

R E S T R I C T E D

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

2 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

114

Posthumous Award of Silver Star I
Award of Silver Star, Missing in Action II
Award of Silver Star III

SECTION I. — POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

EDWARD C. MERMOD, 01318067, Second Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During an attack on Hill ***, against a firmly entrenched enemy, Lieutenant Mermod gallantly led his platoon forward over extremely precipitous and snow covered terrain. The determined advance was suddenly halted by intense enemy machine gun fire. With thoughts only for the efficiency and effectiveness of his command, Lieutenant Mermod quickly and skillfully deployed his men, and intrepidly exposed himself to the withering enemy fire in an attempt to determine the strength and disposition of the enemy forces and to locate a more suitable route of advance. With courageous initiative he moved forward until he was fatally wounded by enemy machine gun fire. His magnificent display of outstanding leadership and devotion to duty was an inspiration to all who witnessed his deed. Next of kin: Mrs. Laura Rose Mermod (Mother), 13517 39th Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

JAMES D. ERBY, 38036772, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment; for gallantry in action on 31 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Technician Fifth Grade Erby, company aid man, was with the 1st Platoon of Company C during their attack on an enemy held position. The platoon became subjected to heavy enemy small arms fire which caused a part of one squad to become separated from the platoon. Perceiving the urgent need for aid, Technician Fifth Grade Erby, upon his own initiative fearlessly exposed himself to the withering enemy fire to reach the stricken men. While thus fearlessly administering aid to his comrades, he was fatally wounded by enemy machine gun fire. His courageous action and unselfish devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deed. Next of kin: Mrs. Maryl L. Erby (Mother), P.O. #314, Itasca, Texas.

SECTION II. — 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:

ALFRED H. DOKLER, 35062073, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private First Class Dokler, together with three other men, was assigned the mission of knocking out an enemy machine gun which was endangering the center

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of his company's position during an enemy counterattack. Together with the other men, he worked his way across exposed terrain under extremely heavy mortar and small arms fire, to within 20 yards of the machine gun nest. The fire of the machine gun and other automatic weapons was turned straight on them. One of the men was killed as he attempted to throw a grenade. Without hesitation, Private First Class Dokler hurled his own grenades, silencing the enemy machine gun. Since this engagement he has been reported missing in action. This heroic deed greatly inspired his comrades and was instrumental in repulsing the counterattack. Next of kin: Mrs. Juliana Dokler (Mother), 3037 Walton Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

WILLIAM H. VAN METER, 36410812, Private, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Van Meter, as a member of a five man patrol ordered to establish contact between the Battalion Commander and the attacking companies, realized the necessity for the speedy completion of the mission and chose the shortest and most dangerous route covered by artillery fire and under enemy observation. The advancing patrol unexpectedly encountered twelve enemy, heavily armed, hurrying to alert the main body of the enemy forces. By quick thinking and immediate aggressive action the patrol adroitly surrounded and captured the enemy group without firing a shot. In capturing the enemy patrol, Private Van Meter and his companions demonstrated a high quality of daring individual initiative. Private Van Meter has since been reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Orilla Van Meter (Mother), McBain, Michigan.

SECTION III -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-40, a Silver Star is awarded each of the following named individuals:

WILLIAM T. STONE, 0430125, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During the approach against the enemy, the battalion column became pinned down by the intense fire from a hidden machine gun emplacement. Lieutenant Stone, commanding the leading elements of the column, skillfully advanced over the hazardous heavily mined terrain under the concentration of enemy fire to within close range of the enemy nest. With cool determination and utmost daring, he accurately hurled a grenade into their midst and destroyed the position. Lieutenant Stone's magnificent courage and aggressive leadership cleared the way for the further advance of his column and were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deed. Entered the Service from Waynesboro, Georgia.

