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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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GENERAL ORDERS

10 August, 1944

NO. 287

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SECTION I -- POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

JAMES FOYTIK, 38051015, Technical Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 June 1944 in Italy. When Sergeant Foytik was ordered to withdraw his platoon from a defensive position to the rear of Company F, the platoon was subjected to sweeping machine gun fire and was pinned to the ground, unable to move. Thinking only of the safety of his men, Sergeant Foytik stood erect in an exposed position and fired his automatic rifle point blank into the enemy emplacement, neutralizing the gun. He remained in this position, directing accurate fire on the hostile force, until the last man in his platoon had withdrawn to safety. Sergeant Foytik was killed in action in a later engagement. Next of kin: Mr. Frank Foytik (Father), Route #1, Box 400, Galveston, Tex.

✓ WALTER W. LONG, 20803918, Technician Fifth Grade, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 September 1943 in Italy. During the intense fighting on the strategic beachhead, Tec 5 Long advanced with the 4th Platoon as aid man, braving the incessant artillery and mortar shelling and the heavy small arms fire to be near his comrades and render first aid immediately. When his platoon was ordered to dig in, he disdained a position to the rear which afforded cover from the enemy fire and chose an exposed position on the front lines. He moved about the shell blasted battle ground, treating the wounds of his comrades and inspiring them by his own display of courage. He was advancing to aid a wounded soldier when he was killed by enemy shell fire. Next of kin: Mr. Walter W. Long, Sr, (Father), Mc Mahan, Texas.

WALTER E. BOND, JR, 32944053, Private First Class, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Bond, gunner in a machine gun squad, was assigned a position in a ditch and instructed to cover an important road with his weapon. Although the position afforded excellent protection, the field of fire was limited. Acting on his own initiative, Private First Class Bond determined to displace his machine gun and set it up in an exposed position on a bank. From this point he was able to deliver deadly accurate bursts of fire on the enemy troops, inflicting many casualties and forcing them to withdraw, completely disorganized. However, his position on the bank afforded no protection from the enemy fire, and he was killed by a mortar shell explosion. Next of kin: Mrs Bessie Bond (Wife), Oakfield, N.Y.

HENRY D. SOLIS, 20801700, Private, Company B, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 June 1944 in Italy. While advancing in an attack on well

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fortified enemy positions, Company B was subjected to intense machine gun cross fire which pinned the attackers down. Aware of the seriousness of this threat to the safety of his comrades, Private Solis valiantly charged the gun emplacements in an attempt to silence them. He advanced directly in the face of machine gun and mortar fire until he was killed by a shell explosion. His valor and selflessness inspired his comrades to redouble their efforts and accomplish their mission. Next of kin: Mr. Theodore Solis (Father), 1823 Saunders Avenue, Antonio, Texas.

SECTION II — AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

ROBERT E. CAREY, 01299199, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 18 June 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Carey commanded an 81mm mortar platoon in support of a rifle company attacking enemy positions. After placing his weapons for firing, he went forward with the rifle company to direct his mortars from a forward observation point. When the lead rifle squad was pinned down by heavy machine gun fire and the attack seemed to be blocked, Lieutenant Carey directed a flanking movement that resulted in the destruction of the enemy weapon and the capture of two prisoners. His quick action in the face of great personal danger made possible the success of the attack. Entered the Service from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

RAYMOND L. HULING, 34707314, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in Italy. Moving forward in front of his platoon when its attack was stopped by heavy small arms fire, Sergeant Huling, a squad leader, led his men in a renewal of the assault. Encouraging them by his daring disregard of the enemy fire, he directed a furious onslaught against the hostile forces and drove them out of their position. Sergeant Huling personally accounted for two enemy snipers who had attempted to pick off his automatic rifle team. He skillfully deployed his fire power in the most strategic positions, and undertook to fill in a gap in the lines created by the withdrawal of other troops because of the severity of the fighting. Entered the Service from Bridgeport, Alabama.

