempt to reach the river and regain his unit on the opposite bank, but with an agile tongue and keenness of mind, Sergeant Volante each time convinced the officer that the house was surrounded and escape impossible. Risking ill treatment if his deception were discovered, he persuaded the foe that their position was hopeless and inspired in them such timidity that the officer and six men surrendered themselves to their lone prisoner and meekly followed him to his company. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

THOMAS H. MORGAN, 39086952, Sergeant, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 and 18 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Morgan was ordered to lead a reconnaissance patrol across the *** River to gather information of the enemy strength and positions. On the night of 17

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January he led his patrol to the river and attempted to cross. Swift current and steep banks made the stream unfordable, so Sergeant Morgan stripped off his clothing and tried to swim the river. Strength of the current made this impossible, and he returned to his company with the patrol. Undaunted by the proved difficulty of his task, he returned to the river the following night, 18 January, with his patrol, this time carrying a collapsible rubber boat for the crossing. Braving enemy mortar and artillery fires that fell constantly on the crossing point, he led the patrol to the opposite side and reconnoitered along the enemy-held bank. His mission accomplished and valuable information concerning the enemy positions obtained, he recrossed the perilous stream with his patrol and returned to his unit. His determination to overcome all obstacles and perform his duty, combined with his skillful action and courage made him succeed in his highly important assignment. Entered the Service from Chico, California.

BENJAMIN F. McMILLIN, 20805061, Sergeant,
Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment,
Entered the Service from Stephenville, Texas.

ORVAL O. DRIGGS, 38059669, Private First Class,
Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment,
Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

For gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on Mount ***, Italy. During an intense artillery barrage preceding an enemy counterattack, their machine gun, frozen and locked by ice. With magnificent daring, they moved ahead of their own emplacement and engaged the attacking enemy with grenades and rifle fire. Despite a concentration of artillery, mortar and machine gun fire sweeping their exposed position, they fiercely maintained it, protecting the vital machine gun until one of their crew was able to get it into operation. Their outstanding courage and aggressive leadership materially assisted in repulsing the attack and were an inspiration to all who witnessed their deed.

EDWARD S. DOBBINS, 34465278, Corporal, Cannon Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. The positions of the company became the target of an intense mortar and artillery barrage causing many casualties. While moving with the company to a new position Corporal Dobbins learned that one of his men had been severely wounded by shell fragments. He immediately left his position of cover and went to the aid of the stricken man. Dauntlessly he moved over the open terrain in face of terrific artillery and mortar fire. Reaching the man he assisted the soldier to a near-by slit trench and again leaving a place of cover, made his way three hundred yards over open terrain to secure medical aid. Corporal Dobbins by his courage, calmness under fire and devotion to duty, saved the life of a comrade and was an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Rockingham, North Carolina.

FRANK (NEI) MASI, 38302225, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 December 1943, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Tec 5 Masi was an aid man attached to the lead company in an attack on an enemy-held hill. During the assault against the savagely resisting foe, word came back that a man was seriously wounded at one of the forward heavy machine gun posts. The platoon leader suggested that Tec 5 Masi wait until darkness before trying to reach the injured man, but rather than have him suffer unattended through the rest of the day, Tec 5 Masi crawled forward over the exposed terrain, through heavy mortar shelling, and past forward elements pinned down by deadly accurate machine gun fire. Reaching the wounded soldier, he gave first aid necessary to stop

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a life-sapping flow of blood and to alleviate his pain. Undoubtedly Tec 5 Masi's willingness to risk his life in devotion to duty saved his comrade from death. Entered the Service from Newark, New Jersey.

WILLIAM G. SMITH, 38036232, Technician Fifth Grade, Cannon Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Tec 5 Smith was a member of a 105 mm M-7 gun platoon. During an intense enemy artillery barrage two self-propelled guns were hit and their gasoline tanks punctured, spilling the fuel on to the ground and in the slit trenches of the men. Fire burst out in the gasoline from one of the tanks, endangering all in the vicinity. Ordered by their platoon leader, the men moved to safer positions. But Tec 5 Smith, heedless of his own great danger from continued enemy artillery shelling of the area and the constant threat of explosion from the flaming gasoline, retrieved the fire extinguisher from the burning gun mount and quenched the blaze. His courageous and quick-witted action saved the valuable gun mounts from destruction and kept them available for important use against the enemy. Entered the Service from Wichita Falls, Texas.

