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

11 March 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

WC. 69

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:

OSCAR B. COLLEY, JR., O1175978, Second Lieutenant, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 12 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During a determined enemy counterattack on positions newly occupied by infantry troops, which Lieutenant Colley's battalion was supporting, communications with the forward observers were completely knocked out. He volunteered to go forward over the rugged, difficult terrain and attempt to establish radio communications until the wire lines could be repaired. The route to the forward observation post was under heavy enemy fire; and as he worked his way ahead, he was repeatedly warned by troops in the vicinity that to attempt to go further would be extremely dangerous. With outstanding courage and thinking only of the need of the infantry units for artillery support, he continued forward through the holocaust of enemy fire toward his objective. When almost within reach of his goal, he was hit by enemy small arms fire and instantly killed. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mr. Oscar B. Colley, Sr. (Father), 56 Essex Street, Swampscott, Massachusetts.

DON F. GOODWIN, W2108270, Warrant Officer Junior Grade, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 November 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Elements of the 143d Infantry were in contact with the enemy on *** and *** and the maintenance of communications to these units required great skill. Warrant Officer Goodwin, Assistant communications officer, demonstrated remarkable courage and unusual stamina by maintaining and checking vital communication lines over hazardous, steep, slippery trails in ceaseless rain for two days and nights without rest while being subjected to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire. To insure the efficiency of communications he established a switching central near the front line units, since the approach to the front line units and the distance from Regimental Command Post was great and difficult to allow direct communication. Later he found that his staff and wire party were cold, wet, and exhausted from long hours of line patrolling so he dispersed his crew to a place of safety and personally kept open the vital lines of communication. In so doing he was killed by a direct hit by enemy shell fire. Through his dogged determination and courage under extremely hazardous conditions and his untiring, selfless devotion to duty, he materially assisted in the success of the operation. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Josephine Goodwin (Wife), 2020 Flint Avenue, Waco, Texas.

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DELMER GABBARD, 35267210, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. After the establishment of the beachhead, Private First Class Gabbard moved forward with his company to its assigned objective and while doing so encountered strong enemy sniper resistance. He materially assisted in wiping out this enemy pocket of resistance by eliminating several and routing the others. Shortly thereafter, Private First Class Gabbard observed an enemy tank approaching and realizing that it constituted a serious threat to the security of his comrades and to the successful accomplishment of their mission, he dauntlessly and single handedly engaged the formidable enemy tank. In so doing he was killed. His bold display of magnificent courage, dogged determination, and devotion to duty in the face of an overwhelmingly superior adversary inspired all who witnessed his deed. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Julia Gabbard (Mother), Elkatawa, Kentucky.

THOMAS A. MENDICINO, 33057629, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 November 1943 on ***, Italy. When low clouds and fog obstructed his view, Private First Class Mendicino voluntarily moved his observation post forward a distance of 100 yards to a position from which he could keep a close watch on the enemy who was grouping for an attack. His new position was immediately and continuously raked by artillery and mortar fire; but he steadfastly maintained it, directing accurate and effective artillery concentrations on the enemy until he was fatally wounded. His outstanding courage and valiant determination were an inspiration to those who witnessed his deed and materially contributed to the breaking up of the enemy attack. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Frances Mendicino (Mother), 92 Belmont Avenue, Carbondale, Pennsylvania.

SECTION II — AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

REX E. PINKLEY, 0303323, Major, 143d Infantry, for gallantry in action on the morning of 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. As the regiment was making its initial landing, heavy concentrated artillery, mortar and machine gun fire covered the positions causing sections to become confused and disorganized. Finding an abandoned 81mm Mortar, Major Pinkley, Regimental S-3, with utter disregard for his own safety and in full view of the enemy, immediately set it in position, organized a crew and personally directed the beginning of the fire on enemy positions which eventually knocked them out. Inspired by the heroic action and display of calm aggressive leadership displayed by Major Pinkley, the men of this sector advanced rapidly and gained their objective. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Carthage, Missouri.

