

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

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11 March 1944

## GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 72

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

Award of Oak Leaf Cluster .....

## 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:

WILLIAM H. KAUFERT, 0407833, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Captain Kaufert, commanding officer of Company M, led his company across the swift-flowing \*\*\* river on a perilous footbridge while being subjected to heavy enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. When the entire 3d Battalion staff of officers had become either killed or wounded, Captain Kaufert took over command of the battalion. He personally moved among the front line troops during the enemy's counterattacks, giving them encouragement, directing their fire and ordering the displacement of units to new positions from which they might inflict heavier casualties on the enemy. This hazardous task was performed with utter disregard for his own personal safety and welfare under severe enemy machine gun, mortar and rifle fire. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

ROSS (NMI) YOUNG, 0348457, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944, in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Captain Young was S-3 of the 141st Infantry Regiment which was ordered to attack and cross the \*\*\* river. The attack was launched under intense enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire, cross ground further protected by mines, booby traps, and barbed wire. Cover in the last seven hundred yards of the approaches to the river was negligible. Despite this intense fire and the dangers that surrounded him Captain Young assisted the engineers in the difficult task of placing a foot pontoon bridge across the river and then, with total disregard for the holocaust of fire in the area, he assisted in the reorganization of three rifle companies and directed their crossing of the river. His untiring efforts, sincere devotion to duty and efficient performance in the face of grave danger greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

U JAMES E. EPPERSON, 0389707, First Lieutenant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Lieutenant Epperson's company was attached to the 2d Battalion for the frontal attack on \*\*\*. In the early part of the battle the company encountered overwhelming enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire and was severely disorganized. In the face of this devastating enemy defense, he calmly moved about the exposed area and reorganized the remnants of the company. When the artillery forward observer was killed Lieutenant Epperson moved forward into the open in plain view of the enemy in order to get better observation of his men and, at the same time, observing and adjusting artillery fire. While so doing he was wounded by machine gun fire. His outstanding leadership and aggressive determination in the face of vastly

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superior odds greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Rock Springs, Texas.

MARTIN J. TULLY, 01305347, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Lieutenant Tully, Executive Officer of Company B, was assisting in the movement of his company from the final assembly area to the \*\*\* river to attack the enemy. The attack was launched under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar, and small arms fire, across ground further protected by mines, booby traps and barbed wire. When this intense fire disorganized the company Lieutenant Tully coolly proceeded to gather the men together. While so doing he was wounded by a shell fragment. Despite his wound he carried on with the reorganization and led the company forward until he fell from exhaustion and loss of blood. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

JOHN R. VOSBURGH, 01304595, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19-20 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. As a platoon leader in Company B, Lieutenant Vosburgh led his platoon across the almost barren approaches through mine fields to the swift-flowing \*\*\* river. The entire river area was under heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. The boat containing the company's machine guns and mortars capsized in launching, throwing this badly needed equipment into the water. Disregarding incessant enemy machine gun fire which had been brought to bear upon the river banks, Lieutenant Vosburgh dove into the icy swift-flowing stream and retrieved two machine guns and two mortars from the river bottom. His swift action, outstanding courage and devotion to duty greatly inspired all members of the company. Entered the Service from Wichita, Kansas.

JOHN R. SOYKE, 01307583, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Lieutenant Soyke commanded the weapons platoon of Company B in the attack to cross the \*\*\* river. The attack was launched under terrific enemy artillery, mortar, nebelwerfer and machine gun fire, across ground further protected by ingeniously laid mine-fields, booby traps and barbed wire. The company was pinned down shortly before reaching the river by a holocaust of enemy fire. One shell which landed in the middle of the weapons platoon killed or wounded the members of two entire mortar squads. Despite the continued intense fire, Lieutenant Soyke moved back to his section, which he had been leading, and guided the wounded to points of comparative safety. He then reorganized not only the elements of his platoon but the rear portions of the company and led it on forward in the attack. His calmness under fire and outstanding leadership greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

JACK S. CHILDERS, 20805815, First Sergeant, Company H, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 February 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. While preparing for its attack on Hill \*\*, Company H, 142d Infantry Regiment was subjected to an intense enemy artillery barrage, suffering twenty casualties. Since the company aid men were among the wounded, Sergeant Childers, with utter disregard for his own safety and although the enemy shelling continued, left his position of cover and administered aid to the stricken soldiers. After completing this self-assigned task, he further endangered himself by travelling over a continuously shelled road to secure litter bearers and then personally assisted them in the successful evacuation of the wounded. Having completed the removal of these men

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to safety, he rejoined in his company's subsequent attack. Entered the Service from Amarillo, Texas.

