

RESTRICTED

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

19 April 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 100

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SECTION I -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

RICHARD C. DeCHENE, 37577249, Private, Company E, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Private DeChene was serving as an ammunition carrier for a light machine gun squad of Company E, which had the mission of crossing the \*\*\* River and attacking heavily defended enemy positions. Under cover of darkness the company crossed the swift and treacherous stream and advanced under devastating machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. His squad then concentrated a large volume of fire into enemy positions until their ammunition was exhausted. Private DeChene returned across the area covered by withering enemy fire to the river bank where he secured the needed ammunition. Returning, he found his squad leader and gunner wounded by shell fragments. Taking command of the group, he reorganized and placed the gun again into action and despite the fact that the enemy had located his position and were firing upon him, he successfully released deadly and effective fire into the enemy stronghold, inflicting heavy casualties. He continued this calm display of determination until he was fatally wounded. His outstanding leadership under fire, courage and devotion to duty was an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Agnes J. DeChene (mother), 5242 34th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

WILLIS G. BELL, 36247870, Private, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 5 December 1943 on Mount \*\*\*, Italy. Private Bell, a member of an advance group laying tracer tape for a pack trail necessary to furnish supplies to embattled infantry troops, was confronted with two miles of torturous open terrain under continuous intense enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire which had caused other operations to stop. With outstanding courage he skillfully worked his way forward through the concentrated enemy barrage, continuing his mission despite the extremely hazardous risk and carefully placing the tape over the best available route. So effectively did he accomplish his mission that rations were carried that night over the trail which his aggressiveness and staunch determination had made possible. Subsequently he was killed in action with the enemy. Next of kin: Mrs. Margaret M. Campbell (mother), Campbellport, Wisconsin.

SECTION II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

ANTHONY (NMI) STANICH, 37301775, Private First Class, Company A, 142d Infantry

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Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on ~~\*\*\*~~, ~~Italy~~. Company A, after first receiving an intense enemy artillery and mortar barrage, was subjected to a strong enemy attack. Moving forward to engage the enemy, Private First Class Stanich encountered an enemy machine gun position which he could not reach with hand grenades. Perceiving the hazard it presented to his unit, he made his way back to secure a rifle grenade launcher and ammunition. Upon his own initiative he skillfully worked his way forward in the face of intense enemy small arms fire to a more advantageous point and fired two rounds into the enemy emplacement, completely destroying it. His aggressive determination and devotion to duty materially aided his organization in successfully repelling this determined enemy counter-attack. Entered the Service from Chrisholm, Mississippi.

ROBERT B. HUGHES, 35277276, Private First Class, Company H, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 February 1944, in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*~~, ~~Italy~~. Private First Class Hughes was assigned the mission of laying a wire line from a mortar to the observation post in conjunction with the advance of rifle units in their assault on the enemy occupied Hill ~~\*\*\*~~. He advanced with his platoon, following the leading elements, under intense hostile fire from the right flank. When a rifleman of Company L was wounded by sniper fire, Private First Class Hughes exposed himself and with unerring accuracy, shot and killed the enemy sniper and at the same time caused two other snipers to flee for safety. He then continued on his initial assignment. His outstanding calmness and courageous initiative were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deed. Entered the Service from Columbus, Ohio.

FREDERICK A. BAKERS, 36236404, Private First Class,  
Company M, 142d Infantry Regiment,  
Entered the Service from Porterfield, Wisconsin.

JOHN F. BRICK, 33420398, Private,  
Company M, 142d Infantry Regiment,  
Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For gallantry in action on 2 February 1944 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*~~, ~~Italy~~. The 3d Battalion was halted during its advance on ~~\*\*\*~~ by intense enemy automatic weapons fire. As assistant machine gunners, these two men were ordered to assist in mounting a heavy machine gun in an effort to neutralize the enemy fire, which was inflicting heavy casualties in the 3d Battalion sector. Mounting the gun in a position devoid of cover but affording the most advantageous field of fire, they dauntlessly delivered fire on the enemy positions and neutralized several machine guns, giving the rifle companies an opportunity to maneuver. They continued to fire with devastating accuracy, although under constant enemy small arms and mortar fire, until a direct hit by a mortar shell destroyed their gun and seriously wounded them. Their gallant action reflects great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

