

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 56TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS

29 August 1944

NO. 308

Award of Silver Star..... I
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster..... II

SECTION I -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

JOHN J. MC CUTCHEON, 38026791, Technical Sergeant, Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant McCutcheon volunteered to lead a bazooka team in an attempt to destroy enemy tanks which were delaying the advance of the friendly troops. He skillfully maneuvered his team over 300 yards of barren terrain in a flanking movement against one of the tanks. The bazooka failed to operate, and the tank opened fire with an 88mm cannon. Although he was wounded, Sergeant McCutcheon attempted to move his squad from the area. One of the men was wounded by hostile machine gun fire, and Sergeant McCutcheon ordered the third member of the team to remain with the injured soldier. Then, ignoring his own wound, he contacted a mortar squad and directed smoke screen on the area. He immediately returned under the heavy fire to where his comrade lay and assisted in evacuating him. Entered the Service from Hutto, Texas.

WILLIAM SCARBROUGH, 37314325, Staff Sergeant, 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. Headless of the deadly, incessant automatic weapons fire which raked the area, Sergeant Scarbrough, cognizant of the desperate situation, sprung from his place of cover and moved directly into the face of the hostile fire. He called to his comrades, urging them to follow, and they, inspired by his example of intrepidity and selflessness, left their positions and moved against the foe, halting the counterattack and forcing the enemy to fall back in confusion. Entered the Service from Sikeston, Missouri.

ARCHIE H. MC DUGAL, JR, 20849348, Staff Sergeant, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 February 1944 in Italy. In the absence of both his platoon leader and platoon sergeant, Sergeant McDugal was in charge of the 3d Platoon when it occupied gun positions near an enemy strong point. The enemy directed a heavy counter battery barrage on the position and three members of the organization were wounded. Aware that no aid men were available, Sergeant McDugal unhesitatingly left the protection of his hole, made his way to the men, and carried them, one by one, to places of comparative safety. Then, while shell fire continued to blast the area, he made a reconnaissance to locate new positions for his men and guns. He organized his platoon and led it to the new positions, then directed accurate fire on the enemy weapons. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

- 1 -

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R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

GERALD F. ZAZZALI, 32239204, Sergeant, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 September 1943 in Italy. When he discovered a mortar which had been abandoned by another unit, Sergeant Zazzali immediately placed himself in an exposed position in order to fire against an enemy force. Although the mortar was without sights, he fired fifty rounds with extreme accuracy, blasting the hostile positions. After each round he stood erect, fearlessly exposing himself to intense small arms fire and heavy enemy shelling to observe his fire and make corrections. Even when he was severely wounded he refused to leave his position until he was given a direct order to report to the aid station. Entered the Service from Newark, New Jersey.

ORVILLE F. FRAZIER, 35712843, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 June 1944 in Italy. When his platoon was pinned down by close range machine gun fire directed from well concealed enemy positions on the flank, Private Frazier crawled across a barren, open wheatfield toward the gun emplacement. Ignoring the rapid bursts of fire which raked the area, he lifted himself from the ground and hurled a hand grenade into the position, killing the two gunners and silencing the weapon. While returning to his platoon Private Frazier encountered two wounded enemy officers. Displaying unusual presence of mind, he carefully searched the officers and discovered important documents in their possession. He then directed litter squads to the spot and assisted in evacuating the hostile soldiers to the aid station. Entered the Service from Aberdeen, Ohio.

JOSEPH ZAROCHIN, 33826996, Private, Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 23 June 1944 in Italy. Private Zarochin volunteered to join a bazooka team in an attempt to destroy enemy tanks which 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. One of the men was wounded in both legs, and Private Zarochin valiantly remained with him while the third member of the team went for help. He stayed in the position under heavy enemy fire, encouraging and comforting his wounded comrade, until a mortar squad laid a smoke screen over the area and an aid party located them. Entered the Service from Lansford, Pennsylvania.

LAWRENCE BREEDEN, 34498193, Private, Company A, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 May 1944 in Italy. Private Breeden was instructed to guard the left flank of his company's positions against an expected enemy counter-attack. When the assault was launched, a hostile machine gun squad crept forward and put their weapon into action on the flank. Although the intense fire pinned his comrades to the ground, Private Breeden stood erect and brought accurate automatic rifle fire on the hostile gun position. He succeeded in killing the gunner, wounding two of the crew members, and forcing the remainder to abandon their gun in confusion. Entered the Service from Sevierville, Tennessee.

