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

14 January 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO.

4

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

✓ JOE W. GILL, First Sergeant, 20805398, Company F, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on the night of 15 December 1943 in the advance on * * *, near * * *, Italy. Sergeant Gill volunteered to command a platoon in this action. As the platoon reached the top of * * *, he observed a cave covered by an enemy shelter half. Since the enemy was well dug in the whole area, and because of darkness, it was necessary to preserve as much secrecy and silence during the movement as possible to prevent alerting the enemy. Therefore, Sergeant Gill pushed the shelter half aside, directed that an enemy officer who was preparing to fire be killed; and then physically forced one of the enemy outside the cave at great personal danger. He then forced the prisoner to point out all the enemy gun positions and locations in that area, resulting in the capture of fifteen well-entrenched enemy soldiers and saving the lives of many of his comrades as well as materially aiding in the securing of the mission. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Canyon, Texas.

✓ OKLA B. ROBBINS, Sergeant, 20805866, Company H, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 18 November 1943 in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. The company was in a defensive position in the rocky heights of * * *. Sergeant Robbins while observing fire activity, located the enemy setting up their mortars and machine guns in order to strengthen their positions to our front. Realizing these weapons were a serious threat to our troops, he managed to work his way forward over most rugged and difficult terrain almost devoid of cover while under direct observation by enemy snipers. He immediately directed effective mortar fire against the enemy but before the mission was accomplished, an enemy sniper, located above him, observed Sergeant Robbins accomplishing this courageous deed and began at once to fire on him. In spite of the danger of his position, he refused to return to cover and continued for ten minutes to direct fire which forced the enemy to retire, materially assisting in making his company's position secure. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Amarillo, Texas.

✓ JAMES J. SANTOS, 32416760, Corporal, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 18 November 1943, in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. Corporal Santos was in a building when enemy artillery shells struck nearby into a dump of "Molotov Cocktails", setting the battalion ammunition dump on fire. The same artillery shell seriously wounded an officer from an armored division, and Corporal Santos, with utter disregard for his personal safety, rushed out of his position of safety and cover and carried the officer to safety.

This courageous rescue was accomplished despite exploding small arms ammunition, blazing mortar cloves, and the danger that mortar shells in the dump would explode. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Brooklyn, N.Y.

✓ HERMAN J. EHLINGER, Technician Fifth Grade, 38025560, Headquarters Company, *** Infantry for gallantry in action on 21 November 1943 in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. Technician Fifth Grade Ehlinger was on duty as switchboard operator when the Command Post was brought under enemy artillery fire. When the shelling started, the first concentration fell in the immediate vicinity of the switchboard, forcibly throwing Technician Fifth Grade Ehlinger to the ground and wounding another man. During the entire two and one half hour period, shells burst at a distance no greater than two hundred yards from the switchboard and often within fifteen to thirty yards; but, with inspiring devotion to duty he remained at his post, operating the switchboard efficiently and keeping the Regimental Commander constantly informed of the effect of the fire. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the service from Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

✓ HERMAN (NMI) KUNZ, Technician Fifth Grade, 38025046, Headquarters Company, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 19 November 1943 in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. As the 2nd Battalion, *** Infantry was relieving the 2nd Battalion *** Infantry, the telephone lines to forward battalion positions were disrupted by enemy artillery fire. Technician Fifth Grade Kunz immediately went forward with his party to locate and repair the break. The route was under direct enemy observation and artillery fire, and after briefly taking cover, he pressed forward despite the shelling, successfully locating and repairing the break. During this action, a member of the party was seriously wounded and Technician Fifth Grade Kunz, with calm disregard for danger, assisted in administering first aid. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

✓ IRVIN S. ZIEROTH, Private First Class, 36212022, Headquarters Company, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 19 November 1943 in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. As the 2nd Battalion, *** Infantry was relieving the 2nd Battalion, *** Infantry the lines to forward battalion positions were disrupted by enemy artillery fire. Private First Class Zieroth, a member of the Regimental wire section immediately went forward with the wire party to locate and repair the break. The route was under direct enemy observation and artillery fire, and after briefly taking cover, he pressed forward despite the shelling, successfully locating and repairing the break. During this action, a member of the party was seriously wounded and Private First Class Zieroth, with calm disregard for danger, assisted in administering first aid. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Madison, Wisconsin.

