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

11 March 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 68

Posthumous Award of Silver Star I
Award of Silver Star II
Commendation for Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct 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 (NMI) FITIO, 33316018, Private, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Fitio landed with the assault waves in the invasion of Italy, across fire-swept beaches and attacked on into the well prepared defensive positions of the enemy. In moving inland, he became separated from his company but dauntlessly moved from place to place engaging snipers with his rifle, neutralizing much of this danger to the success of the invasion. While 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. Pauline Fitio (Mother), 307 Graham Avenue, Boothwyn, Pennsylvania.

✓ LEONARD L. BAY, 35207507, Private, Headquarters Company, 36th Infantry Division, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Bay, driver of the Commanding General's quarter ton truck was proceeding to shore at dawn in the landing craft in which his vehicle was loaded. In the course of the two hour trip across the choppy sea in the small landing craft, an urgent message was received from the shore on the General's radio calling for immediate naval gun fire. Private Bay, despite the high breakers which tolled the small boat around like a bouncing ball, stood up on the control deck of the light landing craft and searched all other boats in the vicinity until he succeeded in locating the Commanding General who was proceeding to shore in another craft. Private Bay directed the operator of the boat to pull along side of the General's boat and handed the General the vital message. He then landed with his vehicle under intense enemy artillery fire and took cover momentarily. Realizing the urgency of delivering the truck to the Division Command Post, he disregarded the continued fire and left his shelter. As he plunged for the vehicle, he was instantly killed by an artillery shell. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Eunice N. Bay (Mother), Route 2, Lowell, Ohio.

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:

ISADORE M. SCOTT, 0313339, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Captain Scott,

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(over)

Incl: 1

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regimental adjutant, was scheduled to land at dawn in the invasion of Italy. The landing craft in which he was riding became disabled about 500 yards from the shore and enemy artillery emplaced in the hills and on the plain were constantly firing at the assault boats. The fire became so intense that all other boats in the vicinity withdrew and headed back out to sea. All other personnel in Captain Scott's boat took shelter in the bottom, but Captain Scott stood up, signaled by waving his arms and attracted a British craft. He then assisted in loading all officers and men into the new craft and directed their landing on an alternate beach. The landing was accomplished under intense artillery, mortar and machine gun fire and Captain Scott led the entire vitally needed group approximately two miles under this fire to rejoin the forward command post of the regiment. His outstanding initiative, calm courage and devotion to duty inspired 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 Jenkintown, Pennsylvania.

BERNARD J. FENTON, 0441487, Captain, Chaplain's Corps, for gallantry in action on 7 December 1943 and 15 December 1943, in the vicinity of ***, Italy. On the night of 7 December 1943, a heavy concentration of enemy artillery fell on the forward positions of Company H, killing one man and wounding several others. The machine gun section was disorganized and could not operate effectively until the dead and wounded had been removed. Chaplain Fenton voluntarily led a litter squad through heavy concentrations of enemy mortar fire to the position and directed the evacuation of the dead and wounded. This done, he reassured the men in their positions until a high state of morale was effected. On the night of 15 December 1943, Chaplain Fenton came forward to the advance aid station of the 2d Battalion during the attack against ***. The area was being subjected to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire. Working ceaselessly during the height of the attack and for two days thereafter without sleep and with little rest, he was instrumental in evacuating many of the wounded. His fearlessness and devotion to duty exemplified by his presence among the front line troops was a magnificent moral and spiritual aid to the soldiers of his battalion. His gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Taunton, Massachusetts.

JOHN A. HARDAWAY, 38060159, Technical Sergeant, Company E, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Hardaway 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. Sergeant Hardaway 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, Sergeant Hardaway 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. Sergeant Hardaway's gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Channing, Texas.

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CARL T. WELCH, 352 532, Private, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1943 on ***, Italy. Private Welch was assigned as company aid man to the First Platoon of Company B. During the afternoon of 16 December the company was subjected to an intense enemy artillery barrage which was particularly heavy in the Third Platoon area. On hearing calls for aid from wounded men of the Third Platoon, Private Welch immediately and without command left his place of shelter to render first aid to the stricken men. With utter disregard for his own safety, he calmly and efficiently administered aid despite the shells that continued to fall in the immediate vicinity. Having treated two of the wounded men and while administering aid to a third, Private Welch was struck by several shell fragments. Despite these wounds, he attempted to continue but found himself incapable of doing so and was evacuated. This display of outstanding calmness and devotion to duty was an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. His gallant action reflected great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the Service from Terre Haute, Indiana.

CLIFFORD (NMI) SPRAGUE, 35057658, 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 became untenable but Private Sprague, automatic rifleman, steadfastly maintained his position in advance of his platoon and rendered effective fire support while his platoon withdrew and organized new defenses. He inflicted heavy 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 Cleveland, Ohio.

JAMES E. OWENS, 33651798, 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 Owens, 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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SECTION III -- COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

Under the provision of Army Regulations 600-55, the following named individuals have been commended for exceptionally meritorious conduct:

WORTH P. GABBERT, 38025997, Sergeant,
736th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company,
Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.


CLAIBORNE M. HARDEMAN, 38051936, Technician Grade 4,
736th Ordnance Light Maintenance Company,
Entered the Service from Wichita Falls, Texas.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct from 15 June to 15 July 1943 in Africa. During off-duty hours Sergeant Gabbert and Technician Grade 4 Hardeeman experimented with scrap metals and with skillful ingenuity improvised an autoclave for the 11th Medical Battalion. The appliance they constructed, after having an issue autoclave described to them, was so cleverly made that by using it medical Officers of this Division have been able to reduce the time required for sterilizing their equipment and surgical tools from six hours to one hour, thereby greatly increasing the efficiency of their service to the command.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:


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

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