

RESTRICTED

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

Rev 7 June 44
W. E. L. S. M.

18 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 146

Posthumous Award of Silver Star	I
✓ Award of Silver Star	II
Posthumous Award of Oak Leaf Cluster	III

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:

JOHN C. CONNELL, 12051179, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, 1-27. Tec 5 Connell was assigned as a code clerk operating in the rear battalion command post. In the absence of messengers, he volunteered to carry a vital message to a forward unit through an intense artillery and mortar barrage. While the remainder of the personnel were crouched in their fox holes, Tec 5 Connell left his place of safety and started forward with the message, braving the hail of shells. He pressed on until he was struck down and killed by a bursting shell. The exemplary courage and extraordinary selflessness which he displayed in sacrificing his life to perform a necessary task inspired his comrades to emulate his intrepidity and nobility. Next of kin: Mr. John Connell (Father), 155 Greenpoint Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

CHARLES (NMI) KNIPP, JR., 35266971, Private First Class, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, 1-27. Private First Class Knipp was a runner from the company command post to the reserve platoon as the assault company attacked enemy positions in the vicinity of ***. Displaying great physical stamina and fortitude, he kept the company commander in contact with the reserve platoon as the company moved out and began the attack. This had to be accomplished over extremely rugged terrain, through heavy mud, in the cold and rain, and through continuous heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. During the attack, it became necessary to commit the reserve platoon. Private First Class Knipp was entrusted to get the order through to the platoon to move into action according to previously made plans. In the midst of continued intense enemy fire, he made his way over the exposed terrain, delivered the message and while so returning to the company command post for further orders, was killed by enemy artillery fire. His aggressive vigor, magnificent courage, and devotion to duty materially assisted in the success of the attack, and greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Bertha Knipp (Mother), Olive Hill, Kentucky.

ARTHUR J. RYNIER, 33235841, Private First Class, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, 1-27. While Private First Class Rynier was assigned to company headquarters as a runner, the headquarters position was the target of an intense mortar barrage that lasted over two hours. Throughout the barrage he remained on duty at the telephone and maintained unbroken communications with the platoons and battalion headquarters.

- 1 -

(over)

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

Constantly jarred by the furious shelling, he was, on one instance, blasted from his fox hole by a shell burst in the vicinity of his position. In spite of the deafening noise of the explosions and the extreme danger to which he was exposed, Private First Class Rynier courageously and calmly continued his work until he was fatally wounded by a mortar shell. His intrepidity in the face of deadly fire and his determination to do his job at all costs to himself greatly inspired his comrades. Next of kin: Mrs. Elsie Rynier (Mother), Paradise, 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:

FRANCIS J. GORMAN, 01289068, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. As commander of Company A, Lieutenant Gorman led his unit across the *** River in an assault on violently defended enemy positions. Exposed to furious enemy shelling and small arms fire, he was severely wounded by a mortar shell burst. In spite of intense pain, he staunchly refused to be evacuated and continued to direct his company in the assault although his wounds prevented the use of his legs. Entered the Service from Lynn, Massachusetts.

RICHARD J. PLISKA, 01306947, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. As leader of the first platoon of Company A, Lieutenant Pliska courageously led his men across the *** River in the face of intense enemy shelling and continuous machine gun and rifle fire. Although painfully wounded in the crossing, he continued to direct his men in the assault on enemy positions, displaying qualities of extraordinary fearlessness and splendid leadership. By inspiring the men to a greater display of bravery and aggressiveness, he aided materially in establishing a bridgehead on the enemy side of the river. Entered the Service from Madison, Wisconsin.

DAVID M. WALKER, 01298322, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Leading the assault platoon of his company in an attack on strongly fortified positions across the treacherous *** River, Lieutenant Walker was severely wounded in the leg. Although bleeding profusely, he disdained evacuation and continued to lead his platoon through the heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire and the withering blasts from enemy machine guns. By ignoring the pain of his wounds and the extreme danger of his position, he maintained control of the advance elements of his company during the attack and inspired the men of his platoon to redouble their efforts against the enemy. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

MONT E R. LEE, 20813571, Staff Sergeant, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Lee was assigned to an artillery forward observer section attached to the 2d Battalion whose mission was to establish a bridgehead across the *** River. When the section crossed the river with the infantry, enemy resistance was so violent that it was ordered back across the *** to a position near the infantry command post. While a plan of attack was being formulated, the forward observer was killed by a sniper. Displaying extraordinary aggressiveness, Sergeant Lee assumed command of the remainder of the section and skillfully organized it into a coordinated and efficiently working unit. Ignoring the furious enemy artillery, mortar and

R E S T R I C T E D

small arms fire which constantly imperilled him, he tirelessly directed effective artillery fire against the enemy for ten hours without relief. By his unfaltering calmness in the face of great danger and by his efficiency in directing the work, Sergeant Lee was instrumental in giving the attacking infantry much needed support from the artillery. Entered the Service from Lubbock, Texas.

