

R E S T R I C T E D

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

7 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 122

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 each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

WILLIAM A. ROGERS, 01288126, First Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Leading a vital four man reconnaissance patrol, Lieutenant Rogers skillfully crossed the treacherous *** River and moved forward over the heavily mined terrain under continuous fire of the enemy. Although pinned down on several occasions by concentrated mortar and machine gun fire, he aggressively continued his advance, cleverly deploying his men and gathering the information essential to his mission. Remaining in this hazardous area until a thorough reconnaissance was completed, he successfully returned to lead his battalion in a swift assault on the objective which he had so capably scouted. Lieutenant Rogers was subsequently killed in action. His outstanding leadership and magnificent daring were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deeds. Next of kin: Mrs. Ivy A. Rogers (Mother), 19414 Exeter Street, Detroit, Michigan.

ARGYL L. DRYDEN, 37014071, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 4 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Tec 5 Dryden, assigned the job of maintaining communication between an observation post on *** and the battery position, several times volunteered to repair the communications wire which intense enemy artillery barrages had severed. He successfully repaired a number of breaks in the wire, which was the only means of transmitting fire commands from the observation post, traveling over terrain constantly blasted by enemy artillery shells. On his last trip to repair the wire, the increased intensity of enemy shelling forced him to shelter, but a direct hit on the trench killed him. Contemtpuous of personal danger, he sacrificed his life in order that artillery fire could successfully be directed against the enemy forces. Next of kin: Mrs. Sarabeth Dryden (Wife), 1901 Hope Street, Topeka, Kansas.

RALPH J. SHUDAREK, 36807027, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. While his company strengthened its defenses in preparation for an expected enemy counterattack, Private First Class Shudarek was on outpost duty, with instructions to fall back to a more secure position when the attack came. The enemy attacked but Private First Class Shudarek, regarding the safety of his organization as more important than personal security, disdained withdrawal and delayed the enemy with accurate fire until his ammunition was expended. Unable to reach his organization, he called for more ammunition which his squad

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leader threw to him. The bandoleer fell short of his position, and Private First Class Shudarek, constantly imperilled by mortar and small arms fire, crawled from his fox hole toward the ammunition. He pushed onward in a valiant attempt to secure the bandoleer until he was killed by enemy fire. Private First Class Shudarek's determination to hold his position in spite of personal danger was instrumental in delaying the enemy, thus giving his organization time to prepare for the attack. Next of kin: Mrs. Josephine Shudarek (Mother), Flover, Wisconsin.

MELVIN P. BECKTOLD, 39830833, Private, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. With knowledge that wounded lay on the east bank of the *** River, medical litter squads volunteered to attempt to evacuate them if a guide could be secured. Although Private Beckettold had been subjected to enemy artillery fire for days during the *** River attack and was suffering from loss of sleep, he volunteered to take the medical men to the river. He led the litter teams to the wounded, and while on the river bank assisting in the evacuation of the wounded, he was caught in an artillery concentration which resulted in his death. His courage in leading medical men to the assistance of his wounded comrades through an area he knew to be under heavy enemy fire greatly inspired all who witnessed his actions. Next of kin: Mr. Pete Beckettold (Father), Box 323, Nampa, Idaho.

LOYD L. CARY, 34725579, Private, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3-4 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. While occupying a defensive position on Hill ***, Company I was subjected to an intense enemy mortar and artillery barrage which inflicted numerous casualties. Leaving his place of comparative safety, Private Cary, aid man, made his way, in the face of withering enemy fire, to his stricken comrades to render first aid. He worked untiringly dressing wounds and assisting in the evacuation of the casualties. His devotion to duty and display of outstanding calmness under fire was an inspiration to all who witnessed his deed. In a later engagement, he was killed by an enemy artillery shell. Next of kin: Mrs. Ruby C. Cary (Wife), Route #1, Buena Vista, Tennessee.

