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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
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GENERAL ORDERS

8 July 1944

NO. 232

Posthumous Award of Silver Star..... I  
Award of Silver Star..... II

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 individuals for gallantry in action:

HARPER W. HARRIS, 20803514, Corporal, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. Corporal Harris, assistant squad leader, advanced with his unit in the face of intense enemy fire after landing on the fiercely defended beachhead. After pushing 1000 yards inland against fierce resistance, the increased tempo of enemy fire necessitated an order for the squad to withdraw from the dangerous positions. After making a reconnaissance for a place of protection for his squad, Corporal Harris began directing his men to cover. While so engaged, he was severely wounded by the enemy fire, but, in spite of an alarming loss of blood, he refused to be evacuated until he had moved his men to safety. He continued valiantly performing his duties until he died of abdominal wounds. Next of kin: Mrs Allie R. Harris (Mother), Route #1, Waelder, Texas.

TINY G. WALDRUM, 38036259, Corporal, Antitank Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 May 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. During a furious enemy tank attack which threatened the company's positions, the camouflage net covering one of the antitank guns burst into flame. The gun crew scattered, but Corporal Waldrum, although he was a member of a different unit, realized the necessity for employing every available gun to repel the enemy attack and unhesitatingly ran to the position under heavy enemy tank fire to man the weapon. Inspired by his extraordinary courage and his disregard for personal safety, the gun crew returned to the antitank gun and resumed their positions. Corporal Waldrum was responsible for keeping the gun in action, and the weapon proved invaluable in assisting in the repulse of the tank attack. He was killed in action during a subsequent engagement. Next of kin: Mrs Tula King (Mother), Vernon, Texas.

HARRY J. KEEFER, 33230603, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. Private First Class Keefer was an automatic rifleman with the 2d Platoon when his unit landed in an assault against the enemy positions on the strategic beachhead. He pushed forward with his comrades, covering 1000 yards of furiously defended terrain, until his company was stopped by the increased tempo of enemy shelling and machine gun cross fire. Private First Class Keefer crawled forward under the sweeping fire to a position from which he could direct fire on the enemy emplacements with his automatic rifle. Aware that the gun which he attacked was covered by another enemy machine gun, he fearlessly opened fire on the weapon and knocked it out. As he turned to fire on the second machine gun he was killed by the bursts of fire from that gun nest. He was found clutching his rifle, his finger

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still pressing the trigger. Next of kin: Miss Laura Keefer (Sister), 1923 Fulton Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

HOWARD R. MIDDLEING, 35023639, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 16 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. When heavy enemy mortar shelling and incessant small arms fire rendered the positions of Private First Class Middling's platoon untenable, the unit was ordered to move to a new position affording more cover. The route followed by the platoon members led across several open terraces swept by enemy machine gun fire. Private First Class Middling's progress was impeded by the cumbersome mortar which he was carrying, and, while crossing one of the terraces, he had difficulty in moving his weapon. Rather than abandon the mortar which he knew to be indispensable to the security of his platoon, he delayed his advance across the terrace and faced the cross fire of enemy machine guns. His refusal to leave his mortar resulted in his death; Corporal Middling was killed by the bursts of machine gun fire. Next of kin: Mrs Elda Middling (Mother), RFD #1, Nova, Ohio.

HOWARD G. SARTORY, 32222861, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. After landing in the assault wave with his platoon on the strategic beachhead, Private First Class Sartory advanced dauntlessly in the face of heavy enemy fire, constantly encouraging his comrades to a greater display of bravery. When the platoon was delayed by the cross fire from enemy machine guns and intense shell fire, he moved forward to engage the enemy. Although seriously wounded and weak from loss of blood, Private First Class Sartory continued valiantly onward toward the enemy emplacements, staunchly refusing evacuation. Even when his weakened condition prevented his further advance, he selflessly declined the assistance of soldiers who offered to carry him to an aid station, and he struggled alone to the beach. While his evacuation was being effected, he was killed by shell fragments from the enemy artillery. Next of kin: Mrs Peggy E. Sartory (Wife), 100 Debevoise Street, Brooklyn, New York.