✓ GORDON R. BONDURANT, Private First Class, 16054127, Company A, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1943 in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. Private First Class Bondurant, company sniper, kept constant rifle fire on forty entrenched enemy soldiers for an hour and a half. While under constant enemy machine gun fire and with utter disregard for his own safety, he moved over open terrain from one place to another, keeping his fire upon an enemy that disclosed his position. Due to his coolness, determination and accurate fire, he kept the enemy pinned down until they could be surrounded and captured. Private First Class Bondurant personally killed five enemy and wounded three others in addition to giving encouragement to his comrades. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Lancaster, Kentucky.

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✓ EDWARD D. MCGIFF, Private First Class, 33201559, Medical Detachment, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1943 on * * * in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. Private First Class McGiff, first aid man of Company G, was with his organization in a defensive position when it became subjected to an intense enemy artillery barrage. The first shell wounded five men in an exposed position. Private First Class McGiff, with utter disregard for his own safety, left his cover and proceeded to administer aid to the wounded men. Although the intense artillery barrage continued, he did not leave the exposed position until he had treated the five men and assisted in removing them to safety. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Baltimore, Maryland.

✓ PAUL E. GRAHAM, 16151332, Private, Company D, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 13 December 1943 in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. During a counter-attack by the enemy on the right sector of Hill 1205, an artillery barrage wounded every man in the machine gun squad of which Private Graham was an ammunition carrier. Though seriously wounded and with the enemy only twenty to thirty yards distant, alone he manned the machine gun rendering effective fire on the enemy positions until it was knocked out by a rifle grenade. The machine gun useless, he dauntlessly remained at his post firing his pistol, killing three of the enemy. This magnificent display of courage and outstanding calmness in the face of overwhelming odds was an inspiration to all who witnessed the deed. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the service from Flinton, Michigan.

✓ VERNON D. MCCASLAND, Private, 20804418, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 4 December 1943 in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. Although having been advised that it was practically impossible to lay wire along the trail between two vital hills, due to most difficult terrain and heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire, Private McCasland with two other wire men proceeded to lay wire to the battalion command post over this trail, in order to afford the only means of communication to higher headquarters. After they had gone 200 yards, one of the crew was instantly killed by enemy artillery fire, but realizing the importance of their task, Private McCasland and his comrade, with utter disregard for their personal safety, continued on their mission. With communications installed, they returned over the same dangerous route and carried the body of their dead comrade out of the shelled area. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Goldthwaite, Texas.

✓ STUART G. CROSSMAN, Private, 31260551, Company G, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 during the night attack on * * * in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. The squad of which Private Crossman was a member became pinned down by intense enemy machine gun fire delivered by three enemy weapons. Without orders, he crawled forward toward one of the machine guns until he could use a hand grenade. His grenade exploded near the position, demoralizing the crew, and causing them to abandon their gun and withdraw. His initiative and courage served as an inspiration to his comrades, and contributed materially to the success of his platoon in taking its objective. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Westboro, Massachusetts.

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GERALD D. WOOD, Private, 32771790, Company G, *** Infantry, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 during the night attack on * * * in the vicinity of * * *, Italy. The platoon of which Private Wood was a member was pinned down by intense enemy machine gun fire. Due to the character of the terrain, he was the only person who could fire upon the enemy, although he had little cover. Without hesitation, he brought fire upon the first machine gun position, using their muzzle blasts as targets, thereby allowing the members of his platoon to move forward and destroy the position with hand grenades. After the first enemy gun had been destroyed, he switched his fire to the second enemy machine gun which made it possible for his platoon to outflank and destroy it. A third enemy position was destroyed in the same manner. By his courageous action, Private Wood drew the hostile fire upon himself and singlehandedly served as the base of fire for his platoon to advance upon their objective. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Montclair, New Jersey.

By command of Major General WALKER:

CLAYTON P. KERR,
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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