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

12 May 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 134

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

HILES A. COWLES, 08577, Brigadier General, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division Artillery, for gallantry in action on 13-14 September 1943 in the vicinity of ~~***~~, ITALY. General Cowles went forward of his division artillery command post to coordinate artillery fires for an attack on the town. When he had successfully completed his self-assigned mission, he determined to remain in the forward artillery positions overnight, although a heavy shelling from enemy artillery was anticipated. When the furious barrage began, General Cowles fearlessly moved from position to position, advising the men, and by his very presence assuring them of ultimate achievement of their goal. His calm demeanor and steady assurance under the harrowing circumstances inspired the gun crews to a high peak of courage and efficiency, and the warmth and strength of his personality encouraged the men to work tirelessly in an effort to emulate their commanding general's valor. Entered the United States Military Academy from North Carolina.

WILLIAM C. CHADDOCK, 01317603, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 17 and 18 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~***~~, ITALY. Lieutenant Chaddock volunteered to lead a fifteen man reconnaissance patrol across the ~~***~~ River. In approaching the river, the patrol crossed a heavily mined field covered by enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Lieutenant Chaddock successfully crossed the treacherous river in a rubber boat and immediately began sending out "feelers" to locate enemy positions. When his party returned, reporting the locations of an enemy motor park and mortar positions, he directed successful artillery fire upon them. The following night Lieutenant Chaddock recrossed the river with the same patrol and discovered additional enemy positions. Returning with the information, his boat capsized, spilling the men into the icy waters of the river. The men saved themselves only by exerting extraordinary physical prowess and stamina in their battle against the swift currents. In securing information of incalculable value Lieutenant Chaddock displayed qualities of extreme personal courage and fortitude. Entered the Service from Benton Harbor, Michigan.

ROBERT L. DAVIS, 01289702, Second Lieutenant, 142nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21 November 1943 in the vicinity of ~~***~~, ITALY. Leading a small patrol on a dangerous reconnaissance mission in hostile territory, Lieutenant Davis skillfully infiltrated through enemy positions, carefully noting dispositions and strength of the defending forces. Despite heavy artillery and

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mortar fire, he steadfastly pursued his hazardous mission until the vital information had been obtained. When the patrol became pinned down by enemy machine gun and rifle fire during the return trip, Lieutenant Davis daringly exposed himself to the intense fire while placing his men in covered positions and contacting friendly mortar fire which he so accurately directed that the enemy was repulsed and the patrol was enabled to reach safety intact. His outstanding courage and aggressive leadership inspired the successful accomplishment of his important mission and undoubtedly saved the lives of the members of the patrol. Entered the Service from Washington, D. C.

JAMES J. CURRAN, 01307807, Second Lieutenant, 142nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. After landing on Green Beach in the invasion of Italy, Lieutenant Curran, platoon leader, led his men toward ***. When the platoon was suddenly attacked by five enemy tanks, he skillfully directed his men to deploy along a rock wall. Constantly exposing himself to enemy fire, Lieutenant Curran ordered his grenade launcher riflemen to take positions at the corners of the wall and to open fire on the tanks. By his efficient maneuvering of his platoon and the skill with which he directed the firing, he was instrumental in putting one of the enemy tanks out of action, the turret blown off by an exploding grenade. The remaining four tanks were driven away by the effective fire. Although severely wounded by shell fragments, Lieutenant Curran refused to go to the aid station and continued to lead his platoon until the objective was reached. Entered the Service from Ayer, Massachusetts.

ROBERT J. PASSONS, 20808086, Technical Sergeant, Cannon Company 143rd Infantry Regiment, Entered the Service from Temple, Texas.

HARRY E. LUCADO, 33523920, Private First Class, Cannon Company, 143rd Infantry Regiment, Entered the Service from Roanoke, Virginia.

For gallantry in action on 10 February 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. While in their platoon area they heard a mine explosion and for sometime thereafter cries of wounded men. Voluntarily they set out to find and administer aid to the wounded men, travelling through mine fields, barbed wire entanglements and subjected to constant artillery fire. Upon finding the wounded men they administered first aid. One remained with the wounded men while the other went to secure an ambulance. Upon arrival of the ambulance they helped carry the wounded back through the mine field to it. Their display of outstanding courage, initiative and devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the lives of their comrades.

ELMER S. WARD, 37037296, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. When his battalion was ordered across the *** River to establish a bridgehead, Sergeant Ward, then a platoon sergeant, led his men across a narrow foot bridge constantly subjected to enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire and advanced with them to a point two hundred fifty yards beyond the river bank. Temporarily halted by barbed wire entanglements, covered by enemy machine gun fire, he ordered the wire be cut and skillfully directed his platoon through the entanglements. The quickly mounting casualties, caused by concentrated fire from the strongly defended enemy positions and the explosions from well placed mines, made efficient organization very difficult; but Sergeant Ward, realizing the necessity for consolidating the depleted forces into an effective firing and fighting unit, fearlessly moved about among the men, reorganizing them to renew the attack. Throughout the day, while most of the troops were pinned down by the furious enemy fire, he continued to

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direct his men in an heroic effort to maintain control in the company. By his aggressive leadership at a time when most of the officers and non-commissioned officers had been killed or wounded, Sergeant Ward prevented the disorganization of the company and led them effectively against the enemy. Entered the Service from Honey Grove, Texas.

