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

Spec 101011/21

GENERAL ORDERS

29 August 1944

NO. 310

Posthumous Award of Silver Star..... I
Award of Silver Star..... II

SECTION I -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

Amended to read O.C. Do S.S. Reg 352, 19 Sept 44
* BERNARD F. REED, 101178301, Second Lieutenant, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Reed was leading his forward observer detail in an advance toward enemy positions when he and his party were suddenly subjected to grazing machine gun fire and heavy artillery shelling. One of the men was wounded in the leg; and, although all the personnel in the area was pinned to the ground, Lieutenant Reed selflessly exposed himself to the hostile fire in an attempt to aid the injured man. Moving calmly and rapidly, he advanced to the position where the soldier lay and started carrying him toward a place of safety. While so engaged he was mortally wounded by the enemy fire. Next of kin: Mr. Thomas F. Reed (Brother), 116-23 219th Street, Albany, New York.

WILLIAM E. PRUITT, 20806433, First Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 9 to 14 September 1943 in Italy. Landing early on D Day, Sergeant Pruitt took command of his platoon when the leader and several members were captured. Restoring order among his disorganized men, he led them through the next two hectic days of grim fighting to hold the beachhead. Later, after a new lieutenant had taken command and the platoon had been detailed to patrol and protect the battalion's right flank, Sergeant Pruitt volunteered to lead three men and reconnoiter the enemy's dispositions to the right of the platoon. Leaving his covered position he moved five hundred yards over rugged exposed terrain under constant artillery and sniper fire. He completed his mission and brought the patrol back intact over the same perilous route. On 14 September 1943, Company L wavered before a desperate enemy attack against its defensive positions. The company had no communications with friendly artillery. Voluntarily Sergeant Pruitt exposed himself and ran through heavy artillery and direct tank fire to obtain counterbattery fire against the enemy. Sergeant Pruitt died of wounds received since this engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Joe Pruitt (Mother), Community Public Service, Breckenridge, Texas.

* WESLEY E. BENDER, 32276440, Technical Sergeant, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Emily Bender (Mother), 826 McCarthy Street, Easton, Pa.

HOWARD H. KAISER, 32237218, Sergeant, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Catherine Kaiser (Mother) 91 Cornelia Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

HENRY R. ALLEN, 31171709, Sergeant, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Myrtle Allen (Mother), Box 78, Broadway Ext., Mystic, Connecticut.

ANTHONY J. ZILMICK, 33266034, Private First Class, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Alexandria Drabecki (Mother), 2907 Luliberry Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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VARREN J. WEST, 34721488, Private First Class, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Margaret L. West (Mother), Route 9, Old Sevierville Park, Knoxville, Tennessee.

CAMPBELL N. CHAPMAN, 34517180, Private First Class, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Mittie Chapman (Mother), Route 2, Honea Path, S. C.

LEE A. COLEMAN, 36625021, Private First Class, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Bertha Coleman (Mother), Missouri Valley, Iowa.

JOHN J. ALBANESE, 32901061, Private, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mr. David Albanese (Father), 82 Mott Street, New York, New York.

RAYMOND COON, JR., 31344418, Private, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Esther Coon (Mother), Ward Avenue, Noank, Connecticut.

ROBERT L. AYLOR, 35689990, Private, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Harriett A. Aylor (Mother), 209 Elm Street, Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

SAMUEL R. BOUHER, 35572383, Private, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Nellie Bouher (Mother), Route 4, Bloomington, Indiana.

NORMAN D. CONN, 36733329, Private, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Christine Conn (Mother), 352 South Washington Avenue, Kankakee, Illinois.

CLAUDE H. PIERCE, 36463084, Private, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Myrtle Pierce (Mother), 195 Rex, Comstok, Michigan.

For gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in Italy. The 143d Infantry Regiment was ordered to attack enemy entrenched beyond a strategic river. They attacked against artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire over ground protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. Cover was negligible in the last seven hundred yards of the river approaches. Many boats were destroyed before being launched, and others were destroyed in the water by short range fire. Some occupants of the boats lost in the river were hit, and all were thrown into deep water. In the face of all obstacles, the above named soldiers attacked with indomitable fortitude, crossed the river and penetrated deep into enemy territory. Repeated savage counterattacks by the enemy, however, succeeded in over-running their positions. In furious fighting over a two-day period, which cost the enemy enormous casualties in killed and wounded, these brave soldiers lost their lives. Their tenacity of purpose and devotion to duty against vastly superior enemy forces has created an enduring example of fighting courage.

TULLIS PICKERING, 38035847, Staff Sergeant, Antitank Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Pickering was leading his antitank squad along a highway when he and his companions became the target for heavy enemy small arms and mortar fire. He immediately dispersed his men so that they would be less liable to injury. Then, aware of the hazards involved in an attempt to move his gun, he selflessly ordered his squad to remain in its place of safety while he alone started to move the truck and weapon to a position from which he could recover the highway. While so engaged he was subjected to direct fire from enemy guns and was mortally wounded. Next of kin: Mrs. Sara Pickering (Mother), Dallas, Texas.

