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HEADQUARTERS 50TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36, U. S. Army

7 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 123

Posthumous Award of Silver Star I
Award of Silver Star, Missing in Action II
Award of Silver Star 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:

WILLIAM L. MARKOWITZ, 0379177, Captain, 111th Medical Battalion, for gallantry in action on 6 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Captain Markowitz was advancing his collecting station by motor convoy over a tortuous mountain road when heavy artillery fire farther on caused the leading elements to halt and the men to seek cover. Perceiving that the barrage was snuffing down the road toward his convoy, and realizing that to remain stationary in their present position threatened grave losses, Captain Markowitz hastened up along the convoy vigorously rallying his men and directing them through the shelled area to safety. He was killed while directing the convoy through to safety. His courage and aggressive leadership undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his men and best accomplished his mission of getting through valuable equipment to a forward position. His courage and determination greatly inspired his command. Next of kin: Mrs. SAM H. MARKOWITZ (Wife), Overlook Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

JOHN A. BERTHEAS, 01303912, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Lieutenant Bertheas, platoon leader, was assigned the mission of holding the high ground between Companies B and C. When a severe enemy attack, preceded by a heavy concentration of artillery, nebelwerfer and mortar fire, threatened to break through the defensive positions and outflank his platoon, Lieutenant Bertheas personally marshaled elements of his platoon to block the flank attack. Acting with extraordinary calmness under ceaseless machine gun and rifle fire, he valiantly led his men against the enemy, successfully neutralizing the attackers and maintaining the positions of his sector. His display of outstanding aggressive leadership and courageous initiative materially aided in preventing the enemy breakthrough between the two companies. He was subsequently killed by an enemy artillery shell. Next of kin: Mrs. Winifred E. Bertheas (Wife), 674 Bogert Road, River Edge, New Jersey.

RONALD E. MCKAY, 011760084, Second Lieutenant, 152d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When the 1st Battalion of the 142d Infantry Regiment had attacked and captured a portion of the hill, ***, and was digging in to hold the positions, they were subjected to withering enemy machine gun and rifle fire. Lieutenant McKay, as forward observer, realized the necessity for bringing immediate effective artillery fire on the enemy guns and, regarding the safety of his men above personal security, left

- 1 -

(over)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

himself at the foot of the hill and without assistance started laying wire up to an observation post from which he could direct the artillery fire. He struggled up the hill, doing his job in the face of intense enemy machine gun fire from hills to the left and front, aware of the overwhelming odds against him. Lieutenant McCreary continued doggedly toward his destination until he was struck down and instantly killed by the machine gun fire. His determination to do his job in spite of all resistance demonstrates courage and valor of magnificent proportions. Next of kin: Mrs. Betty S. McCreary (Wife), 5144 South Albany Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

CHARLES I. VEST, 35051572, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on ~~the~~, ~~142d~~. Private First Class Vest, an assistant machine gunner in support of the center rifle platoon, determined enemy attack, took over the gun when the gunner became a casualty. His position was isolated by very heavy enemy machine fire and assistance was unable to reach him. The encircling enemy pushed to within close proximity of his emplacement, and, being unable to render effective fire from a fixed position on the enemy's defile. Forcibly, Private First Class Vest disengaged the machine gun and courageously exposed himself to fire on the enemy from this position with devastating results. Private First Class Vest was fatally wounded by an enemy sniper while performing this gallant feat. His demonstration of aggressiveness, dogged determination, and devotion to duty, materially aided in successfully repelling this determined enemy attack. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Vest (Mother), 1100 Lythe Avenue, Garden, West Virginia.

SECTION II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSILE L. ACHER

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

CHARLES L. LIVERETT, 3760715, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in the vicinity of ~~the~~, ~~141st~~. Private First Class Liverett, rifleman, volunteered to hold a forward position which afforded poor cover and to observe an area from which the enemy was firing rifle grenades. For two days and nights without relief he maintained his position, constantly on the alert, and materially aided in repulsing repeated enemy attacks. He continued his aggressive fire against the enemy and frequently warned his company of enemy activity until he was severely wounded by enemy fire as he shouted a final warning to the others of his command. Private Liverett, in performing his hazardous job and endangering his own life to preserve the safety of his comrades, exemplified the ultimate of courage. From this engagement he has been reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Lucy Liverett (Mother), 1041 South Alice Street, Sioux City, Iowa.

WALTER P. SARAPAS, 3300393, Private First Class, Company N, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of ~~the~~, ~~142d~~. When the enemy launched a furious attack against the defensive positions of the 1st Battalion, Private First Class Sarapas spotted a comrade, seriously wounded, lying in an exposed position. Unhesitatingly, he left his own rock position and crawled toward the wounded soldier, constantly harried by enemy artillery and mortar shells and withering small arms fire. Pushing forward through this fire swept area, he was struck down and severely wounded by enemy machine fire. Private First Class Sarapas' forgetfulness of self in his desire to aid a wounded comrade indicates magnificent courage and nobility of character. From this engagement he was reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mr. Alvin Sarapas (Brother), 24 Newland Street, Bedford, Massachusetts.

