

R E S T R I C T E D

Millie Dye 5/4/44

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

11 March 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 67

Posthumous Award of Silver Star I
Award of Silver Star, Missing in Action II
Award of Silver Star 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:

JOSEPH S. BOILEK, 35160817, Private, Company H, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Boilek was a machine gunner of a heavy weapons platoon in support of Company F in the night attack on Mount ***. At dawn, while he was at his machine gun position preparing for an imminent enemy counterattack, he observed an enemy machine gun nest about four hundred yards to his front. He immediately alerted the company, and then the machine gun began firing at his emplacement. In spite of his exposed position he opened precise and telling fire, killing the enemy officer in command, forcing the other enemy soldiers to flee to another position and destroying the machine gun. Shortly after this action another machine gun opened up a withering fire on his position and Private Boilek knocked out the hostile weapon and pinned down seven more enemy, enabling a patrol from Company F to capture them. The initiative and magnificent courage of Private Boilek, with utter disregard for his personal safety, materially assisted in repulsing this counterattack and contributed to the ultimate success of the mission. He subsequently died of wounds received in a later action. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Boilek (Mother), 3827 Catalpa Street, East Chicago, Indiana.

JOHN (NMI) LAZUK, 31171703, Private, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Lazuk landed with the assault troops in the invasion of Italy, crossing the fire-swept beach and attacking on into the well prepared enemy positions. While advancing toward their assigned objective, the company attack was held up by an enemy scout car. With utter disregard for his personal safety, Private Lazuk engaged the scout car with hand grenades and seriously damaged the vehicle. His intrepid act enabled the company to move on but in so doing he was killed. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Sarah Lazuk (Mother), 226 Maple Avenue, Uncasville, Kentucky.

ESKRIDGE A. WAGGONER, 35267890, Private, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Waggoner was a scout for his company when it assaulted the shell swept beach near ***, after landing from a mine-infested sea. Against intense artillery and machine gun fire from well entrenched enemy positions he moved inland from the

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shore, advancing toward the assigned objective. When he reached a point about two hundred and fifty yards inland he spotted several enemy machine gun nests. He knew that his comrades, by that time well extended, must be warned of the exact locations of the machine guns. Aware that by so doing he would give his own location to the enemy and expose himself to their fire, he deliberately opened fire with tracer bullets, thereby marking the danger spots for his fellow soldiers. During this action he was killed by an enemy sniper. His heroic self-sacrifice gave the company time to consolidate and move against the enemy with concerted action. By his valiant deed he saved the lives of many American soldiers and contributed greatly to the success of the invasion. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Minnie Waggoner (Mother), Alvon, West Virginia.

SECTION II — AWARD OF SILVER STAR, MISSING IN ACTION

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

JOHN R. MCCAIN, 01290876, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. As commanding officer of Company C, Captain McCain was detailed to take sixty men and lay a line of smoke pots along the east bank of the *** river to cover the construction of a number of bridges. The attack to cross the swift flowing river was launched under terrific artillery, nebelwerfer and mortar fire and over approaches devoid of cover and swept by well prepared enemy defensive small arms fires. Leaving his men in a covered position, Captain McCain made a personal reconnaissance of the area to determine the exact location of the bridges. He found the main route heavily mined, and rather than expose his men to the danger of this mine field, he lead them over an alternate route walking at the head of the column, himself assuming the risk of stepping on buried mines. Despite the intense fire on the river bank, Captain McCain directed the placing of the smoke pots and successfully screened the bridge construction points. He then directed the return of his men to their units and was himself the last person to leave the area. His calm demeanor, confident bearing and outstanding courage under enemy fire was an inspiration to all members of his command. He has subsequently been reported missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary B. McCain (Wife), 50 Samoset Street, Dorchester, Massachusetts.

