

R E S T R I C T E D

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

12 October 1943

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 16

SECTION I - AWARD POSTHUMOUS, OF SILVER STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star Medal is posthumously awarded to the following named enlisted men:

EMORY A. WHITTINGTON, 20805190, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 88th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943, near Cassino, Italy. After having moved inland about a mile, the platoon of which Staff Sergeant Whittington was a member, came under the fire of a group of enemy riflemen covering the withdrawal of an enemy artillery piece. As the platoon was returning the enemy rifle fire they saw friendly troops moving toward them and firing. Staff Sergeant Whittington saw the situation and realized that the friendly troops would soon come between his platoon and the enemy fire. With magnificent courage and utter disregard for his own life, he stood up and waved his shirt at the friendly troops to gain recognition for his group as friendly and to indicate the enemy snipers by pointing. During the cross fire of the enemy and friendly troops, Staff Sergeant Whittington was shot in the leg but continued to stand in the face of the hostile fire and wave his shirt until friendly troops had advanced close enough to recognize him. Through this courageous act the platoon received few casualties. Sergeant Whittington's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Sergeant Whittington died of wounds received subsequent to the above mentioned act. Next of kin: Mrs. Zetta Whittington, Mother, Route 1, Sweetwater, Texas.

JOHN A. TOWNSEND, 20309123, Sergeant, Company I, 88th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943, near Cassino, Italy. During this action Sergeant Townsend demonstrated superior leadership with utter disregard for his life, by exposing himself continuously to enemy fire in order to maintain control and to insure the uninterrupted defense preparation of his position. Throughout the engagement he controlled his men skillfully and inspired them by examples of courage and bravery. Sergeant Townsend was killed during this action. Sergeant Townsend's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Inogene Spruill Townsend, wife, 1509 Indian Creek Road, Brownwood, Texas.

SECTION II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR MEDALS

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named officers and enlisted men:

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(Over)

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ALFRED J. LAUGHLIN, 335431, Captain, Headquarters 3rd Battalion, 88th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943, in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Captain Laughlin, S-3, 3rd Battalion, organized a task force within the battalion and personally led his men through the city of Cassino, repelling several counter-attacks which were seriously threatening his battalion's position. With thoughts only of the effectiveness and efficiency of his command and with utter disregard for his own safety he personally moved from position to position keeping his men organized under intense machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. While directing machine gun and rifle fire from a position within the town it was necessary for him to expose himself to enemy fire in order to maintain control. At this instance he was severely wounded. Captain Laughlin's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas.

RAY V. HARTWELL, Jr., 01280833, First Lieutenant, Company H, 88th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943, in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Lieutenant Hartwell and five members of Company H, 88th Infantry, were occupying a position observation post Northwest of Cassino, South of the 2nd Line, Italy, where the company was in a defensive position, under heavy machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire. Lieutenant Hartwell went to locate his company and find out the situation. On his return four Germans armed with machine pistols entered the door of the barn in which the observation post was located, and ordered them to surrender. Armed only with an .03 Rifle, and with complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Hartwell jumped in front of them and ordered them to drop their guns. This display of magnificent courage caused them to fire without firing a shot. Under cover of darkness, he led his men through the enemy lines over personally reconnoitered routes, the enemy by that time having completely surrounded the position. Lieutenant Hartwell also successfully evacuated a mortar section of Company E, 88th Infantry. Lieutenant Hartwell's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Atlanta, Georgia.

WILLIAM H. CAREY, 01280833, Second Lieutenant, Company F, 88th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943, in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Lieutenant Carey, two other officers, and several enlisted men were on the west side of the ruined wall of Cassino, Italy, attempting to locate the members of their command after a bombardment. They were forced to seek temporary cover from enemy fire in the rock ruins. Three Germans, each armed with machine pistols, came upon them and were challenged immediately. Carey and these enlisted men, killing one enlisted man. Lieutenant Carey, with utter disregard for his own life, shot one of the Germans with his carbine. He attempted to shoot the second but his carbine jammed, then grasping his carbine he clubbed him over the head with the butt of his rifle, disabled the second German, physically exhausted, subdued, and disarmed the third. Carey was then taken prisoner. Lieutenant Carey's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Greenville, Indiana.

WILLIAM H. SPIVEY, 339725, Sergeant, Company A, 88th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943, in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Sergeant Spivey, mortar section leader, was in charge of the covering force of combat engineers. This covering force was to protect the withdrawal of the rest of the battalion, wounded men, and battle line vehicles. As the German forces moved forward, Sergeant Spivey with utter disregard for his own safety,

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calhly and coolly directed rifle and machine gun fire against a numerically superior attacking enemy force, repelling the attack, thereby allowing the withdrawal to proceed. After darkness he and his group of men were completely surrounded. Sergeant Spivey made reconnaissance and by careful planning was able to withdraw all of his men safely from the critical position. Sergeant Spivey's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Frairie Hill, Texas.

