

R E S T R I C T E D

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

12 November 1943

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 25

SECTION I - POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded the following named officer:

JOHN F. SPRAGUE, 0405776, Captain, 36th Infantry, for gallantry in action on the afternoon of 10 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. The 1st Battalion staff, of which Captain Sprague was a member, went forward to the point of the leading company and was pinned down by intense enemy machine gun fire. Captain Sprague, after moving forward and making a rapid estimate of the situation, was unable to locate the position of the machine guns. He then ordered a machine gun section of Company A to be placed into position and instructed the crew to observe to the front while he dealt the hostile fire. Moving from his cover with utter disregard for his own safety, Captain Sprague opened fire in the general location of the enemy, who immediately directed their fire at him, enabling our machine gunners to locate the position. The enemy machine gun was destroyed, thereby assisting the battalion to continue on its vital mission to secure the high ground surrounding ****, where Captain Sprague was later fatally wounded while on a reconnaissance. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. George Able Sprague, Mother, 319 East 12th Street, Dallas, Texas.

SECTION II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star is awarded each of the following named officers and enlisted men:

JOHN C. MORRISSEY, JR, 01288097, First Lieutenant, 36th Infantry, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. Lieutenant Morrissey volunteered to lead a patrol of three men on a dangerous mission to destroy two enemy machine guns that were laying heavy fire on his company's position. The accomplishment of this mission required that Lieutenant Morrissey lead his men through a draw which was under heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire. In proceeding up the draw, he observed the enemy machine gun crews were moving forward with ammunition and weapons to his flank. He directed the fire of his patrol against the enemy, who were taken by surprise and completely disorganized by this timely fire, thereby accomplishing his mission. He suffered a facial wound but continued in action. After returning to his company, Lieutenant Morrissey immediately took charge of the troops in his sector, organized defensive positions and repelled a surprise attack by the enemy, supported by heavy mortar and machine gun fire. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from St. Louis, Missouri.

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CHARLES L. NAVARRETE, 02055762, Second Lieutenant, (then First Sergeant, Company B, ** Infantry), ** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Lieutenant Navarrete was leading a patrol of six men in advance of his company when the patrol was pinned to the ground by enemy machine gun fire. His signal projector was knocked from his hand by a burst of machine gun fire and he was struck above the eyes by ricochet from another burst. Despite his painful wound and the added danger of an approaching enemy tank, he destroyed the enemy machine gun nest with a hand grenade. Cleverly using a low stone wall and the dangerously near hostile tank for cover and with utter disregard for his own safety, he moved his patrol into more secure positions and later led them to rejoin the company. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from El Paso, Texas.

RICHARD L. PASS, 20802055, First Sergeant, Company B, ** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Sergeant Pass was a member of a boat team being brought ashore in the third wave. When about 500 to 700 yards from the beach, his assault boat collided with another boat. On orders from the officer in charge of the craft, the troops removed their equipment and, in doing so one man accidentally discharged the hook on his life belt. Before he could replace the hook the boat sank, causing him to fall out it. Sergeant Pass, observing this scene in his position and realizing that he would drown, completely disregarded his own personal safety and gave them his own life belt, thus saving his life. The troops were in the water about one half hour, under constant shelling by enemy artillery. Sergeant Pass continued to move about in the water, assisting his men and making several who were having difficulty with their life belts and equipment. His cool determination, exceptional physical stamina, and presence of mind kept the men from becoming unduly excited and inspired all who witnessed his actions. All men eventually were rescued by another boat. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the service from San Antonio, Texas.

FLOYD A. BILNOSKI, 38051796, Sergeant, Company E, ** Infantry, for gallantry in action in the afternoon of 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Sergeant Bilnoski, then a member of the 3d Platoon of Company G, ** Infantry, acting on his own initiative, moved with his anti-tank rocket launcher to the left flank of his platoon under intense assault fire from attacking enemy tanks to advantage point in front of the front line positions. From this forward position he, unassisted, fired two rounds from his rocket launcher and knocked out a tank which was threatening to cut off and destroy his platoon. Exposing himself dangerously he moved to another position about 100 yards away under heavy mortar fire, and again unassisted, fired two more rounds from his rocket launcher, destroying an armored car which was bearing down upon him. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Willis, Texas.

WILLIAM F. CHAMBERLAIN, 20805617, Priv to First Class, Company G, ** Infantry, for gallantry in action on the morning of 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of Cassino, Italy. Both platoons of Company G and one platoon of Company F were held up behind a concrete irrigation ditch with the only avenue of movement later lying along the ditch. A battery of enemy artillery was firing 200 yards to the right and seven enemy tanks were firing verandah within 500 yards of the left front. The platoons were under a continuous fire from the tanks. Priv to First

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is Klimentzoff, mortar gunner in the weapons platoon, Company G, voluntarily risked his own life with utter disregard for his own safety under heavy enemy fire, carrying his bomb mortar which had no sights. He brought unaimed fire to bear on the enemy artillery battery, and scored a hit on one of the artillery pieces, causing the entire battery to withdraw. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Snyder, Texas.

J. C. (IO) ADAMS, 38097329, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 588th Central Postal Directory, 88th Central Postal Directory, for gallantry in action on 12 September 1943 in the vicinity of Foggia, Italy. Private First Class Adams, a truck driver, was sent by his battalion commander to locate and bring forward a truck load of ammunition which was badly needed to replenish the depleted supply. The numerically superior enemy force had succeeded in partially surrounding the battalion's position and the mission required unusual skill in passing through the enemy positions. Upon reaching a fence several hundred yards from the battalion command post the members of the patrol were challenged by an enemy soldier who, speaking English, ordered them to drop their weapons. One of five other Americans who had been deceived by his representing himself as an American. Although only about ten feet from the challenger, who had the machine gunner with a submachine gun, Private First Class Adams, demonstrating unusual presence of mind and magnificent courage, fired his weapon, striking the enemy soldier in the shoulder. Acting quickly to prevent his opponent from recovering, he fired again, fatally wounding his would-be captor. His courageous action with complete disregard for his own life prevented the capture of the patrol and freed five of his American comrades from captivity. Private First Class Adams then continued and was successful in the accomplishment of his mission. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Brownsville, Texas.

SECTION III - AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Soldier's name is awarded the following named enlistment term:

U. S. (IO, CHL3646, 20804619, Corporal, Service Company, 2nd Infantry, 1st
Marine Division 8 July 1949 in the vicinity of 2nd, Algeria. Corporal Childers,
standing near where a pipeline gas line were being mixed for use in a flame
burner, observed a flammable liquid on the ground catching burst into flames from
the mixture. With utter disregard for his own safety, Corporal Childers threw
himself stricken man to the ground and extinguished the fire with his bare
hands and the use of foam. His courage and quick thinking and ability saved
the man's life. His heroic action reflects great credit upon himself and the
United States Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Cross Plains, Texas.

1. General WALKER:

CLAYTON E. KELL,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

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