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

28 July 1944

ORIGINAL ORDER

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 259

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

### SECTION I — POSTHUMOUS 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 posthumously awarded to the following named officer for gallantry in action.

GENERAL J. NOBLES, 01307569, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 May 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. Lieutenant Noble, leader of the 1st Platoon of Company C, was instructed to defend the right flank of the company's area of responsibility in conjunction with another platoon from Company A. When the enemy launched a fierce attack against the flank sector occupied by the Company A platoon, the men began to withdraw from positions rendered untenable by the intensity of the hostile fire. Immediately cognizant of the danger to the remainder of the company, Lieutenant Nobles swiftly and skillfully reorganized his unit so that a portion of the men could defend his sector and led the remaining half forward to reinforce the other platoon. Displaying outstanding courage and splendid leadership, he exposed himself to the sweeping enemy fire to rally the men and, with the elements of his own platoon, to organize an effective fighting unit. By continually encouraging the men and urging them on, he succeeded in repelling the enemy attack. Lieutenant Nobles was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs G. J. Nobles (Mother), Route #1, Box 155, Danville, Georgia.

### SECTION II — 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.

JOSEPH F. EDELEN, 01289055, Captain, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 June 1944 in ITALY. When the motorized column of which Captain Edelen's company was a part was halted in its movement northward by a strong enemy delaying action, an infantry company was committed and became pinned down by fire. Captain Edelen was ordered to attack with his company and destroy the enemy. Skillfully maneuvering to a flanking position he moved his company to within four hundred yards of the enemy and received intense automatic weapons fire. This appeared to have stopped his attack; but, braving the fury of enemy fire, he moved among the assaulting platoons, instructing and encouraging his men. Inspiring them to greater effort by his own fearlessness, he led them forward to rout the enemy from strongly entrenched positions. During this action Captain Edelen was severely wounded. Entered the Service from Newark, New Jersey.

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WELDON B. SHOFNER, 01683474, Second Lieutenant (then Staff Sergeant), 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Huntingdon, Texas.

MICHAEL J. KENNELLY, 33317477, Technician Fourth Grade (then Technician Fifth Grade), Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

GEORGE ZIRO, 32301768, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

For gallantry in action on 27 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. While working at an aid station, the above named enlisted men spotted an ammunition truck which had been struck by enemy artillery fire and had burst into flames. To save the three soldiers trapped in the blazing vehicle, they left the security of the aid station and braved the ceaseless shelling, running across the shell torn terrain to the truck. Constantly imperilled by the exploding ammunition they fearlessly approached the fire, struggled to the soldiers and carried them to a place of safety. They then returned to the aid station and continued treating the other wounded men.

CLAUDE M. ALLEN, 20805200, Staff Sergeant, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in ITALY. Sergeant Allen, with his squad, was assigned a sector of a hill to defend against the enemy. As a furious counter-attack reached its climax, most of the squad members were forced to withdraw under a heavy artillery barrage and intense small arms fire; but he remained dauntlessly in his position and continued to fire his rifle in the face of the attackers. Although he was constantly exposed to continuous, rapid bursts of machine gun fire, he succeeded in reducing the effectiveness of the enemy assault, thus enabling the other members of the squad to return to their positions and repel the counterattack. Entered the Service from Sweetwater, Texas.

EDGAR A. RAAB, 20802081, Staff Sergeant, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 May 1944 in ITALY. Sergeant Raab was in command of a machine gun section supporting a rifle company when an enemy force launched a furious tank attack against the unit's defensive positions. When both guns in his section jammed and the intensity of enemy fire rendered the positions untenable, he ordered his men to withdraw to a place of comparative security while he remained to repair one of the guns. Working calmly in the face of intense hostile tank, small arms, and grenade fire, he speedily fixed the stoppage and again engaged the enemy's charging tanks. His rapid, accurate fire enabled his men to return to their positions, repair the other machine gun, and eventually to drive back the enemy tanks. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