WARREN G. HARDY, 34722086, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 and 5 December 1943, in the vicinity of Mount ***, Italy. Private First Class Hardy was engaged with other men on the night of 2 December in carrying badly needed rations and ammunition up the treacherous trails of Mount ***. While performing these duties in the midst of heavy enemy shelling, he was knocked down by the concussion of an enemy shell, and through bleeding from the ears and nose, refused to be evacuated. On the night of 5 December while similarly engaged during a barrage of heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire he was again knocked to the ground by the concussion of an enemy shell. Although wounded, he got up and noticing a wounded man lying along the trail, he went to his aid and carried the injured man to a position of safety. He then proceeded to administer first aid and while so doing, lapsed into unconsciousness from the effects of the concussions and his wounds. His great fortitude, devotion to duty, and calmness under fire were a factor in saving the life of the wounded man. Entered the Service from Barr, Tennessee.

MAROLD C. KRIPISCA, 35030726, Private, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11-14 February 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. An automatic rifleman, Private Kripisca fought with his company against an enemy counterattack on positions on Hill ***. As the assault became more threatening, he deliberately moved from his partially protected position to an exposed place subject to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire, because it offered a better field of fire for his weapon. Fiercely and effectively he fought, firing so accurately and rapidly that the enemy was forced to withdraw from his sector, leaving many dead behind them. Again the enemy attacked, this time sneaking close to his position and attempting to blast him out with hand grenades. Private Kripisca countered with rifle fire, killing and wounding so many of the enemy that they were again forced to withdraw. Courageously and skillfully he thwarted every attempt by the enemy to penetrate his sector and thus aided materially in the successful defense of his company's positions on Hill ***. Entered the Service from Medaryville, Indiana.

SECTION II - CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSING IN ACTION

So much of Section I, General Orders Number 110, as posthumously awards a Silver Star to IVAN J. LANDRY, 34150805, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 142d Infantry, and ROWLAND E. McWILLIAMS, 20304866, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, is rescinded.

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and the following substituted therefor:

"Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star is awarded the following named individuals, missing in action.

"HOWLAND E. McWILLIAMS, 20894968, First Sergeant, Company C, 148d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When heavy fog hindered visibility during an assault by his company against a strongly defended hill, Sergeant McWilliams accompanied one attacking platoon in a voluntary attempt to maintain contact between it and the others. He moved fearlessly among his men and encouraging them while exposed to sweeping machine gun and small arms fire, he took command when the platoon leaders became disoriented in the dense fog and closely coordinated their attack with that of the other units. Leading them with magnificent daring, he closed with the enemy and captured five prisoners in the fierce hand to hand struggle which ensued. His aggressive leadership and outstanding courage were an inspiration to his men and especially assisted in the successful taking of the company objective. Next of kin: Ella M. McWilliams (Mother), Pfallinger, Texas.

"THOMAS J. LANDRY, 34180805, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 148d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Landry, leader of a five man patrol assigned to make immediate contact with the battalion preceding an attack against strongly held enemy positions, bravely chose the most direct route despite the intensity of artillery fire falling in the area. Moving forward into enemy held territory, he shortly discovered a twelve man enemy patrol, returning to their lines with information of the impending attack. With magnificent daring, Sergeant Landry skillfully deployed his patrol, surprising the numerically superior enemy and capturing them before resistance could be offered and their outposts alerted. Disarming his prisoners, he then swiftly completed his mission. His aggressive leadership and outstanding courage prevented the enemy from receiving information which would have jeopardized the mission of the entire battalion. Next of kin: Mrs Jane Landry (Mother), Springtown, Louisiana."

By command of Major General WALKER:

STEWART . VINCENT
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

John J. Deane
JOHN J. DEANE
Lieut. Col., Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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