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 for gallantry in action:

ORVILLE E. JONES, 20809285, First Sergeant, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Sergeant Jones was a member of Company K in the attack across the *** River. The attack was launched under terrific enemy artillery, machinegun, mortar and small arms fire and over terrain further protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. After crossing the river, the increasing intensity of the enemy fire pinned the company down but Sergeant Jones gallantly proceeded with two comrades deeper into enemy territory to reconnoiter company positions. In so doing all three were wounded by machine gun fire and his two companions were forced to return for medical aid. Sergeant Jones dauntlessly continued the advance and silenced an enemy machine gun with fire from his automatic rifle. Returning to his company he reported the information secured and only then did he submit to medical aid. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

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DEWEY A. WOOD, 20803606, Technical Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When only 500 yards in front of their own lines on a reconnaissance mission, Sergeant Wood and the commanding officer found themselves separated from the other members of their patrol. Undaunted by the lack of security they continued forward alone. Suddenly an enemy command to halt rang out from behind. Sergeant Wood unhesitatingly whirled, firing his rifle at five or six of the enemy whom he could just discern in the darkness. He calmly reloaded and continued the covering fire through a second clip. The confusion caused among the enemy by his quick-witted action enabled his officer to reach safety. Only then was the enemy able to reply. They opened up with concentrated machine pistol fire, but he was able to slip silently away to follow his officer to cover. He not only saved his patrol from capture but also, by alerting friendly troops to the left, enabled them to thwart the counterattack being staged. Entered the Service from Moulton, Texas.

ENRIQUE L. GARCIA, 38025734, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11-12 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. position on Hill ***, Company C was ordered to take the remainder of the hill. Private First Class Garcia's mortar squad was out of action, preparing to move. A terrific enemy artillery barrage fell on the area, killing the company commander and many men and a counterattack swiftly followed. Immediately Private First Class Garcia placed his mortar in action about seventy-five yards behind the frontline troops. While his section sergeant observed and directed the fire, he silenced two enemy machine guns and killed many of the attacking foe, until the sergeant was seriously wounded and had to be evacuated. Without awaiting orders, he took over the sergeant's place and braved deadly sniper and machine gun fire and enemy-hurled grenades to observe and correct the mortar's fire. Through the day his weapon laid devastation on the enemy at ranges so low that only because of superior accuracy was he able to avoid damage to his own troops. When night came he continued to fire without aid of range cards or aiming stakes. At times the enemy infiltrated close to his position and he protected his gun and crew with rifle fire and grenades. Private First Class Garcia's able handling of his weapon and his great skill in acting as squad leader, gunner, and observer, with complete disregard for enemy fire, reveal his superior ability and remarkable courage. Entered the Service from San Benito, Texas.

HAROLD W. LOXTERMAN, 17020412, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Private Loxterman, as a volunteer member of a night combat patrol, approached the *** River under an intense enemy artillery and mortar barrage across an enemy mine field exposed to small arms fire to retrieve several rubber boats hidden near the river. When he reached the site where the boats were hidden, Private Loxterman spotted enemy installations across the *** and, with the assistance of his patrol leader, skillfully directed effective artillery fire upon the positions. While thus engaged he was discovered by an enemy patrol; and, realizing the necessity for initiating action against the patrol, he crawled forward, scouting its position. Then Private Loxterman, fearlessly exposing himself, opened fire on the enemy, wounding some of them, and continued firing until the patrol, terror-stricken, fled from the position. His extraordinary courage saved his companions from possible ambush, and his selfless deeds greatly inspired all the members of the patrol. Entered the Service from Kansas City, Missouri.

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RAYMOND J. KIRCHNER, 33231116, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. Company L was pinned down 400 yards from their objective by enemy machine gun, sniper and mortar fire. The battalion commander called for smoke to screen their position, but the artillery liaison observer working the radio was killed by a sniper before he could execute the order. Although not a radio technician, Private First Class Kirchner, on his own initiative, enlisted the aid of another soldier and succeeded in temporarily reestablishing the vitally necessary communications. Then, because a circumstantial source from a spot observer was needed, he volunteered to run the message back to the battalion command post. He succeeded despite intense and almost constant machine gun fire which forced him to crawl most of the way. Private First Class Kirchner's spirit and dauntless devotion to duty contributed materially to the security of his company. Entered the Service from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

JAMES E. HILL, 35635502, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. When unit positions were subjected continuously to enemy mortar and machine gun fire from evidently fixed positions, Private First Class Hill volunteered to accompany a small patrol to destroy these emplacements. Moving skillfully into hostile territory in a daring night raid, he drew the fire of one of the machine gun nests thereby exposing its position. Bravely crawling under its fire, he advanced to close range and wiped out the nest with hand grenades. His magnificent courage and exemplary coolness under fire inspired other members of the patrol to follow his tactics and made possible the destruction of another emplacement. Entered the Service from Columbus, Ohio.

By command of Major General WALKER:

OFFICIAL:

John J. Deane

JOHN J. DEANE

Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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

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