CARL E. KRENZ, 37277411, Private First Class, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private First Class Krenz was a member of a five-man patrol whose mission was to establish contact between the Battalion Commander and Company F. Since the time element was of utmost importance and the patrol was the only means of communications in this rugged mountainous area, they elected to take the shortest route, along the slopes of ***, which was under intense enemy artillery fire. A portion of this route was still enemy territory, and as the patrol moved forward they suddenly came upon a group of twelve enemy led by an officer. Private First Class Krenz and his companions quickly and skillfully deployed, surrounding the enemy group with such complete surprise that all were captured without firing a shot. The patrol then continued on and contacted Company F. As a result of this alertness and initiative Private First Class Krenz and the patrol not only completed the assigned task but prevented the enemy from alerting their forces and removed a serious threat which would have jeopardized the position of the entire battalion. He has subsequently

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been reported missing in action. Private First Class Krenz's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Christina Krenz (Mother), Box 115, Kramer, North Dakota.

SECTION III — AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

RICHARD L. BROWN, 01169875, Second Lieutenant, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action, on 20-21 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Lieutenant Brown was forward observer during the assault to cross the *** river. The attack was launched under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire across a deep, fast-flowing 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 and the intense fire caused some units to become disorganized. Lieutenant Brown materially assisted in maintaining order and reorganizing units of infantry during the critical period. While fighting his way to the objective Lieutenant Brown was wounded in the leg by enemy artillery fire, in the eyes and face by enemy mine, and was bayoneted in the chest. Disregarding his wounds, he maintained communication with his battery and was able to direct artillery fire at every call until his communications were destroyed. Only then did he withdraw his party from enemy territory. His gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Jackson, Tennessee.

WILLIAM C. WALSH, 38020978, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 760th Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 24 January 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Walsh commanded a tank firing into enemy positions on the *** river. The area was subjected to terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar, and small arms fire. A defective round of ammunition jammed his gun during a particularly heavy concentration of enemy fire. Despite the fact that artillery rounds were landing within twenty-five yards of his tank, Sergeant Walsh dismounted and using a ramrod tried ejecting the defective round but failed in this attempt. He then got a sledge hammer and by inserting the ramrod into the barrel and using the hammer he succeeded in ejecting the round. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Rush Springs, Oklahoma.

JOHN J. REILING, 33779959, Private, Company F, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. After Company F had successfully attained its objective southeast of Hill ** the enemy laid down a terrific concentration of mortar and machine gun fire and followed swiftly with a determined counterattack. The fire-swept position was untenable but Private Reiling, assistant automatic rifleman, steadfastly maintained his position in advance of his platoon and supplied the automatic rifleman with ammunition. Meanwhile he rendered effective fire support with his rifle while his platoon withdrew and reorganized its defenses. He inflicted numerous casualties upon the on-rushing enemy with deadly accurate fire and rejoined his platoon only when his ammunition was exhausted. His devotion to duty and utter disregard for his personal safety in the face of overwhelming odds materially aided in stemming the enemy counterattack and gave his platoon urgently needed time for organization and evacuation of the wounded. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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ROBERT W. KOFAHL, 32333096. Private, Battery B, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 20-21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~***~~, Italy. Private Kofahl was a radio operator in a forward observer group and was required to carry his radio in the attack across the ~~***~~ river with the forward elements of a company of infantry. He accomplished the crossing under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire and over ground ingeniously protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. Upon reaching the other side of the river the enemy fire became so intense and concentrated that the infantry company was forced to halt and dig in. Private Kofahl was severely wounded in both legs by enemy artillery shell fire and his radio was destroyed. When the rest of his party were forced to withdraw he refused to let them carry him with them, electing instead to remain, wounded, in enemy territory that they might have a better chance of reaching safety. He lay in a ditch, wounded and exhausted, in a holocaust of enemy fire for five days and nights, refusing to surrender to the enemy. He was later successfully evacuated by our medical troops. Private Kofahl's utter disregard for his personal safety and his unselfish sacrifice were a great inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:


JOHN V. DEANE

Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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