

R E S T R I C T E D

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

12 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 133

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

ROBERT G. FLETCHER, 20816120, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 19-27 November 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ~~ITALY~~. Upon his release from a hospital and return to his unit, Corporal Fletcher discovered his battery crucially reduced by casualties. Assuming immediate charge of a vital twelve mile communications line continually in need of repair because of sustained enemy artillery fire directed along it, he skillfully maintained the line despite the hazardous fire, treacherous terrain, and tremendous physical strain to which he was subjected. Avoiding personal contact with superior officers so that his weakened condition would not become known, Corporal Fletcher determinedly remained on his job for eight days in which he permitted himself only twenty hours of rest. Finally reduced by a raging fever and complete exhaustion, he collapsed in delirium and was again hospitalized. His outstanding courage and dogged devotion to duty contributed materially to the success of the battalion's mission. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

FRED C. HERSHBERGER, 33019034, Technician Fifth Grade, Cannon Company 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ~~ITALY~~. Technician Fifth Grade Hershberger, driver of a 75mm Self Propelled Howitzer, landed with the 1st Battalion in the assault of Blue Beach and skillfully maneuvered his vehicle across the heavily mined beach to the bank of a small canal. When the gun crew put the howitzer into action against the enemy, he remained in the driver's seat and kept the motor running so that the mount could be turned right or left to better engage the enemy. Although painfully wounded by fragments of hot lead, Tec 5 Hershberger stayed with his vehicle until it was put out of action. Then heedless of his wounds, he crawled free of the mount and opened fire on the enemy with his sub-machine gun. His magnificent determination to continue the fight in spite of all dangers and handicaps exemplifies his outstanding fortitude. Entered the Service from Bedford, Pennsylvania.

ROY E. MOFFETT, 37504586, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 December 1943 in the vicinity of **, ~~ITALY~~. When his battalion was ordered to withdraw from hill *** under intense enemy shelling, Private First Class Moffet was assigned the task of furnishing supplies and ammunition to the covering forces remaining on the hill. The enemy's vicious attack inflicted many casualties on the withdrawing troops, and he voluntarily joined a party to evacuate the wounded from

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the hill. Although he had not slept in thirty two hours, Private First Class Moffet indefatigably covered the rough terrain, constantly exposed to enemy fire, to bring aid to the wounded soldiers. He was successful in recovering and evacuating many of his comrades, but in so doing he himself was wounded by an enemy shell fragment. His determination to save the wounded in the face of grave personal danger forcefully demonstrated his courage and valor. Entered the Service from Salina, Kansas.

WINIFRED O. WILLIAMS, 38476282, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, on 11-12 February in the vicinity of ~~***~~, ~~ITALY~~. Anticipating an enemy counterattack on his company's defensive positions, Private Williams, although half frozen by the bitter cold, remained in his position with two automatic rifles to await the attack. When the attackers approached, he brought effective fire on them with his rifle, operating the piece until it became overheated, then switching to the other weapon. Private Williams, alternately throwing hand grenades and firing the automatic rifle, forced the enemy to withdraw, only to be attacked again and again by the desperate foe. He staunchly held his position in the face of intense opposing fire and continued to inflict numerous casualties on the attackers until the enemy force was finally repelled. By his devotion to duty and steadfastness under extremely harrowing conditions, Private Williams was instrumental in forcing the enemy to withdraw from his sector. Entered the Service from Hughes Spring, Texas.

WARD J. CROOME, 32839723, Private,
Company G, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Entered the Service from Buffalo, New York.

LOUIS (NMI) COLAVECCHIO, 31293180, Private
Company G, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Entered the Service from Providence, Rhode Island.

For gallantry in action on 24 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~***~~, ~~ITALY~~. Volunteering to accompany a reconnaissance patrol into extremely hazardous territory in which severe casualties had already been sustained, Private Croome and Private Colavecchio crossed the treacherous ~~***~~ River and courageously advanced over heavily mined terrain while constantly exposed to the intense artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire of the enemy. Determinedly pursuing their mission until the enemy emplacements were located, they then returned to the bank of the river where the patrol was observed by the hostile forces. With outstanding initiative and magnificent daring, they improvised a raft from the floating debris and crossed the dangerous waters under heavy fire to contact friendly units and obtain a smoke screen to cover the crossing of the remainder of the patrol. Their aggressive leadership and exemplary devotion to duty inspired the successful accomplishment of the mission and provided vital information.