ALFRED H. CARNOT, 20801071, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. As communication chief of Headquarters Company, First Battalion, Sergeant Carnot accompanied Company C in the initial attempt to cross the \*\*\* river. The last 700 yards of the river approaches were almost devoid of cover and thickly sown with mines and booby traps. Crawling on his hands and knees under almost continuous enemy small arms and mortar fire Sergeant Carnot led the wire crew successfully through the mine field in total darkness. Upon reaching the river's edge he discovered a number of our troops attempting to return across the river. Disregarding the direct enemy machine gun fire and intense mortar fire along the river bank Sergeant Carnot stood up and threw ropes across the river dragging several soldiers through the swift-flowing waters to safety. At the same time, he directed his crew in the continuous maintenance of communications with Battalion Headquarters. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

JAMES C. MADDOX, 20809293, Technical Sergeant, Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. In the bitter battle to cross the \*\*\* river, Sergeant Maddox led his platoon under cover of darkness through intense enemy fires across the swift-flowing stream. When the platoon commander became a casualty, Sergeant Maddox commanded the group aggressively and later assisted in the reorganization of the company after the devastating enemy action had made the position untenable. Despite bitter enemy fires of all types, he led his men to new defensive positions and supervised their emplacements. His magnificent courage, calmness under fire, and outstanding leadership greatly inspired all who witnessed his deeds. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

MORRIS W. WALKER, 38025493, Technical Sergeant, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Sergeant Walker was assigned the mission of leading a machine gun section of Company C across the \*\*\* river on the night of 21-22 January. While attempting the crossing the area was covered by heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire and the rubber assault boat to be used by the section was destroyed. On the morning of 22 January he succeeded in getting his men across the river where the positions were constantly being subjected by enemy machine gun, artillery and mortar fire which resulted in heavy casualties. Constantly exposing himself to this fire, Sergeant Walker moved among his men seeing that they were properly protected and assisted in improving their morale. He then volunteered to cross to the east side of the river and secure artillery support, and in returning, took three walking wounded soldiers with him. Finding the pontoon bridge destroyed, he swam the swift flowing river and brought back a rubber boat, successfully evacuating the wounded men. He then delivered the message calling for artillery support. Entered the Service from San Saba, Texas.

**SECTION II — AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER**

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

GEORGE E. LYNCH, 017715, Colonel, (then Lieutenant Colonel), 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy.

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Lieutenant Colonel Lynch established his command post near the front lines in the attack on \*\*\* and constantly throughout the operation and the subsequent envelopment of \*\*\*; commanded his troops from the most forward and dangerous areas. Working long periods without rest, he set a magnificent example of determination, leadership and fortitude which inspired his officers and men to accomplish their almost super-human tasks with such dash and courage that the well entrenched enemy were overcome. Despite intense and accurate enemy artillery and small arms fire, he planned, supervised and assisted in the tactical operation and supply of his forces over rugged terrain made even more difficult by severe weather. The outstanding courage, utter determination, and unselfish devotion to duty greatly inspired the members of his command. Entered the United States Military Academy from the United States at Large

PERMAN (NMI) KUNZ, 38025546, Technician Grade 5, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 20-21 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, Italy. Technician Grade 5 Kunz was chief lineman of a wire party whose mission was to install and maintain wire communications between the regimental forward switchboard and the command posts of the assault battalions which were to attack across the \*\*\* river. The approach area was under terrific enemy artillery, nebelwerfer, mortar and small arms fire, further protected by mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire. Technician Grade 5 Kunz and his party on the night of the assault laid heavy wire by hand twelve hundred yards to the crossing sites, going in with the assault companies and having communications established when the battalion command post arrived at the river. Within the forty-eight hour duration of the crossing assault the continued maintenance of communications required this party to use more than six miles of wire which they laid over exposed terrain in concentrations of enemy fire that drove other personnel to cover. To avoid this constant destruction within the heaviest impact area of the enemy fires, this party altered the wire route to run through unmarked mine fields where other personnel had been and were being killed by mines. Entered the Service from Fredericksburg, Texas.

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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