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

GENERAL ORDERS

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NO. 515

Posthumous Award of Silver Star..... I
Award of Silver Star..... II

SECTION I -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

CATARINO M. HEREDIA, 58065156, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mr. Maria F. Heredia (Father), Pecos, Texas.
ROBERT K. DEAN, 20808453, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mr. Lewis Dean (Father), Woodsville, Texas.
GABRIEL RUIZ, 38026520, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Juanita Ruiz (Mother), Route 7, Box 318, San Antonio, Texas.
CARLIS R. ATKINS, 33560584, Corporal, Company E, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Izettie Atkins (Mother), 116 Summit Street, Martinsville, Pa.
BILLY R. SMITH, 34760907, Private First Class, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Laura Smith (Mother), Route 2, Rayston, Georgia.
ROBERT G. FARNE, 35659834, Private First Class, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Juanita June Farne (Wife), Berwind, West Virginia.
HUBERT L. FREEMAN, 34768694, Private First Class, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mr. George B. Freeman (Father), Mount Airy, Georgia.
JOHN W. SULLENBERGER, 13090109, Private First Class, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mr. Grover Sullenberger (Father), Box 66, Torr, Pa.
BRYAN LINEGAR, JR., 35722872, Private, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Daisy Linegar (Mother), 1725 South Linwood Avenue, Evansville, Indiana.
JAMES M. MC GIRR, 12074624, Private, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mr. Joseph P. McGirr (Father), 25 West Circular Street, Saratoga Springs, New York.
JOSEPH T. MC NAMARA, JR., 32962032, Private, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mr. J. T. McNamara (Father), 2300 Loring Place, New York, N.Y.
JOSEPH T. MALONE, 32919026, Private, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Elizabeth Malone (Mother), 55 South Hammitage Avenue, Trenton, N. J.
ARTHUR H. METSA, 36923734, Private, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Esther Metsa (Mother), 109 13th Avenue, Baltic, Michigan.

For gallantry in action on 21 and 23 January 1944 in Italy. The 143d Infantry Regiment was ordered to attack the enemy entrenched beyond a strategic river. They attacked against artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire over ground protected by mine fields, booby traps, and barbed wire. Cover was negligible in the last 700 yards of the river approaches. Many boats were destroyed before being launched, and others were destroyed in the river by short range fire. Some occupants of the boats lost in the river were hit, and all were thrown into deep water. In the face of all obstacles, the above named enlisted men attacked with indomitable fortitude, crossed the river and penetrated deep into enemy territory. Reported savage counterattacks by the enemy, however, succeeded in

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over-running their positions. In furious fighting over a two-day period, which cost the enemy enormous casualties in killed and wounded, these men lost their lives. Their tenacity of purpose and devotion to duty against vastly superior enemy forces has created an enduring example of fighting courage.

FRANK K. STEINBERGER, 42023898, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Frances Steinberger (Mother), 202 East 11th Avenue, East Syracuse, New York.

WALTER L. FAILS, 34155069, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mr. Jim Fails (Father), R.F.D. #1, Box 25, Huntsville, Texas.

WILLIAM L. WALTERS, 42023919, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Grace Walters (Mother), Kirkville, New York.

IVAN C. STOTTS, 35931900, Private, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mr. Justine W. Stotts (Father), Spencer, West Virginia.

For gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in Italy. The above named enlisted men were among the leading elements in an attack against determinedly defended positions in a hostile town. When their company was pinned to the ground by heavy cross fire from well concealed machine gun emplacements, they stood erect to deliver fire on the enemy positions. Aware that their comrades were imperilled by the hostile fire, they selflessly exposed themselves to artillery and mortar shelling as well as the machine gun fire which was making the area in order to reduce the effectiveness of the latter emplacements. They were killed in this action while trying to save the lives of their comrades.

ROY M. SMITH, 34684374, Private, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 June 1944 in Italy. During an attack by his company against a strongly held enemy hill, Private Smith, with several other soldiers, advanced to an open field so heavily shelled that the others hesitated to continue forward into what seemed certain death. Private Smith, undaunted by the terrific dangers, went bravely on. Inspired by his courageous example the other soldiers followed him across the field. While he so gallantly led his comrades toward their objective, Private Smith was struck by fragments from a bursting shell and instantly killed. His fellows, inspired by Private Smith's valorous sacrifice, carried on to successfully complete their mission. Next of kin: Mrs. Ida Bowman Smith (Mother), Route 2, Henderson, Tennessee.

