

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y
R E S T R I C T E D
HEAD QUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36, U. S. Army

31 December 1943

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 47

SECTION I - POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded the following enlisted man:

MARTIN M. SEDLAK, 35289361, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 88 Airborne Engineer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 12 November 1943 in the vicinity of **, Italy. Sergeant Sedlak voluntarily led an advancing infantry platoon through an area known to be heavily mined. He personally led the advance, operating in front of the mine detector group and well forward of the infantry, in order to detect trip wire devices. After performing this hazardous duty many hours, he left an area in which it was possible to detect these wires and entered into an area in which it was extremely difficult, enabling the infantry to advance in defile and attack the enemy from the flank. During the execution of this maneuver, he was killed by the explosion of a mine. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next to kin: Catherine Sedlak, (wife), 80 Snyder St., Struthers, Ohio.

SECTION II - AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star is awarded the following named officers and enlisted men:

JAMES A. ALLEN, 15090280, Corporal, Company H, 88 Parachute Infantry, for gallantry in action on 12 November 1943 in the vicinity of **, Italy. Corporal Allen, with utter disregard for his personal safety, crawled through the enemy lines during a small arms fire fight and, with the assistance of another man, undertook to rescue a captive American soldier. In the consistently daring and skillful execution of his duties he not only rescued a fellow soldier, but killed one German soldier and captured two others. Information gained from the prisoners proved vital in making the subsequent attack successful. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the service from Hazard, Kentucky.

STANLEY S. MALETA, 33146609, Private First Class, Company I, 88 Parachute Infantry, for gallantry in action on 10 November 1943 in the vicinity of **, Italy. Private First Class Maleta was ordered to reconnoiter to the front as his company, under cover of darkness, moved into position. While moving forward in the blackness of the wet night he entered a mine field and detonated a charge, suffering a painful wound. Falling back to the edge of the mine field, in spite of his wound, he got down on his hands and knees and led his company through the danger zone to an area he knew to be clear. As a result of his courage and determination to perform his duty to its fullest extent, many possible casualties were avoided. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Brownsville, Texas.

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RICHARD D. ALDRIDGE, 01286608, First Lieutenant, Company F, ** Parachute Infantry, for gallantry in action on 12 November 1943 in the vicinity of **, Italy. Gathering thirty-two men from the remnants of his unit, Lieutenant Aldridge organized a provisional platoon and, with utter disregard for his personal safety, led them in an attack through a mined area swept with small arms fire. He unhesitatingly charged with his group into intense automatic fire, materially aiding in the capture of the objective, Hill 1017. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the service from Toledo, Ohio.

CARL W. KAPPEL, 01234341, First Lieutenant, Company H, ** Parachute Infantry, for gallantry in action on 14 November 1943 in the vicinity of **, Italy. Lieutenant Kappel saw a wounded American soldier lying on a trail heavily planted with enemy "S" mines. Knowing that the only trail to the wounded man was mined and that he would also be under the direct aimed fire from enemy snipers less than 600 yards away, he voluntarily forsook his personal safety, and crawled along the trail to a point where he could administer first aid. Heavy enemy fire necessitated that he move several times during this action. His courageous and unselfish act saved the life of a fellow soldier and reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Charleston, West Virginia.

By command of Major General WALKER:

CLAYTON F. NEER,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

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

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