

12-14/44  
RESTRICTED

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

COUSA ORIGINAL

GENERAL ORDERS

31 December 1944

NO. 492

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 to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

✓ BILL F. WALLS, 34129967, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 June 1944 in Italy. While moving across a field to locate one of the two sections of his patrol, Sergeant Walls spotted three hostile soldiers. He immediately opened fire with his sub-machine gun and wounded one of them in the leg. He started back to inform his patrol leader of the presence of the enemy. Upon approaching a draw, he surprised another group of hostile soldiers. He crawled up behind one of the group, a non-commissioned officer, disarmed him, and demanded the others to surrender. He marched his seven prisoners back to his patrol leader, then searched another nearby draw for additional enemy soldiers. When he located a hostile machine gun position, he crept up behind the three crew members and, covering them with his sub-machine gun, forced them to surrender. In addition to the ten prisoners which Sergeant Walls captured alone, seven more enemy soldiers were captured by him and his comrades before the patrol returned to the friendly positions. Staff Sergeant Walls was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Anzie Walls (Mother), R. F. D. No 3, Murphy, North Carolina.

✓ JOHN W. GRAVES, 35631404, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 October 1944 in France. During a fierce enemy attack against Company I's defenses, Private First Class Graves was sent forward to fill a gap in the line and occupy a position which the hostile troops had previously knocked out. Although his was the most advanced position, he determined to move further forward to a spot from which he could direct effective mortar fire on the attackers. His comrades in the area were being harassed by enemy snipers. He courageously left the comparative safety of his fighting hole so that, while establishing his mortar observation post, he could locate the snipers and eliminate them. While moving across exposed terrain toward the advantageous position which he had chosen, he was killed by a sniper bullet. His selflessness and his regard for the safety of his comrades exemplifies the highest traditions of the military service. Next of kin: Mrs. Ethel Louise Graves (Wife), 441 Stanley Street, Chillicothe, Ohio.

✓ CLIFTON S. PEDIGO, 35892987, Private, Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 September 1944 in France. While Company L was advancing in an approach march, Private Pedigo was assigned the mission of leading two men on a patrol to contact Company K, which was moving on the unit's

- 1 -

(Over)

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

left flank, and to guide the supporting tanks to his company. After contacting Company K, he moved to the road down which the tanks were approaching. While waiting for the tanks, Private Pedigo saw eight enemy soldiers creep up behind Company K's column and advance at the rear of the unit without being spotted by anyone. Aware that the hostile group would soon assault the unsuspecting men, Private Pedigo swiftly opened fire with his automatic rifle, directing deadly bursts of fire into the midst of the enemy soldiers. He killed two, wounded three and forced the remaining three to surrender. As a result of his quick-thinking and daring, a serious threat to the safety of his comrades was erased. Private Pedigo was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs. Mattie Pedigo (Mother), Knob Lick, Kentucky.

SECTION II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

✓ HAROLD L. MC GREGOR, 20806268, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Stamford, Texas.

✓ HERBERT J. GOODWIN, 38513343, Private, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Rotan, Texas.

✓ for gallantry in action on 7 November 1944 in France. The 2d Platoon of Company K was moving toward enemy defenses on a strategically important hill when the unit's advance was delayed by heavy rifle and machine gun fire from a strong hostile road block. Rapid bursts of fire from two machine gun positions threatened to inflict heavy casualties on the platoon. These two men, the bazooka team of the 2d Platoon, immediately moved forward in the face of point blank fire from the enemy guns. They advanced fearlessly until they reached a point only 60 yards from the road block. Although they were the target for direct fire from the hostile emplacements, the men swiftly loaded the bazooka and, fearlessly exposing themselves, fired several rounds into the midst of the strong point. The deadly accurate fire killed three of the enemy soldiers, wounded two and forced the remainder to abandon the position. Both of the machine guns were destroyed. As a result of their courage and determination, the hostile strong point was smashed and the unit was able to continue its advance.

✓ JESSE J. DOWRING, 37485118, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Gregory, South Dakota.

✓ CONIO J. PATRUZZI, 42067720, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from North Tarrytown, New York.

for gallantry in action on 27 November 1944 in France. The 2d Platoon of Company B was engaged in fierce street fighting with a large hostile force determinedly defending positions in a town. The leading squad was subjected to heavy machine gun fire from an enemy road block, and the second scout was wounded. The remainder of the squad members took cover in nearby alleyways. Although the entire length of the street was being swept by rapid bursts of machine gun fire, these men volunteered to attempt to rescue the injured soldier. They unhesitatingly left their place of comparative safety and crawled forward 30 yards to reach their wounded comrade. Although they were the target for direct machine gun fire, the men unselfishly carried him to a place of cover where he received first aid treatment and was evacuated.

