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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
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GENERAL ORDERS

19 July 1944

NO. 247

ORIGINAL ORDER -  
DLX.

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

SECTION I — POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is posthumously awarded to the following named individual for gallantry in action.

LAWRENCE W. KOLITAS, 33139350, Private First Class, Company M, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 June 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. The machine gun platoon of which Private First Class Kolitas was a member was assigned the mission of establishing a base of fire on the enemy's right flank, and to pin the hostile soldiers to the ground thus permitting a friendly unit to maneuver successfully and envelope them. Private First Class Kolitas and his comrades directed rapid and effective fire against the enemy; however, the enemy soon located the source and began blasting the platoon position with mortar shells. As the platoon's supply of ammunition became critical, Private First Class Kolitas, aware of the extreme danger to which he would expose himself, braved the intense enemy fire to secure additional ammunition. He moved forward fearlessly until he was struck down by enemy shell fragments, and died of these wounds shortly thereafter. Next of kin: Mrs Marie Kolitas (Mother), 855 Carroll Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

SECTION II — AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Silver Star is awarded to the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

JESS G. GARBER, 0480244, Captain (then First Lieutenant), Medical Corps, 753d Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 9 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. When a tank recovery vehicle was struck by enemy artillery fire and an enlisted man was seriously wounded by the explosion, Lieutenant Garber unhesitatingly left his place of safety and ran across the shell blasted terrain under continued hostile fire, to aid the man. He succeeded in carrying the injured soldier to a shallow hole which afforded some protection from the barrage and proceeded to administer effective first aid. While artillery shells burst all around him, he calmly dressed the man's wounds and steadfastly refused to leave him until the shelling ceased and evacuation was possible. By his skill and daring, Lieutenant Garber saved the leg and perhaps the life of the wounded soldier. Entered the Service from Brookline, Massachusetts.

BERNARD J. MURPHY, 01290290, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 June 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\* \*\*\*, ITALY. The 1st Battalion had reached its objective and had begun to occupy the new positions when the enemy launched a determined counterattack. Immediately cognizant of the situation, Captain Murphy, a battalion staff officer, noted the routes of approach the enemy was using and the approximate number of the hostile force. Moving rapidly, he

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collected the nearest men and rallied them into an effective fighting unit. He then led them in the face of intense enemy fire to the forward slope of the mountain and, with scarcely enough time to deploy his men, displayed outstanding qualities of leadership in placing them immediately in strategic positions affording the best fields of fire. He led his men across the slope of the hill and directed an effective and continuous wall of fire against the enemy to his front. Although he was wounded by a grenade fragment, Captain Murphy continued directing his men in their fierce fire fight until the enemy force had been driven back. Entered the Service from Omaha, Nebraska.

SELVIN E. SAMPSON, 01309840, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 May 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* \*, ITALY. Lieutenant Sampson, a platoon leader in Company C, was ordered to lead his platoon against heavily fortified enemy positions in a strategic town. He valiantly led his men forward in the attack in the face of sweeping machine gun and small arms fire across terrain blasted by enemy artillery and mortars. Aware that the tanks which supported his unit had poor visibility while buttoned up, he personally located several enemy positions affording excellent targets for the tanks. He then stood erect, consciously exposing himself to the furious enemy fire, to direct the tank fire on the well concealed enemy positions. He not only led his platoon courageously against the hostile force; he also enabled the tanks to destroy strong enemy emplacements. Entered the Service from Hector, Minnesota.

REDMON R. GAINES, 01016119, Second Lieutenant, 753d Tank Battalion, for gallantry in action on 8 June 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* \*, ITALY. When Lieutenant Gaines led the 2d Platoon of his tank company in support of two attacking infantry companies, he contacted the enemy almost immediately. The tanks were subjected to intense enemy antitank fire and a heavy mortar barrage, and the infantry troops were stopped by sweeping machine gun fire. Lieutenant Gaines unhesitatingly swung his tank into the line of fire in order to protect the infantrymen from the hail of machine gun bullets. By his skillful maneuvers and accurate fire, his tank destroyed two enemy antitank guns. He then turned his tank and charged the machine gun emplacements, knocking out ten of them. Largely because of his quick thinking and daring, the enemy resistance was broken and only two casualties were sustained by the friendly forces. Entered the Service from Climax, Georgia.

