

R E S T R I C T E D

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

21 March 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 82

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 each of the following named individuals:

CHESTER MAYS, 35267695, Private First Class, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 December 1943, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. In an attack by Company B on Hill 730, Private First Class Mays, a mortar squad gunner, was assigned a position for his mortar. Although constant observed fire from enemy mortars, artillery and machine guns fell on the ground between him and the spot designated for his mortar, he immediately advanced toward it with his weapon. When he reached the final trail leading to the position deadly machine gun fire barred his way. To advance further seemed certain death, but Private First Class Mays well knew that success or failure of the operation depended on effective employment of his mortar. Unflinchingly he continued forward, with utter disregard to the tremendous peril to his life, racing from boulder to boulder, pausing only for seconds to select the route that would make his success more nearly possible. When he was only twenty yards short of his destination he was shot by an enemy sniper and died in a valiant attempt to accomplish his mission. Inspired by his magnificent courage and sacrifice, members of his squad who were trailing him carried his weapon forward to its assigned position and laid devastating mortar fire on the enemy. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Ellen Mays (Mother), Teague, Kentucky.

THOMAS JORDAN, JR., 32850517, Private, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 December 1943, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During an attack by Company B on Hill 730, Private Jordan, ammunition carrier in a mortar squad, advanced toward a designated mortar position carrying essential ammunition for the weapon. When he reached an exposed part of the route he was informed by a guide that he would soon come under enemy observation and be subjected to direct, aimed machine gun fire and mortar and artillery shelling. But he continued to advance, well knowing the risks he was taking to perform his duty. He reached a trail that was covered by deadly accurate fire from enemy machine guns. Realizing the great importance of his getting ammunition to the mortar that it might lay necessary fire on the enemy, he unhesitatingly went ahead. By short rushes and judicious use of the meager cover available he advanced, constantly checking his ammunition bag against loss in this rugged terrain. One hundred yards down the exposed trail he was hit by an enemy bullet and died, valiantly trying to accomplish his mission. His aggressive vigor and magnificent courage in the face of death so inspired the other members of his section that they carried on to complete the task he had begun. The example of his bravery, typical of the highest traditions of American infantrymen, was a vital factor in lifting the morale of his company. His gallant action reflects great credit

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upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Myrtle M. Jordan (Mother), Lyons Fall, New York.

✓ GLYDE G. BROWNING, 35267439, Private, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 December 1943, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During an attack by Company B on Hill 730, Private Browning's squad leader was killed and without order he assumed command of the squad. When the advance across the rugged and barren terrain was halted, defensive positions were set up. Despite a constant stream of enemy small arms fire and continual artillery and mortar shelling that fell all about him, Private Browning efficiently organized his squad and placed them in proper positions. Disregarding his own peril he repeatedly visited the members of his squad, encouraging them, advising them, and giving to them information received by him from time to time. While thus bravely performing more than his duty in a holocaust of enemy fire, he was killed. His valor during great personal danger inspired his men to carry on in a superior manner even after he had sacrificed his life. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Jane Browning (Mother), Rockview, West Virginia.

SECTION II — AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSING IN ACTION

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to the following named individual, missing in action:

✓ WILLIAM B. ACKERMAN, 35267832, Sergeant, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Ackerman was a squad leader in Company A during the crossing of the *** river. The attack was launched under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar, and small arms fire across the 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. An enemy strongpoint was firing on the company's positions and holding up the advance of the company. Sergeant Ackerman and two other enlisted men advanced toward the enemy strongpoint to eliminate it when an enemy thrown hand grenade landed in the middle of the group. With utter disregard for his own safety and thinking only of the lives of his comrades, Sergeant Ackerman picked up the grenade to throw it away from the group when it exploded in his hands and seriously wounded him. From this enemy engagement Sergeant Ackerman is missing in action. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Sarah Ackerman (Mother), Portsmouth, Ohio.