R E S T R I C T E D

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

✓ DOUGLAS MIRACLE, 35267718, Private First Class, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 August 1944 in France. During an attack against an important enemy stronghold, Company B was engaged in bitter street fighting with the hostile force. Private First Class Miracle, advancing alone in front of his platoon, moved up the street in the face of heavy small arms fire. By firing his rifle and hurling hand grenades into the windows and doors of enemy-occupied houses, he cleared the way for his platoon to follow him. Although he was the target for hostile grenades and rifle fire, he continued indomitably forward and, without assistance, captured twelve enemy soldiers in his advance through the town. Entered the Service from Pineville, Kentucky.

✓ ALEXANDER MAC DONALD, 31201038, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in Italy. When the battalion defenses were subjected to a savage enemy counterattack, Private First Class Mac Donald was assigned the mission of obtaining ammunition for his comrades. While on this detail, he encountered a hostile machine gun, manned by a crew of three, firing toward the battalion command post. Aware that the battalion commander was directing the friendly resistance from this command post and that the heavy fire endangered him and other battalion staff officers, Private First Class Mac Donald determined to destroy this threat to the safety of the battalion. He moved directly in the face of the rapid bursts of machine gun fire, pressing dauntlessly forward until he reached an advantageous position affording excellent observation on the gun emplacement. Valiantly exposing himself to the hostile fire, Private First Class Mac Donald hurled three hand grenades in rapid succession, knocking out the weapon and killing two of the enemy. The third crew member, dazed by the swift assault, was forced to surrender. By his quick-thinking and daring initiative, Private First Class Mac Donald eliminated an enemy strong point which had endangered the success of the battalion in repelling the counterattack. Entered the Service from Mattapan, Massachusetts.

✓ FRANK S. SZCZESNY, 36321336, Private First Class, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 25 August 1944 in France. Three platoons of the 111th Engineer Combat Battalion were assigned the mission of defending an important town. When the enemy launched a savage attack, Private First Class Szczesny was operating a machine gun in a forward position. As the hostile troops advanced, he fired a belt of ammunition into their midst, killing four of them. While reloading the gun, he was painfully wounded by small arms fire and was forced to enter the platoon command post for first aid treatment. Later in the day, Private First Class Szczesny saw an opportunity to capture a group of hostile soldiers. Ignoring the pain of his wound, he waited for the opportune moment and, when it came, sprang upon one of the enemy, disarmed him and called for his comrades to overpower the others. As a result of the brief struggle, four soldiers were captured by Private First Class Szczesny and his companions and were marched back to the friendly lines. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

LEONARD J. COLLINS, 34580235, Private First Class, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 September 1944 in France. Private First Class Collins was messenger for the reconnaissance officer of Com-

R E S T R I C T E D

pany M. On 8 September the reconnaissance party was misdirected to a town which had not been cleared of hostile troops. Upon entering the town, Private First Class Collins encountered two enemy motorcyclists speeding down the road. He and his two companions immediately opened fire and captured the hostile soldiers. Almost instantly, two vehicles loaded with enemy troops drove into town. While one member of the reconnaissance party covered the prisoners, Private First Class Collins and the reconnaissance officer engaged the numerically superior enemy in a fire fight. Fearlessly exposing themselves to a large volume of hostile fire, they fought valiantly, killing two of the enemy, wounding several and capturing the remaining ten. One of the prisoners was an officer who divulged the whereabouts of a large hostile force. Private First Class Collins and his companions then contacted friendly troops and organized a defense of the town. Entered the Service from Danville, Alabama.

CLIFFARD MARCUM, 35770773, Private First Class, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 8 September 1944 in France. Under cover of darkness Company I advanced in an attack against an enemy stronghold, pressing forward through the outskirts of town until the hostile force opened fire with machine guns and rifles. Private First Class Marcum, an automatic rifleman, was moving along a street when he was wounded in the leg by a fragment from an enemy grenade. After an aid man bandaged his wound, Private First Class Marcum refused to be evacuated and, in spite of intense pain, rejoined his comrades in the fight, firing his weapon with deadly accuracy into the midst of the enemy positions. When the company halted momentarily for reorganization, a hostile soldier crept to within a few yards of the group without being spotted and suddenly opened fire with a machine pistol. Private First Class Marcum leapt from his position and fired his automatic rifle from the hip, killing the enemy with a single burst. As the attack progressed, he drove forward with the advance elements of his company, inflicting heavy casualties on the hostile troops forming pockets of resistance within the town. Only after the stronghold had been seized and cleared would Private First Class Marcum allow himself to be evacuated to the hospital. Entered the Service from Williamson, West Virginia.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

JOHN J. ALBRIGHT  
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
- 5 - LTOUSA
- 1 - AG Awards, Seventh Army
- 1 - Central IRU
- 1 - Each individual concerned