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

JOHN (NMI) MAHER, 30834677, Private First Class, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private First Class Maher was ammunition carrier for a heavy machine gun squad. When an enemy counterattack, preceded by an intense concentration of artillery fire, disabled the other squad members, Private First Class Maher, brave heavy artillery and small arms fire, crawled toward the gun. He skillfully repaired the damaged machine gun and, though constantly harassed by mortar bursts and small arms fire, operated the weapon without assistance, firing box after box of ammunition thus warding off an enemy attack. He held his position and continued firing until he was severely wounded by the concussion from a mortar shell. His quick thinking and initiative, as well as his dauntless courage, materially assisted in crushing the enemy attack. From this engagement he was reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Gertrude S. Maher (widow), 2814 South Eight Street, Shioogan, Wisconsin.

SECTION III -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to the following named individuals:

BUDLEY W. HUDSON, 34606437, Staff Sergeant (then Corporal), Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When machine gun fire from hidden enemy emplacements severely harassed his unit Corporal Hudson volunteered to lead in a night reconnaissance patrol necessary to locate the enemy nests promptly. He deployed his men to cover him from the danger of enemy observation and crawled across the open terrain to a rock wall ahead. After the men themselves advanced to take covering positions along the wall he started to climb over. The enemy machine gun opened up thus disclosing its position. With one part of his mission accomplished, Corporal Hudson, unharmed, then led the men to the flank under cover of the wall to bypass the nest. By a repetition of the first maneuver he again succeeded, without harm to himself, in drawing fire from the companion enemy nest, hidden some 200 yards from the first. Our mortar crew, guided by the information so bravely and skillfully secured, then neutralized the enemy positions, forcing the enemy to surrender permanently. Entered the Service from Newton, North Carolina.

DOROTED H. GONZALEZ, 20802764, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Gonzales, although painfully wounded on a patrol mission several days earlier, had refused to be evacuated and had elected to stay with the company in the attack against the strongly fortified positions of ***. The route of the attack lay across exposed terrain and up terraced slopes to the well entrenched enemy. In the midst of extremely heavy enemy mortar and automatic weapons fire, Sergeant Gonzales led his squad and directed their attack. His left hand was shattered by enemy machine gun fire during the initial stages of the attack and Sergeant Gonzales again refused to be evacuated. After stopping the flow of blood with a tourniquet made from his camouflage net, he dauntlessly continued to lead his men forward to penetrate the first enemy defenses. This successful maneuver forced a large group of the enemy to retreat, thereby exposing themselves to severe fire from our troops. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

B. A. FOSTER, 30835904, Corporal, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Corporal

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R E S T R I C T E D

RESTRICTED

During the last ammunition at the main steel camp, learned that the
of the other ammunition passed him, and on an idea by using artillery
he was seriously wounded, unable to move. Although his vehicle was already
he immediately started out to aid the wounded man, driving along
subjected to severe enemy fire. By skillfully maneuvering his vehicle on the
road, Corporal Foster reached the first wounded soldier, extricated
him from the wrecked jeep, and sent him to an aid station. He then resumed his
journey. When a shell explosion threw him violently from his vehicle,
Corporal Foster dauntlessly climbed back and continued to complete his self-
assigned mission. He reached the second wounded man and, under an intense artillery
fire, carried him to a point of safety and gave aid. Displaying magnifi-
cent courage, Corporal Foster selflessly jeopardized his own life to save the
life of his wounded comrade. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

ERNEST A. SMITH, 37197932, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st
Infantry, 1st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 February 1944
in the vicinity of ~~XXX~~, ~~XXXX~~ Private First Class Grubb drove a radio jeep
in a battalion communications platoon, but when lifelines were not available he
continued to lay telephone wires. While the battalion was on hill ~~XXX~~ the line
to the aid station and the command post was broken by enemy shell fire.
and the lifelines from shell fire and anti-personnel mines hidden in the area,
by division to the lifelines of his comrades, he volunteered to help
communications. While bravely performing this important self-assigned
duty he slipped on a mine which took off his foot. Entered the Service from
~~XXX~~, ~~XXXX~~.

By command of Major General FALKNER:

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

RECEIVED:

JOHN J. DEAN

Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

RECEIVED: THE PLMS

- Adjutant General
- WFO:SA
- WFO:SA, G-1, WFO:SA (SOB)
- Adjutant, First Army
- Adjutant, First Army
- Adjutant

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