

R E S T R I C T E D

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

9 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 126

Posthumous Award of Silver Star.....I
Award of Silver Star.....II
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster.....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 for gallantry in action:

✓ GERALD A. ROZEN, 01175293, First Lieutenant, 133rd Field Artillery Battalion for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Before dawn the enemy shelled the positions of the 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment with intense artillery fire, then counterattacked furiously with a force estimated as two battalions. Lieutenant Rozen, as forward observer for the battalion, skillfully directed defensive fire against the enemy from his forward observation post, constantly exposed to artillery, mortar and small arms fire. He continued shouting his orders until he deemed it necessary to seek a position affording better observation. Lieutenant Rozen made his way, crawling and creeping across rugged terrain covered by intense enemy fire, toward a vantage point from which he again directed effective fire. Although his position was shelled by both artillery and mortars, he displayed extraordinary coolness in transmitting his orders and continued directing artillery fire against the advancing enemy until he was fatally wounded by an enemy shell blast. His outstanding courage and unshaken fortitude greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Norma F. Rozen (Wife), 200 Golfe Terrace, New Haven, Connecticut

✓ JAMES M. STICKLES, 35551074, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. The command post where Private First Class Stickles worked as code clerk was subjected to intense shelling by enemy artillery and nebelwerfer fire. He continued working on the second floor of the building until the third direct hit forced him to seek security on the ground floor. Remembering some valuable signal equipment left upstairs, Private First Class Stickles volunteered to leave his position of safety and remove the equipment. Constantly threatened by the furious enemy shelling, he fearlessly carried the bulky equipment downstairs, then returned for a second load. As he was collecting the remainder of the equipment he was killed by a direct artillery hit on the roof above him. His comrades, who found him beneath the debris clutching the equipment he sacrificed his life to save, were greatly inspired by Private First Class Stickles' outstanding courage. Next of kin: Mrs. Elsie M. Stickles (Mother), Locust and Seventy Street, Perrysburg, Ohio.

✓ THEODORE (NMI) TRYBA, 39390912, Private First Class (then Private) Battery C,

- 1 -

(over)

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

133rd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1943 in the vicinity of *** Italy. When the forward observers with the infantry units which his battery was supporting became casualties during a bitterly contested attack against strong enemy emplacements, Private Tryba volunteered to accompany a relief detail to replace them. Constantly exposed to concentrated artillery, mortar and small arms fire, he fearlessly undertook to maintain the forward communications lines and devoted himself untiringly to his hazardous task. With magnificent skill he repaired continual breaks caused by the heavy shell fire, doggedly pursuing his dangerous task even when under plain observation of the enemy during attempted counterattacks. Private Tryba was later killed in a subsequent engagement. His outstanding courage and exemplary devotion to duty contributed materially to the successful accomplishment of the important infantry assault. Next of kin: Mr. Thomas Tryba (Father), Eagle Bend, Minnesota.

SECTION II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

✓ EDWIN W. RICHARDSON, 0020830, Lieutenant Colonel, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of *** Italy. As commanding officer of the 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Richardson was assigned the mission of crossing the *** River. The flat open approaches to the river were heavily mined and raked by withering mortar, artillery and nebelwerfer fire. Realizing that coordination, control and flexibility of planning would be essential in face of such prepared defenses, he personally accompanied the lead company as the battalion moved out at dusk. They came under murderous artillery fire at the point where he had arranged for them to pick up pontoon foot bridges. Serious casualties were suffered and two bridges destroyed. He instantly made the necessary change of plan and personally supervised the movement of the first company to its crossing point. As soon as this was done he set off with the second company towards their crossing point. Within 100 yards of the river four mines exploded, inflicting heavy casualties and destroying their bridge. Lieutenant Colonel Richardson, heedless of danger, vigorously directed and carried out a reorganization, ordering all men to the first company's crossing point, where, under extremely heavy mortar fire, he supervised the placing of the bridge across the river. A withdrawal order reached him just after he had succeeded in getting the first elements of the lead company across the river, and he remained in position until all these men recrossed. As he moved out, he was wounded in the abdomen by a shell fragment. He made his way to the point designated by the withdrawal order and remained on duty for the next 24 hours, supervising preparations against a possible counter-attack, refusing to be evacuated until ordered to do so by the battalion surgeon. Entered the United States Military Academy from Maine.