EARL W. WATKINS, 20807005, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 May 1944 in Italy. Although ordered to withdraw with the remainder of his patrol, Private First Class Watkins refused to leave his platoon leader and a wounded soldier who were pinned down by sweeping enemy machine gun fire. Courageously exposing himself in order to draw the hostile fire, he began firing rapid, accurate bursts from his sub-machine gun to cover the withdrawal of the two men. When he had fired all his ammunition, he valiantly placed himself between the men and the hostile positions, protecting them from the hostile fire with his own body, thus enabling them to move to a position of safety. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

ELVIN M. MATHERLY, 35169036, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery A, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 31 May 1944 in Italy. Tec 5 Matherly was assigned as radio operator on the forward observer detail with the 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment. A counterattack by enemy paratroops forced him to withdraw from the ledge and carry his radio set to a lower ledge. Determined to safeguard his vital instrument, he worked his way around to the left close to the observer where he discovered another small ledge which was

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occupied by two enemy paratroopers armed with machine pistols and grenades. Armed with his carbine and hand grenades Tec 5 Matherly killed one of the enemy soldiers and drove the other off the ledge. Having secured the new position he set up his radio and called over to the observer that he was ready to resume the transmission of the interrupted fire mission. The resumption of the artillery concentration aided greatly the retaking of the high ground by our infantry elements a few minutes later. Entered the Service from Brazil, Indiana.

WILLIS J. OCHS, 37219685, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 4 June 1944 in Italy. Tec 5 Ochs was attached to Company F as aid man when the company area was subjected to concentrated mortar fire. He heard the cries of wounded men and unhesitatingly left his place of safety to go to their assistance. He advanced rapidly across the shell torn terrain, treating one of the wounded men and moving immediately to another. While administering first aid, he was painfully wounded in the hand by a hurtling shell fragment, but he staunchly refused evacuation until he had completed the treatment of his patient. Entered the Service from Great Bend, Kansas.

MARION PRESSLEY, 7002031, Private First Class, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in Italy. While his platoon was engaged in small arms combat, Private First Class Pressley, company messenger, voluntarily attacked a pill box which had been harassing his comrades with heavy fire. He crept forward and threw three hand grenades into the position, inflicting several casualties on the hostile force. He immediately became the target for machine gun and rifle fire directed from concealed positions. He returned to his platoon, secured the aid of an automatic rifle team and additional riflemen, and led them against the enemy troops, forcing their withdrawal. Later in the day, he volunteered to lead a patrol through hostile territory to contact Company F. He encountered an enemy force and returned to report that Company F had withdrawn, thus enabling his own company to place outposts on the unprotected flank. Entered the Service from Spartanburg, South Carolina.

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 the following named officer for gallantry in action.

GABRIEL L. NAVARRETE, 02055833, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 7 and 18 January 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Navarrete was instructed to lead a combat patrol which was composed of a rifle platoon and a machine gun section across a strategic river to take and hold high ground on the hostile side. He led his men safely over a mine field toward the river and, upon effecting a successful crossing to the hostile bank, sent one squad forward to reconnoiter the area and held the remaining elements of the patrol in support. The forward squad encountered a barbed wire entanglement and was subjected to the cross fire of six enemy machine guns. Lieutenant Navarrete maneuvered the other two squads and the machine gun section in a flanking movement, but they were stopped by an enemy platoon. In the ensuing fire fight, Lieutenant Navarrete was wounded by machine pistol fire. Ignoring his painful wounds, he killed several of the enemy soldiers, then ordered his machine guns to deliver fire on the attackers over the heads of his troops. The rapid bursts of cross fire were most effective and forced the enemy to withdraw; but, as the patrol advanced, Lieutenant

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Navarrete, detected an attempt by the enemy force to encircle his group. He immediately withdrew his patrol to the river bank and there, under heavy mortar fire, organized a defensive position. When the battalion commander ordered the patrol to return to the friendly bank of the river, Lieutenant Navarrete, in spite of his weakened condition, directed a safe and orderly withdrawal. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

SECTION IV — CORRECTED AWARD OF SILVER STAR

So much of Section II, General Orders Number 214, cs, this Headquarters, as awards an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal to JULIAN H. PHILIPS, 01298919, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:


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

O.K. "JULIAN H. PHILIPS, 01298919, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 24 January 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Philips volunteered to lead a daylight reconnaissance patrol across a treacherous river to secure information concerning enemy installations. The patrol crossed the river in a rubber assault boat, and advanced in the face of heavy enemy artillery and mortar shelling and machine gun fire to a barbed wire entanglement, and located the gun pits. Upon returning to the river bank, Lieutenant Philips discovered that the boat had been punctured by enemy fire and could not be used in recrossing the river. Four of the patrol members were able to swim back to the friendly bank, but one man could not swim. With thoughts only for the safety of his men, Lieutenant Philips instructed the soldier to hang on to the rubber assault boat while he swam across the icy river, pulling the damaged boat behind him. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas."

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:


HARRY B. FELTON
Major, Adjutant General's Department
Asst. Adjutant General

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