SECTION III — AWARD OF SILVER STAR.

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

RALPH S. PHELAN, 0378415, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 November 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Captain Phelan was battalion surgeon of the 2d Battalion, which was occupying a defensive position on Mount ***. Intense enemy artillery concentrations were falling at frequent intervals inflicting numerous casualties. The rugged terrain made evacuation almost impossible. Despite the heavy enemy fire, Captain Phelan went up the side of the mountain and administered first aid in the battle area. His self-sacrificing action and devotion to duty with utter disregard for his personal safety

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undoubtedly saved the lives of many soldiers. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

✓ **OMER E. FORTIER**, 01112697, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant)
111th Engineer Combat Battalion
Entered the Service from Lewiston, Maine.

✓ **WILLIE R. SMITH**, 20817740, Sergeant.
Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion
Entered the Service from Port Arthur, Texas.

✓ **HAROLD R. THOMPSON**, 20817806, Sergeant.
Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion
Entered the Service from Bowie, Texas.

For gallantry in action on 4 December 1943 in the vicinity of Mount ***, Italy. These men volunteered to make a daylight reconnaissance in order to find a route around the mountains suitable for a pack trail to be used in supplying critically needed rations and ammunition to front line infantry troops. As the party began ascending the mountain slope they were immediately met by heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. The terrain was difficult to traverse and afforded scant cover, so that the men were forced to advance by dashing forward a short distance and then falling flat on their stomachs to protect themselves from injury by flying shell fragments. When Sergeant Smith was wounded Sergeant Thompson rendered first aid while Lieutenant Fortier hastily secured medical aid. Lieutenant Fortier and Sergeant Thompson then continued on to accomplish their mission. The information obtained by this patrol made possible the construction of the pack trail under cover of darkness, contributing materially to the subsequent flow of adequate supplies to infantry troops on the front lines. Their gallant action reflects great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

✓ **WILLIAM J. DeLOREY**, 32445052 Corporal.
Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion
Entered the Service from Beacon, New York.

✓ **ARTHUR L. TRUMAN**, 35443467, Corporal (then Private First Class)
Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion
Entered the Service from Beckley, West Virginia

✓ **JOSEPH (NMI) ROMANY**, 36173650, Private First Class
Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion
Entered the Service from Flint, Michigan.

For gallantry in action on 5 December 1943 on Mount ***, Italy. These three soldiers formed an advance group for an engineer platoon placing tracing tape on the route of a proposed pack trail in support of two infantry battalions. Enemy observation was perfect and the entire two mile route was subjected to continuous sniper, mortar, and artillery fire. The barren mountain slopes afforded only scattered rocks for cover and under the intense fire all other operations were forced to cease. With outstanding aggressive vigor and magnificent display of

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courage these three men disregarded their personal safety and accomplished their essential mission despite the severe enemy fire. Their gallant action reflects great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

JOHN R. ROGERS, 15047004, Private, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 27 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Rogers accompanied his squad on a mission of preparing a gap in an anti-personnel mine field from a highway to the banks of the *** river. When the squad reached a point in the mine field about 200 yards from the river, a mine exploded, seriously wounding one man and revealing the position of the group to an enemy machine gun nest on the opposite bank. Despite the intense machine gun fire that was immediately directed upon him, and with utter disregard for his own life, Private Rogers remained with the wounded soldier, assisting in rendering first aid treatment and in carrying him from the area under fire. As the squad withdrew, another mine exploded, killing the previously wounded man and wounding four additional soldiers, including Private Rogers. Although he himself was seriously wounded and was suffering intense pain, he refused first aid treatment for himself until he was certain that the other wounded men had received attention. His magnificent courage and strong devotion to the welfare of his comrades while under enemy fire greatly facilitated the evacuation of his fellow soldiers and himself. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Campbellsville, Kentucky.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

John G. Deane
JOHN G. DEANE
Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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