SALVADOR M. WORK, 38065400, Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

JOHN P. DOWNS, 35206971, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Bethany, West Virginia.

For gallantry in action on 19 January 1944 in the vicinity of *** Italy. Returning from Company F to the battalion command post, these men detected enemy

R E S T R I C T E D

minefield markings on the trail. Voluntarily determining to clear the area of mines, they moved forward cautiously, found the first mine, and carefully removed it. As they did, a heavy concentration of artillery fire began to fall near them. When the fury of the barrage slackened, they continued to search the trail, discovering and removing two more mines. Their work was both hazardous and tedious; before removing a mine they had to carefully check it for booby-trap attachments, then exercise extreme caution in neutralizing and removing it from the ground. Not until they were certain that the trail was clear of all mines did they return to their company. By retaining their calmness under enemy fire and by the skill and caution they exercised in clearing the mines, they made an important route safe for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

HARRY W. LUND, 36648301, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Rockford, Illinois.

✓ WILLIAM (NMI) REESE, 34288765, Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Newport, Tennessee.

✓ GORDON R. SHAFFER, 33576380, Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

✓ WILLIAM F. TEPATTI, 36483289, Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Greenville, Illinois.

✓ VELAM O. NIATT, 35766480, Private First Class, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Marion, Indiana.

JOSEPH (NMI) GINTER, 37566208, Private First Class, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Belle Plaine, Minnesota.

✓ FLORENCIO (NMI) SOLIZ, 38025871, Private First Class, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from San Diego, Texas.

For gallantry in action on 22-23 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. After advancing across a heavily mined area and crossing the *** River on a small foot bridge, these men made their way through furious enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire to the point where the company had been ordered to dig in. This small group prepared defensive positions and, for two nights and a day, fought off all enemy attacks. Constantly alert during this period, they maintained their positions with fearlessness and aggressive vigor. Often the enemy crept close enough to call out through the fog, smoke and darkness for them to surrender, saying that an officer had ordered the capitulation. Their reply was a volley of rifle fire and expertly thrown hand grenades. When the small group was ordered to evacuate their positions, they covered each other's withdrawals until they all reached points of safety. Their courageous deeds exemplified the noblest of ideals of devotion to duty and disregard for self in performing assigned missions. Their gallant actions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

R E S T R I C T E D

SECTION III - 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 the following named individual for gallantry in action:

WILLIAM C. WEBER, 33270701, Technical Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22-23 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. After advancing across a heavily mined area and crossing the *** River on a small foot bridge, Sergeant Weber and a small group made their way through furious enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire to the point where the company had been ordered to dig in. This small group prepared defensive positions and, for two nights and a day, fought off all enemy attacks. Constantly alert during this period, they maintained their positions with fearlessness and aggressive vigor. Often the enemy crept close enough to call out through the fog, smoke and darkness for them to surrender, saying that an officer had ordered the capitulation. Their reply was a volley of rifle fire and expertly thrown hand grenades. When the small group was ordered to evacuate their positions, they covered each other's withdrawals until they all reached points of safety. Sergeant Weber's courageous deeds exemplified the noblest ideals of devotion to duty and disregard for self in performing assigned missions. Entered the Service from St. Mary's Pennsylvania.

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

DISTRIBUTION "A" PLUS

- 3 - The Adjutant General
- 1 - MATCUSA
- 1 - Pub Sec, G-1 MATCUSA (SOS)
- 1 - AG Awards, Fifth Army
- 1 - Each individual concerned
- 1 - AG-Files