ERMAN M. NEWMAN, 0357207, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Captain Newman was commanding officer of the 1st Battalion which was charged with the mission of crossing the *** river and establishing positions in areas heavily defended by the enemy. The attack was launched under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire, across the deep, fast flowing river and over ground further

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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. When enemy artillery action destroyed boats and caused casualties among the guides, Captain Newman, with outstanding calmness and exceptional ability, swiftly reorganized plans for the attack and personally supervised the approach of his battalion to the crossing. He exposed himself constantly to the holocaust of fire over a period of more than five hours in accomplishing the crossing of the river. During this time, he reorganized units that had suffered heavy casualties and encouraged them to carry on with the plans of the crossing. His outstanding fortitude, determination and untiring efforts, with utter disregard for his personal safety, greatly inspired all members of his command. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

THEODORE H. ANDREWS, 0365318, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Captain Andrews commanded Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, while the battalion was in a defensive position in the mountains near ***. For four days the Battalion Command Post had been subjected to fierce enemy artillery and mortar fire. The Battalion communications officer and the Battalion S-3 both were wounded and evacuated, whereupon Captain Andrews assumed the responsibility of these positions in addition to the adjutant's duties. Exposed to heavy artillery and mortar fire, he checked positions and communication lines, kept his linemen on the job, and at all times had communications with all echelons. During a heavy enemy barrage on the command post, he was completely buried with dirt and rocks thrown into his fox hole. After being dug out he immediately walked among his men giving them encouragement and coordinating his command. All of his officers were wounded and evacuated, but he carried on, keeping control of his company and maintaining their positions, thus materially assisting the battalion to consolidate its forces and take its objective. His courageous, gallant and aggressive leadership under enemy fire greatly inspired his men. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Caldwell, Texas.

CHARLES L. HOWELL, 35415032, Staff Sergeant (then Corporal), Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Company G was subjected to a severe concentration of artillery and mortar fire. Corporal Howell, perceiving that one of his comrades had been seriously wounded and was lying exposed in the continued fire, dauntlessly crawled forward from his position of comparative safety to rescue the man. As he was dragging his wounded comrade to the protection of a rock wall, a shell landed nearby, seriously wounding Corporal Howell, but disregarding the pain, he courageously continued with his self-assigned mission and brought the man to shelter. His fearlessness, initiative and outstanding courage greatly inspired all who witnessed his deed and undoubtedly saved the life of a fellow soldier. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Clarington, Ohio.

WILLIAM B. WALKER, Private, 20815102, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 23 November 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Walker, telephone operator with a forward observer section of the 3d Battalion, on his initiative during a severe artillery and mortar shelling left his place of safety to install a vital telephone circuit. During the time that the circuit was

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being installed, Private Walker was wounded and despite the wound he continued his work with utter disregard for his personal safety. Upon completion of the installation he went to the aid station, where the medical officer listed him for evacuation. Private Walker insisted that he be permitted to go back to his unit. During subsequent operations he accomplished his duties in spite of the painful wound. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Weatherford, Texas.

JOHN (NHI) SOSNOWITZ, 32301415, Private, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 to 15 December 1943 on ***, Italy. Private Sosnowitz volunteered for a dangerous patrol over rugged and treacherous terrain into an enemy occupied area during an attack on well-defended enemy positions. Encountering both friendly and enemy artillery and mortar fire, and skillfully eluding enemy patrols, he successfully completed three such missions alertly maintaining all night vigils in enemy territory and accurately reporting enemy activity. While returning from his fourth patrol Private Sosnowitz was seriously wounded by shell fragments; but despite the pain, he dauntlessly carried out the mission. His great courage, dogged determination and devotion to duty inspired all who witnessed his deeds. His gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Sayreville, New Jersey.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:


JOHN C. DEANE
Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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