ARTHUR T. RAGER, 33019417, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 143rd Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 20 January 1944 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Sergeant Rager, leader of a mortar squad ordered to cross the *** River with the company in an attack on enemy positions, led his squad down a ravine toward the river. When the enemy unexpectedly shelled the ravine with artillery and mortar fire, he was severely wounded by a shell burst. Ignoring his intense pain and the weakness engendered by his wounds, Sergeant Rager disdained evacuation and insisted upon crawling about among his men, directing the removal of the wounded to positions of safety. When the barrage lifted and the section again advanced, he staunchly refused to withdraw for treatment and continued to lead his men across the river. When a machine gun was lost in the water and mud, Sergeant Rager, in spite of the constant threat of enemy fire, efficiently assisted in recovering the valuable weapon. So great was his courage and the intensity of his desire to engage the enemy that, as his own strength waned, the bravery and daring of the men, inspired by their intrepid comrade, greatly increased. Entered the Service from Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

CALVIN (NMI) WILLIAMS, 20803177, Staff Sergeant (then Corporal), Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 29 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. Corporal Williams volunteered to lead a combat patrol in an attack on the town. He led his men through an olive orchard under cover of a friendly artillery barrage; but, when the barrage lifted, the patrol was caught in the cross fire from three enemy machine guns in the town. In spite of the machine gun fire and severe shelling from mortars, Corporal Williams, heedless of personal danger, moved among his men, encouraging them to continue the attack. When higher headquarters realized that the patrol's situation was desperate, a smoke screen was laid on the position and the patrol ordered to return. Aware that a nearby draw was the obvious route of withdrawal, Corporal Williams wisely led his patrol across the high ground and thus avoided the heavy mortar barrage with which the enemy blasted the draw. By his calmness and quick thinking in the face of heavy enemy fire, Corporal Williams saved his patrol and returned with invaluable information concerning the enemy machine gun positions. Entered the Service from Dale, Texas.

HARRY R. MOORE, 34035998, Sergeant, Company F, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, ITALY. When the company attacked enemy positions in the town, furious bursts of machine gun, mortar and artillery fire inflicted numerous casualties and forced the men to cover behind a stone wall. Although previous attempts to advance beyond the wall had met with failure, Sergeant Moore, realizing the necessity for neutralizing the deadly gun emplacements, voluntarily led his squad in the face of withering enemy fire toward a machine gun nest. Although twice struck by shrapnel fragments and aware that his comrades were falling about him, he dauntlessly continued advancing at the head of his squad and succeeded in bringing effective fire on the heavily fortified enemy position. Then, with admirable consideration for the security of his men, Sergeant Moore crawled forward alone, finally attaining a position from which he threw two hand grenades into the enemy emplacement. His devotion to duty and intrepid disregard for personal safety inspired all the

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members of his unit. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

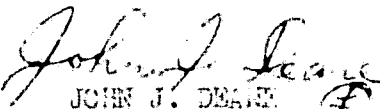
WALTER D. HOOD, 38026010, Technician Fifth Grade, Cannon Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 31 January 1944 in the vicinity of ~~the~~, ITALY. Tec 5 Hood volunteered to go and bring back one of the self-propelled M-7 105 mm Howitzers which had been abandoned several days before in an exposed position one thousand yards forward because of the imminent danger of fire and explosion from their punctured gasoline tanks. On the night of 31 January, after an unsuccessful try two nights before, he and the section sergeant made their way under artillery fire to the mount. Displaying splendid courage and self-control despite the heavy concentrations of enemy mortar and artillery fire which the flames of the sputtering exhaust immediately drew into the area, he calmly waited until the motor warmed up. Then, guided by the sergeant who used the luminous dial of his wrist watch as a diminutive beacon, he drove the mount back to safety. The dogged courage of Tec 5 Hood saved a very valuable self-propelled gun. Entered the Service from Boler, Texas.

PETER H. KRAMER, 36595600, Private First Class (then Private), Medical Detachment, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 December 1943 in the vicinity of MOUNT ~~the~~, ITALY. When a reconnaissance patrol sent forward of Company C's defensive positions encountered unexpected enemy mortar and machine gun fire, one of the wounded patrol members was left in front of the lines. Private Kramer, hearing the call for medical aid, voluntarily left his position with another company and went to assist the wounded man. He climbed the steep trail in front of the lines, constantly exposed to mortar fire, found the man and skillfully administered first aid treatment. He then carried him to a secure position behind the lines and supervised his evacuation. By jeopardizing his own life to aid a wounded comrade, Private Kramer upheld the fine traditions of the Medical Department. Entered the Service from Wyandotte, Michigan.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:


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

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