

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 36th INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36 U. S. Army

5 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 119

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 the following named individuals:

CHARLES L. SCHARRER, 01175373, Second Lieutenant, 135d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 11-12 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Lieutenant Scharrer, as artillery forward observer stationed at an observation post with Company K, skillfully judged the occupied positions on the hill and added concentrations to the defensive fires already prepared. He then moved across the rugged terrain to his observation post, which was exposed to the snellings of artillery and mortars, and directed accurate fire on numerous enemy gun positions, knocking them out. He valiantly held his post all day and, on the following morning, put his radio in operation under a heavy artillery barrage. In the furious enemy attack which followed, Lieutenant Scharrer continued directing his battery at a time when accurate artillery fire was essential for the repulsion of the enemy. He disdained personal security in the face of tremendous enemy fire and tirelessly transmitted his orders until a direct hit upon his position killed him. Lieutenant Scharrer's magnificent courage, calmness under fire, and devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Marie E. Scharrer (Wife), Emitsburg, Maryland.

DOYLE B. BLAKELY, 20805636, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When his platoon became pinned down by intense machine gun fire from an enemy nest hidden in a building to their front, Sergeant Blakely daringly set up his machine gun section in a position from which he could best protect and support an assault against this emplacement. While directing effective fire against this objective, he alertly noticed an enemy soldier emerge from the building. With great daring, Sergeant Blakely made a sudden dash through the hail of machine gun fire and captured the enemy, obtaining from him information of the strength and disposition of the enemy within the nest. By his aggressive leadership and magnificent courage, he materially assisted in the destruction of the enemy emplacement and the capture of twelve more prisoners. He was subsequently killed in another engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Laudie L. Blakely (Mother), Snyder, Texas.

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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:

ROBERT E. WATSON, 35277408, Technical Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. While engaged in a fierce defensive engagement, Sergeant Watson, a communications sergeant, was placed in charge of a rifle platoon whose leaders had been killed in the fight. Assuming immediate and capable control during the height of the enemy concentration of artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire, he moved fearlessly among his men encouraging them and organizing their defense. Although stunned by the concussion of a shell which landed near him, Sergeant Watson bravely continued to expose himself while maintaining his tenacious hold on his position. His aggressive leadership, determination, and exemplary devotion to duty were an inspiration to his men and materially assisted in the successful defense of this sector. Entered the Service from Akron, Ohio.

THOMAS (NEM) CHILDERS, 20803536, Technical Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Childers aggressively led his platoon in the crossing of the swift flowing, and treacherous *** River while being subjected to intense artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Reaching the opposite bank he discovered the rifle platoons were pinned down by enemy fire and he quickly placed his machine guns into position in an effort to relieve his comrades. At this particular point the enemy launched a vicious counterattack, and Sergeant Childers, constantly exposing himself to the withering fire and attacking enemy, moved among his men encouraging them and directing their fire. His courage, calmness under fire and devotion to duty so inspired his men that they succeeded in repelling the enemy attack. Entered the Service from Taling, Texas.

JESUS LUIS MEDINA, 20802285, Technical Sergeant, Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Medina led his platoon across the *** River in a savagely opposed night attack on enemy defenses along steep banks that bristled with fast firing artillery, mortars, nebelwerfers and small arms. Efforts by the battalion to reorganize on a road in enemy territory were thwarted by direct machine gun fire from three different points. Leading his men to more protected positions, he ordered them to dig in. At daylight, while under terrific enemy fire, the battalion commander directed Sergeant Medina to attempt to contact an officer who had gone far to the front. Crawling cautiously forward, he moved about one hundred and fifty yards, obtaining valuable information before the ferocity of enemy fire forced him to turn back. His sense of direction impaired by a settling haze that blurred all landmarks, Sergeant Medina with difficulty made his way back to the battalion commander's foxhole and found he had been wounded and evacuated. No other officers were available to receive the sergeant's report. He then made his way back to his squad and organized the men defensively to oppose the approaching enemy. Determinedly he held this position until ordered by an officer to withdraw across the river. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

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ALVIN BURNS, 38051110, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Company L, 142nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 13, 14, 15 December 1943, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Burns was a squad leader of a platoon assigned the hazardous task of occupying Hill ***, establishing an observation and outpost and the patrolling of a large area held by the enemy. On three successive nights he aggressively led his men on patrols deep into enemy territory, staying for long periods of time and obtaining valuable information. Although under enemy observation and continuous shell fire, acting on his own initiative he made further reconnaissance beyond his objective, locating many enemy supply centers, remaining to study and note actions of the enemy. As a result of his vigorous patrol activities and the valuable information obtained, he materially assisted in the successful attack on Mount ***. His great fortitude, outstanding leadership and devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

JAMES J. WEYNAND, 32220625, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Weynand led his squad in the initial assault landing of the invasion of Italy, advancing through heavy artillery and small arms fire laid on the beach by enemy entrenched on inland heights. His forward movement was stopped by machine gun fire from a half truck vehicle. Getting a rifle grenade and a rifle from his second in command, Sergeant Weynand ordered his squad to open fire on the vehicle while he worked his way as near to the enemy's flank as possible. There he opened fire, destroying the half truck and killing two enemy and wounding another. As a result of this skillful maneuver and Sergeant Weynand's aggressive leadership his squad continued and advanced to their next objective. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

VERLIE R. CHILDPRESS, 20206795, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Detachment, 142nd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. During the savage and determined enemy counterattack on the 1st Battalion positions on Mount ***, several casualties were inflicted on Company A. Tec 4 Childress, company aid man, on hearing cries for a medic, left his place of shelter and dauntlessly went forward under intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire to render first aid to the wounded. Finding two wounded men, he made two trips over the exposed ground, carrying both to safety. He worked tirelessly throughout the attack, under continuous enemy fire, administering aid to numerous other wounded men, supervising the evacuation of all. His great fortitude, calmness under fire, and unselfish devotion to the attendance of the wounded greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

VITO P. MONTELBANO, 34150790, Private First Class, Company G, 142nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. While on duty at an advanced outpost, Private First Class Montelbano alertly detected the approach of an enemy patrol. Immediately engaging the patrol in a fierce fire fight, he aggressively forced the enemy into concealed positions from which grenades and heavy machine pistol fire were concentrated at him. With great daring and outstanding determination, Private First Class Montelbano skillfully moved to an exposed position from which he had clear observation of the hiding enemy. Unshaken by the deadly fire his move-

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ated, he directed a withering fire at the enemy with his automatic rifle, inflicting many casualties and forcing the patrol to withdraw. His magnificent courage and exemplary devotion to duty were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

GEORGE W. GUSTAVSON, 3525915, Private, Company E, 142nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Gustavson was a member of a combat team, assigned the difficult task of invading, attacking, and clearing certain sectors of the beaches below ***. In the cool, grey dawn of the morning, they moved from ship to shore through an intense barrage of enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. As they reached the shore, Private Gustavson's immediate platoon moved forward against heavily defended and well fortified enemy positions, under a continuous barrage of enemy fire. Upon reaching a rock wall, they were fired upon by seven enemy tanks, and with utter disregard for his own life, he leaped to the top of the wall and directed deadly and accurate fire on the tanks, killing two of the enemy, materially assisting in the melting and driving off the enemy tanks. As a result of this action, intense enemy machine gun fire was directed against friendly troops on his left, and, on his own initiative, he again leaped to the top of the wall, and with deadly fire, killed the enemy machine gunner, allowing the troops to advance to their objective. His great fortitude, bold aggressive vigor, and devotion to duty greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Vevyville, Indiana.

By command of Major General WILKINSON

STEWART I. 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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