

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

17 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 142.

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:

- ✓ JAMES F. BADMAN, 33565388, Sergeant,
Company H, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mrs. Edith Mae Badman (Mother), Mary Street, Houtedale, Penn.
- ✓ ROBERT C. ALBERS, 35174109, Private First Class,
Company E, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mrs. Dorothy Albers (Wife), 600 Reynolds Place SW, Canton, Ohio
- ✓ FRANK E. BLEVENS, 37342820, Private First Class,
Company E, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mr. Elbert A. Blevens (Father), 505 E. Elm St., Saint Lamar, Colo
- ✓ LAWRENCE W. BURKEMPER, JR., 37388164, Private First Class,
Company B, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mr. Lawrence W. Burkemper (Father), Old Monroe, Missouri.
- ✓ FOY (NMI) CARTER, 34715030, Private First Class,
Company F, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mrs. Annie Jane Carter (Mother), Route 2, Red Boiling Springs, Tenn.
- JULIUS F. LYTLE, 35725849, Private First Class,
Company B, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mrs. Gertrude Lytle (Mother), Route 1, Stanley, Kentucky.
- ✓ ROSARIO M. CHRISTENO, 31344757, Private,
Company F, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mrs. Frances Christeno (Mother), 9 Smith St, Pawcutuck, Conn.
- ✓ CHARLES A. CROCKETT, JR., 33636369, Private,
Company B, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Crockett (Mother), Tangier, Virginia.
- ✓ ORAN B. SPENCER, 37382929, Private,
Company K, 143rd Infantry Regiment,
Next of kin: Mr. Gordon Spencer (Father), Tulsa, Oklahoma.

For gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY.
The 143rd Infantry Regiment was ordered to cross the *** River and attack the enemy.

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entrenched in the terrain beyond. The attack was launched under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire across a 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 which further complicated the difficulties encountered in bringing boats and other equipment to the river line. Many boats were destroyed before reaching the river, and many others were destroyed in the water by short range enemy small arms fire. Some of the occupants of boats destroyed in the river were hit and all were thrown into deep water. In the face of all these obstacles, these men courageously pressed home the attack with indomitable fortitude, crossing the river and penetrating deeply into enemy held territory. Subsequently, repeated savage counterattack by the enemy succeeded in over-running the positions. In the furious fighting which continued over a two-day period and which cost the enemy enormous casualties in killed and wounded, they lost their lives. Their great fortitude, tenacity of purpose and devotion to duty against vastly superior enemy forces constituted an outstanding example of fighting courage that will long endure as an inspiration to all who witnessed or have knowledge of their valorous deeds.

✓ ARTHUR A. YOUNG, 38051398, Sergeant, Battery C, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 7 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. When three men of his gun section were wounded by the burst of a shell near their position during an intense concentration of enemy artillery fire, Sergeant Young fearlessly exposed himself to the sweeping barrage by going to their immediate aid. Displaying calm determination and magnificent courage in the face of hazardous fire, he rendered first aid to his wounded comrades. While attempting to evacuate them, he was fatally wounded by a shell fragment from another nearby explosion but refused medical attention until his three men had been cared for first, pretending that his own wounds were slight. Sergeant Young's unfaltering loyalty to his men and exemplary devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the lives of the wounded soldiers and inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mr. Thomas A. Young (Brother), Route #1, Palestine, Texas.

ROBERT L. CERVANTES, 39561909, Private First Class, Company G, 142nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. When his platoon was pinned down by the machine gun fire from an enemy house which it was attacking, Private First Class Cervantes caught the enemy by surprise by suddenly jumping up and rushing the emplacement single-handedly. Daringly drawing hostile fire by his heroic act, he maintained his violent assault while his comrades were able to move from their positions and support the attack. Private First Class Cervantes was fatally wounded in the fire fight which ensued; but his outstanding aggressiveness and magnificent courage inspired the destruction of the enemy nest and the capture of twenty prisoners. Next of kin: Mrs. Felicitas Cervantes, (Mother), 224 East 95th Street, Los Angeles, California.