JACK A. LONG, 20804865, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 June 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* \*, ITALY. During an enemy counterattack, a group of six enemy soldiers crawled very near Private First Class Long's machine gun emplacement and, by their selection of positions, prevented his directing effective fire on them. When the riflemen supporting his position were forced to set up a new defense, he was left at an unprotected, forward point exposed to the enemy fire. The hostile soldiers began throwing hand grenades at his emplacement, and Private First Class Long answered with accurately hurled hand grenades. He forced the enemy to withdraw to a position where he could deliver effective machine gun fire on them and completely crushed the attack. Entered the Service from Ballinger, Texas.

JACK C. STEVENS, 32766958, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 June 1944 in the vicinity of \* \* \*, ITALY. Private First Class Stevens was the first scout of the 2d Platoon which was the base unit in an attack on enemy positions. After moving forward, ahead of his platoon for 200 yards over the mountainous terrain, he was fired on by an enemy machine gun. Dropping to the ground under the rapid bursts of machine gun bullets, he realized that he could not contact his platoon to warn them of the imminent danger or

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to receive orders from his superiors. Aware that he must act immediately, on his own initiative, to save his comrades, Private First Class Stevens advanced directly in the face of the heavy, ceaseless machine gun fire. As he neared the gun emplacement, his bayonet was shot from his rifle and bullets kicked up dirt all around him, but he never faltered and continued on toward the hostile position. Taking careful aim, he fired his rifle and killed the enemy gunner; then he destroyed the machine gun nest. Entered the Service from Columbus, Ohio.

JOHN S. WINYSKI, 32776390, Private First Class, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. Private First Class Winycki was riding on a truck toward \*\*\* as part of the leading element of a motorized column. When the column was delayed on the outskirts of the city, an enemy force opened fire on the vehicles. Private First Class Winycki leaped from his truck and ran to a position from which he could direct fire on the attackers; and, by his quick thinking and immediate, aggressive action, he succeeded in repelling the assault. He then participated in a counterattack on the hostile force, personally killing three of the 10 enemy soldiers who were killed and assisting in the capture of 25 prisoners. Entered the Service from New Brunswick, N. J.

(31381076)

ARTHUR G. GIANACOPOLOUS, 31381076, Private, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. Ordered to hold a strategic road crossing which separated his unit from the remainder of the battalion, Private Gianacopolous moved into position fifty yards from the nearest friendly troops on his right. A strong enemy force of approximately twenty men launched repeated assaults against his position, but he staunchly maintained his post. Although he was imperilled by sniper fire from his rear as well as sweeping enemy fire from the attackers in the woods below him, he repelled each new attack with his accurate rifle fire and expertly hurled hand grenades. He held back his unmercifully superior foe for two hours, firing tirelessly in the face of the enemy soldiers until other riflemen were placed on his right flank and his platoon was ordered to move to alternate positions. He personally accounted for two enemy dead and aided materially in repelling the enemy attack. Entered the Service from Hartford, Connecticut.

SECTION III -- 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 to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

MARION P. BOWDEN, 0407022, Major, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 June 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. The 1st Battalion had taken its objective on the heights of a mountain and had begun to fortify the new positions when the enemy launched a furious counterattack. Major Bowden, battalion executive officer, immediately observed the strength of the enemy and probable routes of advance. He then swiftly organized a group of men in his vicinity into an effective combat unit and led them down the forward slopes of the mountain. Displaying unusual courage and outstanding qualities of leadership, he directed each man to an advantageous position and, exposing himself to the holocaust of enemy fire, moved among the men, encouraging them and skillfully directing them to advance on the enemy and form a continuous wall of fire to disrupt the counterattack. Largely as a result of his personal heroism, the hostile force was repelled and 20 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded. Entered the Service from Belton, Texas.

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HARRY R. MOORE, 38035998, Technical Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant), Company F, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. Although he was in the hospital recovering from an attack of malaria, Sergeant Moore insisted upon rejoining his unit when he learned that it was returning to the front lines, and he reached his company in time to participate in a perilous crossing of a strategic river. After effecting the crossing in the face of intense artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, he assumed command of his platoon when the platoon sergeant was killed and, although painfully wounded in the hand, refused to leave his unit. Enemy soldiers called out for the attackers to surrender, but he forced the enemy to withdraw by directing his men in firing on them. Ordered to return to the friendly bank of the river for treatment, Sergeant Moore assisted two wounded men in crossing the river and reaching an aid station. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

*Vincent M. Lockhart*

VINCENT M. LOCKHART

Captain, Adjutant General's Department  
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