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

21 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 149

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 each of the following named individuals:

WILLIAM S. ROGERS, 0308918, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944, in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*, Italy. Assigned the mission of transporting a foot bridge to the \*\*\*\* River during the bitterly contested crossing, Lieutenant Rogers skillfully led his men through an intense concentration of enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire and reached the bank where he assisted engineer troops in erecting the bridge. Immediately upon its completion he reorganized his men; and encouraging them by his coolness under the heavy fire, he led them in a fierce assault over the bridge and against the well fortified enemy emplacements on the hostile side. While spearheading this drive, Lieutenant Rogers was wounded by mortar fragments; and while being evacuated he was again wounded by the explosion of an artillery shell near him. He never died from the wounds incurred in this engagement. His aggressive leadership, loyalty, and exemplary devotion to duty inspired all who witnessed his deeds and materially assisted the crossings of supporting units. Next of kin: Unknown.

JOHN F. SCHRAGE, 01311546, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 December 1943 in the vicinity of Mount \*\*\*\*, Italy. As a platoon leader of Company G, Lieutenant Schrage was assigned a defensive sector along the positions on the mountain side. To direct the fire from his mortars effectively, he established an observation post well forward of the platoon position in an area which was constantly subjected to heavy enemy fire. Several assaults on his defensive positions were frustrated by the effective mortar fire directed from this observation post, and, consequently, the enemy inflicted many casualties in repeated attempts to knock it out. Realizing the vital importance of maintaining the post, Lieutenant Schrage went forward to personally supervise its operation. Displaying splendid leadership and extraordinary courage, he remained at the observation post, opposing numerous enemy attempts to destroy the position, until he was severely wounded by a direct hit on the post. Refusing to be evacuated until the communications line was restored, Lieutenant Schrage died of his wounds before his evacuation was effected. His gallantry in the face of extreme danger and even death greatly inspired his men to a greater display of bravery in repelling the enemy attacks. Next of kin: Mrs Mary F. Schrage, (Mother), 417 Saint Lawrence Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

GEORGE D. YATES, 20807888, Technical Sergeant, Company, 143d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*\*. The 143d Infantry Regiment was ordered to cross the \*\*\*\* River and attack the enemy entrenched in the terrain beyond. The attack was launched against the enemy's artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire across the river.

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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 leaving 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, Sergeant Yates with his comrades pressed home the attack with indomitable fortitude, crossing the river and penetrating deeply into enemy held territory. Subsequently, repeated savage counter-attacks 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, he lost his life. His magnificent fortitude, tenacity of purpose and devotion to duty against vastly superior enemy forces constitute an outstanding example of fighting courage that will long endure as an inspiration to all who witness it or have knowledge of his valorous deeds. Next of kin: Mrs Sarah Bertel Yates (Mother), 1092 Avenue C, Beaumont, Texas.

MORRIS A. CARTER, 20803117, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. When his platoon became separated during the bitterly opposed landing and establishment of the beachhead, Sergeant Carter organized the men around him into a fighting team and led them in a fierce assault against enemy machine gun emplacements which were inflicting many casualties in the area. Eight enemy tanks came out to meet the attack whereupon he skillfully deployed his men along a canal and engaged these formidable foes. Calmly directing his men and encouraging them in the face of the heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Carter constantly exposed himself while organizing a defensive fire with rifle grenades and rockets. During the intense fighting which ensued, he was fatally wounded. His magnificent daring and aggressive leadership inspired the successful routing of the tank attack and undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his men. Next of kin: Mr Ross Carter (Father), 322 Hickory Street, Luling, Texas.

JESS W. RICHARDSON, 37099539, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 22 February 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Private First Class Richardson was radio operator at the battalion command post when the position was subjected to furious enemy artillery shelling. Unable to operate the radio without remaining in the command car, he staunchly refused to leave the car for a position of safety and maintained communications with the forward observer and the battalion liaison officer. Aware that the maintenance of contact was vital for the success of the operations, Private First Class Richardson continued working with the radio until an artillery shell struck the command car and killed him. His contempt for personal security while doing his job demonstrated the nobility and the strength of his character. Next of kin: Mrs Lucy Richardson (Mother), Route #1, Van Buren, Arkansas.