JOSE H. CABALLERO, 20807790, Corporal, Headquarters Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 15 to 23 November, 1943 in ITALY. Corporal Caballero, scout and observer, was instructed to establish an observation post on the forward slope of a mountain in advance of his unit's main line of resistance. He led a party of five men up the steep mountainside, stumbling over the rocky, slippery trails in the darkness. As he neared his objective, the enemy began blasting the area with intense artillery shell fire. After ordering his men to cover, he proceeded alone under the intense shelling to reconnoiter for his observation post position. While moving cautiously down the mountain, he spotted a hostile patrol only 30 yards away. He climbed back up the slope, established contact with the forward elements of a rifle company, and directed accurate mortar fire on the group, killing thirteen of the hostile patrol members. He then returned to his men and established his observation post. Constantly threatened by artillery fire, he maintained his post for seven days and nights, often moving under heavy shelling to repair breaks in the communication lines from his position. Although he was painfully

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wounded by a shell fragment, he refused to be evacuated, and continued performing his important duties, furnishing his regimental commander with information of great value. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

ROY I. NEWTON, 20806517, Corporal, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Breckenridge, Texas.

EARL O. WASCHER, 36044552, Private First Class, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

For gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. When the company of which the above named enlisted men were members was advancing along a coastal highway, two enemy machine guns opened fire on the advancing troops and stopped the leading platoon. They moved forward in the face of the intense cross fire and put their light machine gun into action, directing fire first on one gun position, then on the other, neutralizing them both. Continuing ahead of their unit, they again opened fire on another enemy machine gun nest strategically placed at a cross road and knocked it out. They then attacked a convoy of enemy trucks heavily loaded with soldiers and, by accurate firing, forced them to withdraw with heavy losses. By their quick-thinking and aggressiveness, these fearless men enabled their unit to continue its advance.

FREDERICK H. BLAUSER, 35276796, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. Private First Class Blauser, second gunner in a machine gun squad, was in a defensive position when the enemy launched a furious attack, preceded by a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire. When the supply of ammunition for his gun was depleted, he made three trips, crawling from his gun emplacement under the sweeping hostile fire, to secure the ammunition. On his last trip he went for hand grenades; and upon returning, threw them accurately into the onrushing enemy force, momentarily checking its advance. When the first gunner was killed, he seized the gun and crawled ten yards to the left of his position, carrying his ammunition with him, to an emplacement which afforded a better field of fire. He continued directing expert, effective fire on the enemy, preventing any penetration of the defenses in his sector, until he was severely wounded by small arms fire and was evacuated. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Ohio.

HAROLD W. ION, 33272828, Private, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 May 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. As a volunteer member of a combat patrol ordered to locate enemy strong points, Private Ion had advanced 500 yards forward of the friendly lines when he and his comrades were suddenly caught in the cross fire of enemy machine guns. Three of the patrol members were wounded and another killed in the rapid bursts of enemy fire. Heedless of personal security, Private Ion crawled forward to one of his wounded comrades and administered speedy and efficient first aid. Still exposing himself to the sweeping, continuous machine gun fire, he pressed on to another injured soldier and calmly treated his wounds. He then made his way back to the company command post and directed a litter squad to the spot. Later in the day he voluntarily led another patrol to the area which he had reconnoitered and, with great skill, pointed out the enemy positions which he had previously located. An enemy force succeeded in partially encircling the patrol; and, in the fierce fire fight which ensued, one of the men was wounded. While the remainder of the patrol retired to safe positions, Private Ion stopped to assist his wounded comrade and consciously exposing himself to the intense enemy fire, carried him to the aid station. Entered the Service from Buffalo, New York.

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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 to the following named individual for gallantry in action.

MARTIN W. DIETER, 32633611, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*, ITALY. Private First Class Dieter was a member of a reconnaissance patrol composed of an officer and two other enlisted men. The night was cold and rainy and the patrol was imperilled by ceaseless artillery and mortar shelling and insidious sniper fire as it made its way through deep gorges and a muddy quagmire for a half mile into the enemy defensive area. Upon reaching a road junction, the patrol members spotted an enemy ammunition dump and machine gun emplacements. They determined to return to their unit and report the information. The patrol had started back toward the friendly lines when two enemy soldiers opened fire. In the fire fight which ensued the enemy soldiers were killed, but the hostile forces were alerted and resisted the patrol's attempts to penetrate their outposts, wounding the officer and one of the enlisted men. Private First Class Dieter managed to get the group into a nearby ditch, and there, while the enemy fired around them, he rendered effective and speedy first aid to the wounded men. He then carried the officer 650 yards through an area teeming with the alerted enemy troops to the safety of friendly lines. When a litter was furnished, he helped to carry the wounded men three miles to an aid station. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

*John J. Deane*  
JOHN J. DEANE  
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