CARROL W. NEEFER, 20805237, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Neeper, leader of the scout squad of Company A, was advancing in the approach march when he spotted an enemy half-track. He immediately halted his squad and, with admirable regard for the safety of his men, directed them to a covered position. He then crawled forward alone, exposing himself to heavy machine gunning, to a position from which he could direct fire on the vehicle. He was wounded by accurate bursts

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of machine gun fire, but he continued determinedly forward to engage the half-track. He fired rifle grenades at the vehicle, delaying its advance; but, shortly after, he died of wounds received in the engagement. Next of kin: Mr. James M. Neepor (Father), Route A, Sweetwater, Texas.

CURTIS L. CLEVINGER, 15114612, Private First Class, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 March 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Clevenger, a truck driver, was assigned the task of delivering vitally needed ammunition to a strategic beachhead. The trip was made on a landing craft which was subjected to aerial strafing and bombing. Upon reaching the point of debarkation he drove his truck over unfamiliar roads constantly blasted by enemy artillery fire toward the forward dump. When he reached his destination, he could find no one to unload the ammunition, but, aware of the urgency of his mission, he determined to unload the truck himself. When the enemy directed a heavy concentration of artillery fire on the dump, he disdained seeking cover and continued with his work. While shells crashed nearby, he continued unloading the ammunition until he was fatally wounded by a hurtling shell fragment. Next of kin: Mrs. Josie Clevenger (Mother), Davy, West Virginia.

HOWARD E. BILLS, 33682428, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. While the 3d Platoon was moving into position to protect the left flank of the company, the enemy soldiers, in a desperate attempt to escape the trap which threatened their annihilation, launched a savage counterattack. The sudden attack confused the platoon members, and the enemy swiftly advanced within hand grenade range of their positions. Heedless of the deadly, incessant automatic weapons fire which raked the area, Private First Class Bills, cognizant of the desperate situation, sprang from his place of cover and moved directly into the face of the hostile fire. His comrades, inspired by his courageous action, immediately left their positions and moved against the foe, halting the counterattack and forcing the enemy to fall back in confusion. Private First Class Bills was killed in action in a later engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Raymond T. Bills (Father), Box #244, Clarion, Pa.

SECTION II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-4.5, the following named individuals are each awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action.

HENRY SIMMONS, 20809307, Corporal (then Private First Class), Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 and 14 September 1943 in Italy. In the face of incessant small arms and mortar fire Private First Class Simmons, gunner in a light machine gun squad, on his own initiative placed his gun in an exposed position on the second story balcony of a house. The location offered an excellent field of fire; and he, with two companions, directed rapid, accurate bursts of machine gun fire on the enemy force, successfully repelling the attack. He continued firing at intervals throughout the night, and on the following morning, when the enemy again launched a determined attack, he maintained his position under the heavy hostile fire until he was painfully wounded and forced to desist. Entered the Service from Clifton, Texas.

WILLIAM C. BRASHEARS, JR., 20848947, Private, Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 June 1944 in Italy. Private Brashears volunteered to join a bazooka team in an attempt to destroy enemy tanks which

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were delaying the advance of the friendly troops. He moved over 300 yards of open terrain in a flanking movement against one of the tanks. The bazooka failed to operate, and the tank opened fire with an 88mm cannon. When he and his companions attempted to reach a covered position, they were subjected to accurate machine gun fire, and he was wounded in both legs. He fell to the ground, exposed to the hostile fire, but he urged his comrades to leave him and escape from the untenable position. However, one of the team members remained with him while the other went for help. A mortar squad laid a smoke screen on the area, and a litter party evacuated him under cover of the smoke. Entered the Service from Laco, Texas.

EDWARD J. SLAVINSKY, 16151182, Private First Class, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in Italy. The 1st platoon of Company D was instructed to support Company A in an attack on well fortified enemy positions at a strategic crossroad. In anticipation of a fire fight, Private First Class Slavinsky, gunner in a heavy machine gun squad, was ordered to dig in his weapon under cover of darkness in order to deliver fire on the hostile positions when the assault was launched. Shortly after daybreak Company A was pinned down by heavy, accurate enemy fire, and Private First Class Slavinsky's weapon was the only one returning the hostile fire. Although he became the target for heavy artillery and mortar shelling and machine gun fire, he continued operating his weapon, successfully delaying the enemy force. Even when he was seriously wounded he refused medical aid and steadfastly maintained his position. One of the last to withdraw, he would not cease firing until he was dragged from his battered gun and taken to a hospital. Entered the Service from Toronto, Canada.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart

VINCENT M. LOCKHART
Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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