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:

✓ JERYL R. MOSELEY, 20807203, Master Sergeant, Service Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. Sergeant Moseley, regimental operations sergeant, received a vital message necessitating immediate contact with a battalion commander whose unit had become enmeshed in a position of extreme peril. The intense concentration of enemy artillery and mortar fire had knocked out all wire communication and repeated

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attempts at radio contact proved fruitless. Displaying outstanding initiative and magnificent daring, he then set off through hostile territory and under the increasingly heavy barrage to deliver the important message. Constantly exposed to the hazardous fire, he skillfully infiltrated through enemy positions, evading roving enemy patrols and determinedly continuing his self-imposed mission until he reached the threatened battalion. Sergeant Moseley's unfaltering courage and exemplary devotion to duty made possible the successful evasion of the enemy trap and contributed materially to the effectiveness of the operation. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

✓ MITCHEL R. WOODS, 20808609, Technical Sergeant, Company G, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. As second in command of a reconnaissance patrol instructed to obtain information concerning enemy strength and installations, Sergeant Woods penetrated the hostile lines and moved forward to a draw. When the group was unexpectedly subjected to an intense concentration of mortar fire, the officer in charge of the patrol started for assistance and was captured by the enemy. Sergeant Woods unhesitatingly assumed command and, aware of the imminent danger of capture, calmly and efficiently reorganized the patrol and directed the withdrawal of his men. Loath to desert a wounded comrade who was unable to move, he braved the fury of enemy mortar fire to carry the man on his back for half a mile to a position of safety. By retaining his coolness and good judgment in the face of extreme danger, Sergeant Woods was responsible for the safe return of his patrol and, by his extraordinary courage saved the life of a comrade. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

✓ STEPHEN R. GREGG, 32209341, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 143rd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. Sergeant Gregg, leader of a mortar section, led his squad across the *** River in an attack on enemy defensive positions. When the intensity of enemy artillery, rifle and machine gun fire split the attacking company, he set up his mortar in an exposed position and delivered accurate fire. Only fifty yards from the enemy positions, Sergeant Gregg was forced to change the position of his mortar several times because of the fury of the fire directed at him. With admirable consideration for the safety of his men, he insisted upon firing the mortar himself rather than merely directing the fire. By his calmness in the face of great danger, Sergeant Gregg brought deadly fire against the enemy, forcing them to cower in their dugouts and thus reducing the effectiveness of their fire. Entered the Service from Bayonne, New Jersey.

SECTION III — AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

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

✓ JAMES E. EPPERSON, 0389707, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. When enemy artillery, mortars, and mines destroyed two footbridges intended for the use of his company during the bitterly contested crossing of the *** River, Captain Epperson skillfully led his men to a covered position to await his reconnaissance of another means to continue the attack. Courageously braving an intense concentration of hostile fire, he moved forward to the river bank but was wounded in the knee by shell fragments. Despite the painful injury he determinedly continued on his

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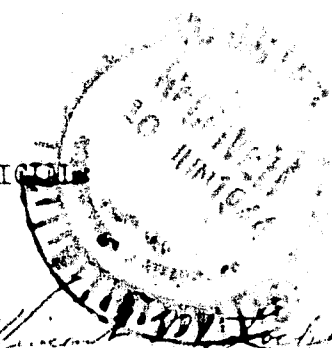
mission under increasingly heavy enemy fire, finally discovering a crossing site suitable for his purposes. Displaying further his aggressive initiative and unfaltering loyalty to his men, Captain Epperson daringly crossed the treacherous waters and located routes of approach forward to be used by his company when the assault was resumed. Finally collapsing from his wound, he was later evacuated. His magnificent courage and outstanding devotion to duty were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Rocksprings, Texas.

JOHN K. SOYKE, 01307583, Second Lieutenant, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ~~Italy~~. Leading his platoon over heavily mined terrain through an intense concentration of enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, Lieutenant Soyke constantly exposed himself to the hazardous fire in moving among his men and encouraging them for the dangerous crossing of the bitterly defended *** River. When one of the boats overturned while being launched, he courageously jumped into the treacherous waters to save two men who were unable to reach the shore. When his boat was hit by shrapnel and sunk, Lieutenant Soyke saw a soldier disappear under the water and he immediately swam to the spot and rescued him. Upon gaining the hostile shore he reorganized his men despite the tremendous fire to which the area was subjected, and then daringly led a fierce assault against the enemy positions. Though wounded he advanced to a point from which he could direct mortar fire against enemy nests, and refused to be evacuated until the emplacements had been destroyed. His aggressive leadership and exemplary devotion to duty inspired his men to successfully accomplish their objective. Entered the Service from Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL


VINCENT M. LOCKHART
Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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