RICHARD W. RENO, 38037544, Corporal, Company K, ** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 14 September 1943, in **, Italy. Corporal Reno was a member of the weapons platoon of Company K, in a defensive position in **, Italy. At this time the enemy was attacking this position in force, supported by machine guns, mortars, and heavy artillery. A light machine gun of Corporal Reno's section was in action in a house in ** when the two members operating the gun became casualties. Corporal Reno, exposing himself with total disregard for his own safety, dragged the wounded gunner from the gun and took over the machine gun, taking it to a new position and putting it into operation. He later learned that an attack from the right rear was threatening the position, and changing the machine gun position again, materially assisted in repelling the new threat. Corporal Reno continued, unassisted, to operate his weapon until he was wounded and evacuated. Corporal Reno's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from ** Gap, Texas.

CHESTER M. DOTSON, 20809031, Private First Class, Company I, ** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 14 September 1943, near **, Italy. Private First Class Dotson, a member of the second platoon, with thoughts only of the efficiency and effectiveness of his unit, volunteered to establish an observation post on a vantage point and moved forward under heavy enemy fire to establish the observation post. Later in the afternoon, finding an abandoned automatic rifle, he put it into action on the front line until the owner returned. After this, finding another automatic rifle, he placed it into operation and continued to employ it in a very effective manner until the end of the action. Private First Class Dotson's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service at Killeen, Texas.

ALBERT W. KONAREK, 38026855, Private First Class, Company I, ** Infantry, for gallantry in action near **, Italy. During the afternoon of 13 September 1943, Private First Class Konarek, then a member of the weapons platoon, assumed command of a 60-mm mortar squad in the absence of its leader. He held the squad together and kept it in action under heavy enemy artillery and machine gun fire. During the night of 13 September 1943, he assisted in carrying ammunition, constantly exposing himself to enemy fire, and by his untiring efforts maintained the mortar in action, placing effective fire on the enemy. His leadership and determination materially contributed to the defense of his unit's position and the repelling of the enemy attack. Private First Class Konarek's courage and utter disregard for his own safety were an inspiration to those around him and reflect great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Thrall, Texas.

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NOEL E. KURTZ, 36055316, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, ** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 17 September 1943, near **, Italy. The Battalion Command Post for which Private Kurtz was operating a radio was surrounded and all communications rendered useless, except the radio manned by Private Kurtz. Numerous runners had been sent to contact the regiment for reinforcements but had failed to penetrate the enemy encirclement. The Command Post was being shelled by enemy artillery and an artillery shell severely wounded Private Kurtz in his right arm, rendering it useless. After receiving first aid, Private Kurtz, with thoughts only for the efficiency and effectiveness of his command, immediately resumed operating the radio with his left hand in spite of the painful wound and the continuous shelling of the Command Post. He remained on this duty for two hours and fifteen minutes and then ceased to function only because the Command Post was abandoned. He was then evacuated to the hospital. His actions materially assisted his battalion in maintaining communication during a critical period in enemy action. Private Kurtz's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Florin, Illinois.

FARREL E. MCKINNEY, 20532056, Private, ** Signal Company, for gallantry in action near **, Italy, on 9 September 1943. Upon instructions of the Commanding General, ** Infantry Division, Private McKinney was detailed to bring a radio transmitter from mounted on a 2 1/2 Ton DUKW to the Division Command Post. As he was approaching the intersection of the Highway and the line leading to the Command Post, three enemy tanks fired upon the vehicle. Private McKinney drove past the intersection by about fifty feet, but remained calm under fire and with utter disregard for his own safety maneuvered the vehicle back to the proper turn, then drove under fire to his destination. The calm and deliberate judgment and gallant action in the face of enemy fire resulted in the safe delivery of the important radio installation, which aided in a great measure the tremendous task assigned to the ** Infantry Division. Private McKinney's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Campbellburg, Indiana.

VICTOR L. LAURENDEAU, 31178763, Private, Medical Detachment, ** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 13 and 14 September 1943, at **, Italy. During this period Private Laurendeau displayed magnificent courage and devotion to duty as a company medical aid man for Company K, ** Infantry. With utter disregard for his own safety and under machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, and with machine gun fire pouring through the windows of the building in which he was administering aid, he moved the wounded to a safe place, administered medical aid, and personally cared for them day and night during that period. By his unselfish devotion to duty, and complete disregard for his own personal comfort and safety, the evacuation of all wounded was made possible, without any loss of life. Private Laurendeau's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and upon the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Ashua, New Hampshire.

By command of Major General WALKER:

OFFICIAL:

CLAYTON F. KERR,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

John J. Deane
JOHN J. DEANE,
1st Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

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