EDWARD L. SCHMALRIED, 38036069, Staff Sergeant, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19-20 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When the leading rifle elements of his unit became pinned down by intense enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, Sergeant Schmalried, a mortar section leader, daringly moved forward to the foremost position to establish an observation post from which to direct supporting fire against the hostile emplacements. Calmly facing the heavy fire sweeping the area, he accurately obtained deadly concentrations which wiped out two machine gun nests and then contacted friendly artillery to neutralize strongly fortified positions against which his guns could not bring maximum effectiveness. Later it became necessary to withdraw from the area because of the numerically superior enemy forces; but Sergeant Schmalried determinedly maintained his observation post to deliver protective covering fire for the retreating troops. Finally returning to our lines after his communications were knocked out by the hostile barrage, he repeatedly exposed himself while assisting the evacuation of wounded members of his section. Entered the Service from Mansfield, Texas.

ANTONIO (NMI) MORENO, 38025259, Private, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 November 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Moreno, as point man in a six man night reconnaissance patrol advanced across a valley in the direction of the village until the party halted to observe the activity around an enemy command post. When three enemy officers unexpectedly approached them, four members of the patrol separated from the group in an attempt to capture the officers. Although fully aware that he was surrounded in enemy territory, Private Moreno courageously remained with his patrol leader and engaged the enemy in hand to hand combat. When in the fury of the struggle, the patrol leader was struck down, he continued the fight alone -- one against three until he had killed or wounded the enemy officers. Private Moreno then supported and protected the patrol leader for five hours, dodging the alerted enemy forces who were scouring the area in search of the patrol, finally reaching the friendly lines unscathed. By his aggressiveness and disregard for safety in the face of a numerically superior force, he wounded three enemy officers and saved the life of his commanding officer. Entered the Service from Falfurrias, Texas.

CHARLES (NMI) HENLEY, 34714679, Private, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Volunteering to accompany a reconnaissance patrol into extremely hazardous territory in which severe casualties had already been sustained, Private Henley crossed the treacherous *** River and courageously advanced over heavily mined terrain while constantly exposed to the intense artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire of the enemy. Determinedly pursuing his mission, he successfully located several well fortified emplacements and calmly directed accurate artillery fire which destroyed them. His aggressive initiative and magnificent daring inspired the accomplishment of the mission and provided vital information for a subsequent assault. Entered the Service from Nashville, Tennessee.

R E S T R I C T E D

SECTION III -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Silver Star is posthumously awarded the following individual:

JOHN R. PENACHIO, 32803807, Private, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When the infantry unit to which he was attached as a medical aid man was subjected to deadly mortar and machine gun fire resulting in many casualties, Private Penachio fearlessly moved into the hazardous area to administer first aid to the wounded. Constantly exposed to the increasingly heavy fire, he openly went from casualty to casualty skillfully giving medical assistance and helping his comrades to covered positions from which they could be evacuated. Alertly noticing a wounded soldier in an outpost position almost two hundred yards away, Private Penachio immediately determined to help him. Advancing daringly over the open terrain under the observation of the enemy, he loyally continued pushing forward even when he became the target of hostile fire. While so doing he was fatally wounded by mortar fragments. His outstanding courage and loyal devotion to duty saved the lives of many of many of his comrades and inspired the successful defense of the sector. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Penachio (Mother), 21 Richmond Street, Brooklyn, New York.

By Command of Major General WALKER:



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

OFFICIAL:

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

DISTRIBUTION "A" PLUS

- 3 - The Adjutant General
- 1 - NATOUA
- 1 - Pub Sec, G-1, NATOUA (SOS)
- 1 - AG Award, Fifth Army
- 1 - Each individual Concerned
- 1 - AG Files