WILLIAM P. ALSWORTH, 38036584, Private First Class, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*~~, ~~Italy~~. During the attack on Hill ~~\*\*\*~~, Company F became subjected to withering enemy rifle and machine gun fire, killing Private First Class Alsworth's platoon leader. Cognizant of the seriousness of this situation, Private First

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Class Alsworth, on his own initiative and without orders, immediately assumed command of the platoon. He skillfully deployed his group and directed the fire of his men on the enemy emplacements. Although exposed to intense enemy fire, with utter disregard for his own safety, he continually moved about his platoon's positions, controlling and directing the fire in such an outstanding manner that the enemy was forced to withdraw several machine gun positions, allowing the company to complete its assigned mission. During this action, he was wounded, but refused to be evacuated. This display of splendid leadership and outstanding devotion to duty, despite a painful wound, was an inspiration to every member of his platoon and was instrumental in the successful occupation of the company's objective. Entered the Service from Breckinridge, Texas.

OKEY L. EDGE, 39026608, Private, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 27 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. Private Edge accompanied his squad on a mission of preparing a gap in an anti-personnel mine field from a highway to the banks of the ~~\*\*~~ river. When the squad reached a point in the mine field about 200 yards from the river, a mine exploded, seriously wounding one man and revealing the position of the group to an enemy machine gun nest on the opposite bank. Despite the intense machine gun fire that was immediately directed upon him, Private Edge remained with the wounded soldier, rendering first aid treatment and assisting in carrying him from the area under fire. As the squad withdrew, another mine exploded, killing the previously wounded man and wounding four additional soldiers, including Private Edge. Although suffering intensely from face wounds, Private Edge selflessly continued rendering assistance to his comrades, and under continuing intense fire, assisted in their removal to a place of safety. Entered the Service from San Francisco, California.

WILLIAM J. PIERCE, 37401427, Private, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 on ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. During a determined enemy attack on the 1st Battalion, Private Pierce was on an outpost position in advance of his squad. As the enemy moved two machine guns forward to a position from which they could fire upon the entire platoon, Private Pierce leaped out of his shelter in order to bring more effective fire upon the enemy, and succeeded in killing one of the enemy gunners with his rifle, while another member of his squad disposed of the remaining gunner. In the meantime, enemy riflemen had infiltrated to within close range, and although exposed to the intense enemy small arms fire, Private Pierce remained in this hazardous position and with unerring accuracy, killed four more of the onrushing attackers. Entered the Service from St. Louis, Missouri.

CHESTER C. VAN DE VELDE, 36319297, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 September 1943 on ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. With communications knocked out and enemy tanks threatening to break through the defensive position occupied by his unit, Technician Fifth Grade Van De Velde volunteered to carry a message for help to tank destroyer units over a mile away. His route lay over difficult terrain swept by intense fire and through the line of formidable enemy tanks. He had raced about a mile over the winding, exposed trail when an enemy tank crew spotted him and attempted to intercept him with machine gun fire. Bluding these perils, he accomplished his self-assigned mission and brought the needed help that materially assisted in smashing the enemy attack. Entered the Service from Princeton, Illinois.

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SECTION III — POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 300-45, and Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the Second Silver Star, is posthumously awarded the following named individual:

GENE L. WILSON, 01308572, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13-14 December 1943 on ~~\*\*\*, Italy~~. Pressing an attack against strongly held enemy positions, Lieutenant Wilson skillfully led his company over the tortuous terrain and through an intense concentration of artillery, mortar and small arms fire. When he made contact with the main body of the enemy, his leading platoon was pinned down by heavy machine gun fire at close range. With outstanding courage he fearlessly moved among his men encouraging them and consolidating his forces for a daring assault against the enemy position. Inspiring his men by his leadership and his cool determination in the face of the sweeping enemy fire, he drove forward at the head of a sudden fierce attack which hurled the enemy from its position and forced its withdrawal. While so bravely serving, Lieutenant Wilson was fatally wounded. Next of kin: Mrs. Eva Wilson (Wife), 34 G Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

*John J. Deane*  
JOHN J. DEANE  
Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department  
Adjutant General

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