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

30 March 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 88

Award of Silver Star ..... I  
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster ..... II

SECTION I -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

*Checked for award*  
*Melvin R. Clemens*  
MELVIN R. CLEMENS, 01291590, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 25 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Lieutenant Clemens, acting as observer for his platoon of the cannon company, received word that other troops were suffering heavy machine gun fire from concealed enemy positions. Observation being limited at his positions, he courageously moved forward over open terrain under direct observation by the enemy, exposing himself to concentrated artillery, mortar and small arms fire in an attempt to reach a building from which he could direct accurate fire against the hidden enemy. Despite the intense fire, he skillfully reached his objective and directed such effective fire that two enemy machine gun nests were wiped out. Lieutenant Clemens' magnificent daring, aggressive determination and coolness under heavy enemy fire were an inspiration to all who witnessed his deed. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

RUSSELL J. DARKES, 01307615, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Lieutenant Darkes' company had been ordered to recross the \*\*\* river after having retired the previous night because of heavy enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Waiting to cross the river, they lay in icy water in a sunken road for ten hours. Receiving word to attack, Lieutenant Darkes, although suffering from wounds received the night before, organized his company and crossed the river on an ice covered footbridge. In the face of intense enemy artillery and machine gun fire from the front and both flanks, he led his men forward until ordered to retire. His magnificent courage, devotion to duty, and calmness under fire in the face of bitter enemy opposition greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

JOE F. PRESNALL, 0423492, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 February 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. While hauling supplies during daylight along a narrow roadway under enemy observation, Lieutenant Presnall was caught in a heavy artillery concentration. The way was congested by a disorganized mule pack train and abandoned vehicles whose drivers had fled for cover. Realizing the resultant chaos of jammed traffic made an excellent enemy target, he courageously brought the terrified animals under control and led them out of the way. He then cleared the road of vehicles, dead mules and men, opening it for essential traffic to the front and successfully completed his own mission. His superior initiative and coolness under fire materially assisted in maintaining an uninterrupted flow of vitally needed supplies to the fighting troops. Entered the Service from Lufkin, Texas.

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JOHN BURTUCCO, 01304851, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. In the course of the bitter battle of the \*\*\* river crossing Lieutenant Burtucco had returned to the river to lead the remainder of his platoon into the fight. When two of his men fell into the icy waters, Lieutenant Burtucco leaped into the river and pulled both men out after a great struggle in the rushing stream. Disregarding the intense artillery, mortar and small arms fire he then assembled his men and continued to the objective in the attack. His utter disregard for self and devotion to duty under intense fire undoubtedly saved the lives of two men and greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Bristol, Connecticut.

OVIE (NMI) GALLEY, 20807807, First Sergeant, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Through the night Sergeant Gallet waited with his men in bitter cold and dampness for orders to cross the \*\*\*, river. Exposure aggravated an old foot wound, but despite his intense pain he continually moved among his men encouraging them and maintaining control for the assault. Realizing his hampered movements would impede the progress of his men through the holocaust of enemy fire during the crossing, he appointed another leader in his stead. Later when he had assured their successful crossing, he found a partially inflated boat and made his way to the opposite bank in spite of his injured foot and the overwhelming enemy fire. With resolute fortitude he limped forward through mine fields and barbed wire entanglements continuously exposed to artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and withering small arms fire. Regaining contact with his company, he brilliantly led his men and inspired them to attain their objective. Entered the Service from Beaumont, Texas.

PAUL E. SMITH, 20808457, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. As the company advanced along the slopes of \*\*\* across terraced, exposed terrain it was subjected to withering enemy machine gun fire and its advance halted. Several attempts had been made to eliminate an enemy pocket of resistance beyond a rock wall but because of the excellent enemy observation and the intensity of the fire they were unsuccessful. Sergeant Smith, on his own initiative, advanced his men over the bullet swept wall toward the position. He crawled over the exposed, muddy terrain to within twenty yards of the enemy emplacement and although exposed to intense enemy fire succeeded in throwing a hand grenade into the enemy position. While attempting to hurl a second grenade he was seriously wounded. Despite his wound, he then succeeded in leading his men back to our lines. His outstanding leadership, dogged determination, and devotion to duty inspired all those who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Huntsville, Texas.