GINE (NMI) DURLESTER, 32656608, Private, Medical Detachment, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~***~~, ~~ITALY~~. Assigned as an aid man to an infantry company during the bitterly contested crossing of the ~~***~~ River, Private Durlester advanced courageously with his unit over the heavily mined terrain under an intense concentration of enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire. During the assault a smoke grenade which a comrade was carrying became

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ignited and set the soldier's clothing aflame. With outstanding courage, Private Durlister immediately went to his assistance while completely exposed to the hazardous fire of the enemy. Working calmly and skillfully he extinguished the blazing clothing and administered first aid to the injured soldier. His aggressive initiative and exemplary devotion to duty saved the life of a comrade and inspired all who witnessed his deed. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

EUGENIO G. SALAS, 38065990, Private, Company C, 111th Medical Battalion, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. Private Salas, while on duty with the 2nd Battalion Aid Station, 143d Infantry Regiment, was dispatched with a squad, during the main attack, to evacuate a patient from a rifle company on the line. The aid station was about a half mile back and the litter route was under constant enemy mortar and small arms fire. They had almost reached the patient when a mortar shell exploded among them, wounding every man in the squad. Although wounded himself, Private Salas, undaunted by the continuing enemy fire, promptly administered first aid and helped evacuate the men. Then with the help of a new squad he went back, located the wounded patient, rendered first aid, and succeeded in getting him back to the aid station. By his fortitude and courage in the face of the enemy, Private Salas was instrumental in saving the lives of four men. Entered the Service from Marathon, Texas.

WILLIAM W. WARWICK, 34671413, Private Company D, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. During the bitterly contested crossing of the *** River, Private Warwick saw his platoon leader knocked into the treacherous waters by the explosion of a shell near him. Despite the intense concentration of enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire, he immediately jumped into the river to save the stunned officer. While so doing he was hit in the hip by machine gun fire. Although painfully wounded, Private Warwick courageously reached the drowning man and carried him safely to shore. His magnificent daring and aggressive determination inspired all who witnessed his deed and saved the life of his platoon leader. Entered the Service from Newton Grove, North Carolina.

CHARLES (NMI) HENLEY, 34714679, Private, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. Volunteering to accompany a reconnaissance patrol into extremely hazardous territory in which severe casualties had already been sustained, Private Henley crossed the treacherous *** River and courageously advanced over heavily mined terrain while constantly exposed to the intense artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire of the enemy. Determinedly pursuing his mission, he successfully located several well fortified emplacements and calmly directed accurate artillery fire which destroyed them. His aggressive initiative and magnificent daring inspired the accomplishment of the mission and provided vital information for a subsequent assault. Entered the Service from Nashville, Tennessee.

HERBERT D. BENNETT, 34734607 Private, Medical Detachment, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. Private Bennett was a member of a medical detail assigned the hazardous task of crossing the swift flowing *** River in an attempt to evacuate the casualties sustained in the fierce and savage attack on the enemy positions across the river. Private Bennett and the members of his squad crossed the treacherous river unarmed and unaccompanied by armed troops, under intense artillery, nebelwerfer and machine gun fire, facing the probability of becoming casualties or being captured by the

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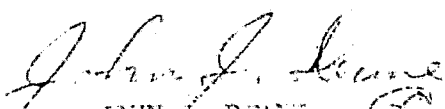
enemy. He and his fellow men dauntlessly moved about, giving medical aid to the wounded and carried out the evacuation of the wounded to such a high degree of efficiency that few men were left behind when they were forced to withdraw from the enemy territory. His great fortitude, calmness under fire and devotion to duty were a great factor in the saving of the lives of many men. Entered the Service from Huntington, Tennessee.

HAROLD J. DESCHERES, 31324173, Private, Medical Detachment, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Private Descheres, a litter bearer, volunteered as an aid man with Company L in the second crossing of the *** River. With the remnants of the company he reached the enemy-held bank, where they joined two companies of another battalion. Casualties had so depleted available aid men that many wounded of both battalions were unattended. Displaying extraordinary calmness and efficiency although constantly harassed by intense enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, Private Descheres tirelessly rendered first aid to the wounded soldiers. When his own company withdrew to safety for reorganization, he refused to leave the wounded men he was treating. Fearless of danger, Private Descheres remained on the field of battle and continued moving about among the wounded, giving them expert treatment and encouraging them to be patient until evacuation could be effected. By his contempt for personal security when his comrades were wounded and exposed to danger, he saved the lives of many who would otherwise have been lost. Entered the Service from Hartford, Connecticut.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:


JOHN J. DEANE
Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
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