SECTION II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-15, a Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

FLOYD M. CHADRICK, 18129585, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Chickasha, Oklahoma.

JAMES E. STEVENS, 31349684, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

For gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. The above named enlisted men were guarding the left flank of their company when an enemy patrol snuggled up under cover of brush and vineyards to launch a surprise attack. The enemy made their presence known by suddenly firing machine guns and machine pistols and throwing hand grenades against the company's rear positions. Hearing the commotion, these men ran forward and joined the fire fight. Fighting desperately and bravely they killed all nine members of the attacking patrol and erased a threat that had been harassing the company for several days.

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WILLIAM J. BRATKOVICS, 33482683, Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 May 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Bratkovics volunteered to lead a patrol to make contact with the infantry regiment on the right flank of his own organization. The area through which he moved bristled with enemy machine gun and self-propelled gun positions and groups of snipers. He fought his way forward through heavy fire, covering the mile of wooded, rolling terrain which separated his own unit from the other infantry regiment. During the course of his advance he engaged several enemy forces, killed six hostile soldiers and eliminated two machine gun crews. Headless of personal safety, he completed his hazardous mission by joining the adjacent unit, then returned and reported the location of enemy installations which he had observed in the area. Entered the Service from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

LOUIS COOPERMAN, 33726451, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May and 1 June 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Cooperman was runner with the 2d Platoon of Company A. During a savage enemy attack, he continually exposed himself to the heavy hostile fire in an effort to maintain organization within the platoon. On one occasion, displaying unusual intrepidity and aggressiveness, he personally knocked out a machine gun nest and killed two of the enemy soldiers. When his radio failed to operate, he volunteered to establish contact with Company C. He pressed through an area exposed to sniper and mortar fire, continuing dauntlessly forward until he reached the company and reported information which enabled the unit to shift its lines and adjust its fire. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Maryland.

EUGENE A. HART, 35219476, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. A rifleman, Private First Class Hart was assigned to protect the right flank of his squad's outpost position on the most likely avenue of approach by attacking enemy troops. At dawn a task force of approximately 100 enemy, heavily armed with automatic weapons, attacked. They struck the squad outpost, killed two men and with automatic weapons fire and grenades forced all except Private First Class Hart and one other man to withdraw. Although the nearest friendly troops were 100 yards behind him, Private First Class Hart held his ground and with deadly accurate fire from his rifle killed four of the advancing foe. He then threw hand grenades in their midst and killed two more. This momentarily delayed their advance. Because of Private First Class Hart's determined resistance the attack was diverted from his sector and the flank he guarded was saved from a break through. Given time by his delaying actions, the company was able to rush in reinforcements and repel the assault. Entered the Service from Lancaster, Ohio.

EDWIN J. LOJESKI, 31327411, Private First Class, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Lojeski was automatic rifleman in a rifle platoon of Company F. The enemy attacked a unit to the right of the company's defensive position on a hill. Private First Class Lojeski moved with his platoon to engage the enemy. On his own initiative he moved to an open spot in sight of the enemy so that he could get a better field of fire. After effectively firing several magazines of ammunition, he was wounded in his left arm by machine gun bullets. Returning the fire he promptly knocked out the opposing weapon. He then pulled his gun to another position and turned it over to the assistant gunner, but while the other man fired he stayed and kept magazines full. After the attack was beaten off, his wound was dressed, but Private First Class Lojeski refused to be evacuated until the next

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day because of the threat of another attack against his deployed company. Entered the Service from Hartford, Connecticut.

ODIS W. OLDFIELD, 38025523, Private First Class, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in Italy. Private Oldfield drove the lead jeep in a column of vehicles carrying weapons to Company M for an attack against an important enemy-held city. The foot troops turned off the road and the carriers were mis-directed down the main route to the city. Five hundred yards down the way they were suddenly subjected to heavy machine gun fire that swept the road and forced all personnel in the vehicles to take cover. Private Oldfield tried to draw his rifle from its holder and return the fire, but every time he reached for it a burst of bullets forced him down. Knowing the company must have its weapons for the attack, Private Oldfield reached into his vehicle, started the motor with his hand and, jumping in, he whirled it around and dashed out of the danger zone. Machine gun fire sprayed his vehicle, blowing out two tires, but he continued on and got the ammunition and weapons to the company in time for the attack. Entered the Service from Kerrville, Texas.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

Vincent H. Lockhart
VINCENT H. LOCKHART
Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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