WALTER H. DAME, 31080651, Private, Headquarters Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 September 1943 on Mount \*\*\*, Italy. Assigned to maintain an observation post overlooking an important valley approach, Private Dame fearlessly withstood an intense artillery and tank barrage concentrated in his area to accurately observe and report hostile movements. Alertly detecting the approach of enemy tanks under cover of the heavy barrage, he daringly risked the hazardous fire to move forward from the observation post to a point from which he could have an unobstructed view of their position. Though he was fired upon directly by the guns of the formidable tanks, Private Dame remained in his position and calmly directed artillery fire which effectively broke up the impending attack.

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He was later fatally wounded in a subsequent engagement. His outstanding initiative and exemplary devotion to duty contributed materially to the successful defense of the sector and resulted in serious losses to the enemy. Next of kin: Mrs Eva Dame (Mother), 179 Holden Street, Holden, Massachusetts.

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:

JAMES E. TAYLOR, 0370731, Lieutenant Colonel, (then Major), 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Major Taylor, as executive officer of the battalion, was assigned the responsibility of bringing ashore fourteen gun and ammunition trucks. Through a fury of machine gun and mortar fire, he led the trucks onto the beach under cover of a smoke screen and, by masterful leadership and skillful organization of his men, succeeded in putting a seven-gun battery into action against the enemy, thus supporting the infantry forces. Major Taylor, heedless of the dangers to which he was exposed, moved about tirelessly, assisting in unloading the pieces and supervising the selection of howitzer positions. In spite of the confusion engendered by ceaseless enemy artillery and mortar fire and intermittent bombings and strafings from enemy aircraft, he maintained control among the men under his command and constantly encouraged and advised them. As a result of his magnificent leadership and his retention of calm good judgment under hazardous circumstances, a tank attack against the center of the infantry forces was repelled and five tanks were destroyed. Entered the Service from Kerens, Texas.

JOHN A. BERQUIST, 01289032, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. When the 1st Battalion was unexpectedly moved into positions on Hill \*\*\*, the problem of organization was rendered most difficult by the intense enemy artillery barrage and the freezing temperatures and flurries of snow in the darkness of night. Captain Berquist, assigned the task of uniting all personnel in the rear area into an efficient and smoothly functioning group, constantly exposed himself to the furious shelling, issuing calm and effective orders, collecting stragglers, and setting up his command post. Heedless of the extreme danger of his position, he disdained shelter and continued directing and controlling his men. By his example of courage and vigor and intelligent leadership he encouraged the men to redouble their efforts and complete their tasks in spite of the deadly enemy fire. Entered the Service from Mankato, Minnesota.

BURNS T. BAIRD, 01305179, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. During an attack on strongly fortified enemy positions, Lieutenant Baird courageously led his platoon into the inferno of enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun and nebelwerfer fire across the treacherous \*\*\* River. Although wounded in the assault, he continued to press the attack, disdainful of physical pain and contemptuous of personal danger. Displaying superb qualities of leadership and courage, Lieutenant Baird skillfully controlled his men and greatly encouraged them by his example of devotion to duty and extraordinary fearlessness. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

JOHN J. WALSH, 01310903, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 19 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Ordered to knock out an enemy machine gun which had pinned down two platoons of his company,

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Lieutenant Walsh led his men in a flanking movement against the weapon. As he was approaching the gun emplacement, an enemy mortar suddenly registered on their positions, and he was wounded by the deadly accurate fire. Staunchly refusing evacuation, Lieutenant Walsh remained where he fell, constantly exposed to the furious enemy shelling; and directed his men to places of safety. By his exemplary conduct in the face of grave danger, he prevented possible casualties among the men under his command. Entered the Service from Los Angeles, California

PAUL R. DAVIDSON, 33282912, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 3 December and 16 December 1943 in the vicinity of Mount \*\*\* and Mount \*\*\*, Italy. While he was caught in a heavy enemy artillery barrage during an assault in which he was assigned as radio operator, Corporal Davidson immediately left a position of cover to go to the aid of a soldier whom he saw wounded. Skillfully rendering medical assistance while exposed to the increasingly hazardous fire, he was able to successfully evacuate the wounded man. He then courageously continued forward to an advance observation post from which he calmly directed accurate artillery fire against the enemy emplacements. On 16 December 1943 when assigned a similar mission, he determinedly pushed forward even when badly hurt by the concussion of a shell which exploded a few feet from him and disabled his radio. Upon reaching the observation post, Corporal Davidson displayed outstanding initiative under devastating fire by carefully building one good radio out of the two damaged ones at the position, thereby making possible the effective resumption of operations at that sector. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

By command of Major General WALKER:

OFFICIAL:

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

*Vincent M. Lockhart*

VINCENT M. LOCKHART

Captain, Adjutant General's Department  
Assistant Adjutant General

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