PAUL D. SMITH, 34732565, Private, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. Private Smith was a member of the 3d Platoon of Company I. His platoon, in position on the left flank of the battalion area, had just begun digging in when the enemy launched a savage counterattack. Private Smith was painfully wounded by a grenade fragment; but, when his squad leader called on his men to follow him and drive back the assault, he was the first to respond. He and his squad leader led their comrades dauntlessly forward, into the midst of the enemy as they advanced; and they successfully repelled the attack. Then Private Smith again risked his life to cross a road under heavy

R E S T R I C T E D

fire to secure ammunition for the squad. Entered the Service from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

SECTION II -- AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of a second Silver Star, is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

JOHN E. PHILLIPS, 0513031, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. While on a reconnaissance patrol in enemy territory, Lieutenant Phillips, platoon leader of the 3d Platoon, Company G, was wounded by the hostile fire. Upon returning to his unit, he discovered that his platoon had been disorganized by a determined enemy counterattack. Mastering the pain of his wound, he moved about among the men, exposing himself to heavy enemy fire, to encourage them and reorganize them into an effective combat unit. Headless of personal comfort and safety, he courageously led his platoon in repelling the assault. Although he was again wounded and forced to be evacuated, his intrepidity and selflessness inspired his men to drive back the enemy force. Entered the Service from Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM REESE, 34288765, Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Reese was communication sergeant of the assault company attacking the well fortified enemy positions along a river. The company was caught in a heavy cross fire from well concealed enemy machine gun emplacements and sustained many casualties. Upon his own initiative Sergeant Reese went among the men, rendering first aid, then going back to find litter bearers to carry out the wounded. While returning with the litter teams, he was wounded by enemy machine gun fire. Despite the continued fire, he refused to be evacuated and continued giving first aid and helping to evacuate the wounded. Although his wounds had affected his eyesight and caused great pain, he refused to be carried back, insisting that the litter squads be used for the others. He made his way to the rear with only one man to guide him. His great fortitude, devotion to duty and outstanding leadership were a great inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Newport, Tennessee.

HAROLD J. DESCHENES, 31324178, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in Italy. Tec 5 Deschenes, an aid man, was attached to the 2d Platoon of Company I when that unit was pinned to the ground by grazing machine gun fire and an artillery barrage. When he heard the call for aid men from Company L, which occupied a position well in advance of his own platoon, Tec 5 Deschenes unhesitatingly moved across an open field in the face of hostile fire to administer prompt first aid to the wounded. Upon completion of this mission he returned to his own unit which had suffered a casualty while trying to continue its advance. He proceeded under heavy fire which raked the area to the exposed position where the injured soldier lay. He was struck by a burst of machine gun fire, but he selflessly remained in the area to treat his comrade until he received a severe head wound and was forced to be evacuated. Entered the Service from Waterbury, Connecticut.

EDWARD M. BARR, 13175470, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 May 1944 in Italy. When the 2d Battalion attacked a strong enemy position, numerous casualties were inflicted on

R E S T R I C T E D

the organization by heavy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Tec 5 Barr was the only aid man in Company G who had not been wounded and evacuated; and, although the company withdrew from the untenable position, he remained in the shelled area to continue treating his injured comrades. His clothing was ripped from his body by hurtling shell fragments, but he never hesitated to administer calm, effective first aid to the wounded, rendering treatment to 15 soldiers and carrying them all to a place of safety. When he learned of the shortage of aid men in an adjacent company, he voluntarily moved 50 yards to the right and, under the incessant hostile fire, gave first aid to 20 men of this unit and assisted in evacuating them. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of a third Silver Star, is awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action.

JOHN K. SOYKE, 01307583, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in Italy. While his company was pinned down by intense hostile fire, Lieutenant Soyke, a platoon leader, collected a small group of men and led them in a flanking movement towards the company's objective. He found the objective already occupied by a friendly unit; but, almost immediately, the enemy launched a counterattack, shelling the area and sweeping it with heavy small arms fire. Lieutenant Soyke skillfully organized the men of the other unit and, by moving to an extreme flank, engaged the enemy force, successfully repelling the attack. He swiftly strengthened the position and again directed the men in driving back a second counterattack. Entered the Service from Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

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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