FRANK T. HOLLAND, 20809786, Staff Sergeant, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Sergeant Holland, commanding the station platoon, 2d Battalion Medical Detachment, established his aid point near the river bank in the intense battle of the \*\*\* river crossing. All during the morning under terrific artillery, mortar and small arms fire he treated the casualties. When he discovered several wounded men on the far bank of the river, he voluntarily formed a squad and led them under direct enemy observation and fire across the stream. So intense was the enemy fire that it was necessary for him to wait several hours before he succeeded

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in moving boat loads of the wounded back across the river. His determined courage and calmness under fire greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from West, Texas.

EDWIN A. NOWACKI, 36320295, Sergeant, Company M, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Sergeant Nowacki, acting leader of a machine gun section, was attached to Company K in the assault across the \*\*\* river. After crossing the swift and treacherous river under intense mortar and artillery fire, they attacked the enemy defensive positions, coming under withering and intense small arms fire. Sergeant Nowacki rallied his men and fearlessly led them forward. Upon making contact with the remaining elements of the company and finding that his superior officers were casualties, he assisted in reorganizing the rifle platoons as well as his own platoon by personally leading riflemen to positions of vantage. His outstanding display of leadership and calm courage under fire greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

ALBERT D. SMITH, 38051466, Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Sergeant Smith assisted engineers in taking men across the swift flowing \*\*\* river under intense enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire. During the bitter battle he organized a group and placed them in fighting positions. He then directed the fire of a mortar squad, effectively destroying an enemy automatic weapon emplacement. When the enemy attacked his position in a bayonet charge he quickly secured an automatic rifle and with deadly fire killed two of the enemy and dispersed the others. Entered the Service from Cause, Texas.

O'DEAN T. COX, 20809238, Sergeant, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Sergeant Cox led his rifle squad under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire across the swift-flowing \*\*\* river. In the bitter battle that ensued the company commander and first sergeant became casualties and Sergeant Cox assisted in the reorganization of the Company. He led his men to new defensive positions and assisted in the organization of a new line of resistance. His magnificent courage, calmness under intense fire and outstanding leadership greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

SECTION II — AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of the second Silver Star, is awarded the following named individuals:

JULIAN W. QUARLES, 0397887, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Lieutenant Quarles, executive officer of an infantry company, undertook to maintain all around defense when his men were cut off from the rest of the company by a strong enemy tank attack penetrating from the rear. Moving fearlessly among his men during an intense concentration of enemy artillery and small arms fire, he skillfully placed them in positions from which their bazookas and small arms could be used most effectively against the formidable tanks. Although surrounded and outnumbered by the heavily armed enemy, with magnificent courage and exemplary coolness under fire he inspired the defense of the position at

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close range, personally killing three of the enemy before being overwhelmed and captured. Lieutenant Quarles' aggressive leadership and fierce determination materially aided in retarding the enemy advance and in its ultimate repulsion. Later he again displayed his outstanding daring and alertness by escaping from his guards and successfully making his way through the enemy lines back to his unit. Entered the Service from Nashville, Tennessee.

ROBERT M. PATTERSON, 6836501, Technical Sergeant, Company E, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. When his platoon leader was wounded during the crossing of the \*\* river, Sergeant Patterson assumed command and led his men in a courageous advance over flat exposed terrain protected by mines, booby traps and barbed wire entanglements and raked by continuous artillery, mortar, nebelwerfer and small arms fire. Fearlessly directing and encouraging his men in a bitter assault, he found they had been cut off and surrounded by a numerically superior enemy. With the lives of his comrades at stake, he cleverly distracted the attention of the enemy by allowing himself to be captured, while his men crawled away undetected. Sergeant Patterson later escaped from the enemy and returned to his unit with valuable information. His brave leadership and quick-witted aggressiveness under fire saved his comrades and inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Beaver, Pennsylvania.

By command of Major General WALKER:

STEWART T. 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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