DUDLEY A. WOOD, 20803606, Technical Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Technical Sergeant Wood dauntlessly led his platoon across a narrow foot bridge over the swift flowing *** river while being subjected to intense enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Upon reaching the opposite bank the platoon was pinned down by withering machine gun fire from strongly fortified enemy positions. The enemy at this particular point launched a vicious counterattack and threatened to overrun the position of the platoon. Disregarding the hail of fire and the attacking enemy, he continually moved among his men checking their positions and directing their fire. Sergeant Wood by his courage, calmness and devotion to duty so inspired his men that they were able to stop the enemy attack. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

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BENITO G. DOMINQUEZ, 37026003, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Dominquez led his squad as part of a reinforced combat patrol ordered to cross the *** river and test enemy defenses. On the enemy's side of the river Sergeant Dominquez took his squad forward to cover the advance of the patrol. Penetrating one hundred fifty yards into enemy emplacements, the squad captured two prisoners. Advancing, they surprised another of the enemy who immediately opened fire on the patrol, wounding Sergeant Dominquez. As this happened one of the prisoners attempted to escape. Maintaining his presence of mind, Sergeant Dominquez returned the fire, killing his assailant and the escaping prisoner. This activity aroused the enemy and drew fire of machine guns, mortars and artillery on the squad. Although wounded he adroitly maneuvered his squad from its precarious position and directed its return across the ***, refusing to allow anyone to help him. Not until the other wounded of his men had been cared for did he allow himself to be evacuated. Entered the Service from Seguin, Texas.

JOHN J. PAGAN, 33318576, Technician Fifth Grade, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Tec 5 Pagan, mail-clerk of Company L, voluntarily joined the company in its assault across the *** river, serving as company First Sergeant. The entire route from the Battalion assembly area to the crossing site at the river was continuously subjected to heavy concentrations of enemy mortar and artillery fire. Displaying superb leadership and courage, Tec 5 Pagan rendered invaluable aid to the company by encouraging the men along the extremely hazardous route, and setting an outstanding example by his calmness under the intense fire. After the company had crossed the treacherous foot bridge and gained the enemy held western bank, the determined opposition encountered caused confusion among the men. Tec 5 Pagan constantly exposed himself to the withering machine gun fire to organize the men and locate them in positions of cover from which they could bring the greatest amount of effective fire to bear against the entrenched enemy. His magnificent courage and splendid leadership in the extremely hazardous role he voluntarily assumed, constantly inspired the men of his company to greater efforts. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

LEWIS E. HALL, 20300950, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private First Class Hall, upon learning two men had been wounded, immediately left his position of cover and went to their aid. In order to reach the men it was necessary to cross 300 yards of open terrain fully exposed at all times to the withering enemy artillery and mortar fire. Dauntlessly he made his way forward and found the first man already dead. Again moving over the open terrain for 150 yards he reached the second man. He succeeded in stopping the flow of blood and easing the pain. He stayed with the stricken man until the barrage lifted and then helped evacuate him to an aid station. His courage, aggressiveness and devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

ROLAN (NMI) SANCHEZ, 38025799, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During the bitter battle of the *** river crossing, Private First Class Sanchez was bodyguard of the Commanding Officer of Company L. Disposing the company about 150 yards from the river banks, the company commander, accompanied by Private First Class Sanchez, went forward under terrific artillery, nebelwerfer

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and mortar fire to reconnoiter the area for the crossing of Company L. Having completed this mission, the commanding officer sent Private First Class Sanchez back to lead the company to the crossing site. Disregarding the intense concentrations of mortar and artillery fire which the enemy poured into the area in an attempt to prevent the crossing, he crawled back over the exposed terrain to the place where the company had been left. As he reached that point, he was severely wounded in the stomach by shell fragments. Discovering that the company had moved, Private First Class Sanchez, despite his painful wound, made his way back to notify his company commander of his findings. His magnificent courage, utter disregard for self and devotion to duty kept his company commander advised at this critical period of the attack. Entered the Service from San Saba, Texas.

JAMES R. REID, 33058833, Private First Class
Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment
Entered the Service from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

WILFORD E. BARKER, 35409178, Private First Class
Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment.
Entered the Service from Columbus, Ohio.

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

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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