ASA J. TAYLOR, 34678159, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 June 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. When the platoon in which Private First Class Taylor was an automatic rifleman had forced the enemy to withdraw from an area of high ground and was engaged in reorganization, the enemy force launched a vigorous counterattack. Without hesitation Private First Class Taylor moved forward in the face of the heavy machine gun and machine pistol fire to an exposed position which afforded an excellent field of fire and enabled him to protect the entire right flank of the positions against the onrushing enemy forces. He continued firing his automatic rifle accurately and calmly, undaunted by the fierce enemy opposition, until he was killed by the machine gun fire. Next of kin: Mrs Annie J. Taylor, (Mother), Route #2, Williamston, North Carolina.

SECTION II -- AWARD OF SILVER STAR

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

JOEL B. CUNNINGHAM, 0345134, Captain, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. Captain Cunningham performed his duties as battalion surgeon with the greatest skill and admirable intrepidity under the most hazardous conditions. During the first hours of the beachhead landing, he moved fearlessly over the shell torn terrain, personally

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attending many of the wounded. By braving numberless hazards to work near combat, he was able to render early treatment and so saved the lives of many men. Entered the Service from Camden, New Jersey.

JOEL W. WESTBROOK, 0410474, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. Assigned the mission of contacting units of the 143d Infantry Regiment and the 753d Tank Battalion located on the outskirts of the town, Captain Westbrook moved over unknown, heavily mined terrain, past enemy pill boxes and gun emplacements, under intense artillery, mortar and sniper fire toward his destination. He was compelled to pass behind the enemy right flank, stealing cautiously past enemy outposts; but he continued fearlessly, unflinching to complete his mission. At last he succeeded in contacting the two companies and coordinating an immediate attack on the enemy positions. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

RAYMOND T. LAHAR, 01293612, Second Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 5 June 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. When strongly fortified enemy gun positions in a cluster of buildings near \*\*\* stopped the advance of friendly armored units along a highway, Lieutenant Lahar led his platoon in an attempt to neutralize the enemy force. After advancing into the inferno of enemy fire, the platoon was pinned to the ground by rapid bursts of machine gun fire and intense small arms fire. Instantly cognizant of the situation, Lieutenant Lahar moved about fearlessly and quickly reorganized his platoon. Then, exercising superb qualities of leadership and courage, he led his men in continuing the attack and successfully routed the enemy. He personally killed at least ten enemy soldiers and captured seven prisoners singlenandedly. Entered the Service from Newport, Vermont.

MARTIN W. DIETER, 32633611, Staff Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 June 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. When the leading elements of his company were subjected to heavy enemy fire directed from across the road along which the unit was advancing, Sergeant Dieter led his squad in an attempt to rout the enemy. Advancing along a draw defended by some 40 enemy soldiers, the squad was caught in the fire from machine guns and tanks. Sergeant Dieter continued aggressively forward, moving ahead of his men in order to bear the brunt of enemy resistance himself. Although wounded in the furious fire fight, he refused to withdraw and remained with his squad to direct them in the attack. As a result of Sergeant Dieter's undaunted determination to destroy the enemy stronghold, ten enemy soldiers were killed, five captured, and the remainder of the force driven away. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

JOHN R. CARBERRY, 20808062, Sergeant, Company D, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 December 1943 in the vicinity of Mount \*\*\*, ITALY. The platoon of which Sergeant Carberry was a member was ordered to hold the right flank of newly captured positions, but a desperate enemy counterattack forced the platoon to withdraw. Aware that all the company positions were threatened, Sergeant Carberry volunteered to lead a small group of men in an assault against the enemy. Advancing under heavy mortar shelling and sweeping machine gun and rifle fire, he engaged the enemy in battle and, after overcoming furious opposition, and capturing 17 prisoners, reoccupied and secured the original positions. Entered the Service from Temple, Texas.

ROBERT E. JACKSON, 20802548, Sergeant, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 28 May 1944 in the vicinity of \*\*\*, ITALY. When Company F

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was delayed in its advance against its assigned objective by the enemy action from buildings on the left flank, Sergeant Jackson led his squad to crush the enemy resistance. He directed his men to positions from which they could bring effective fire against the hostile forces in the buildings. Then, consciously exposing himself to the holocaust of enemy fire, he hurled hand grenades and fired rifle grenades at the positions, driving the enemy soldiers terrified from the two buildings and, with the assistance of his men, killing six and capturing five. When a tank attack threatened the company's left rear positions, Sergeant Jackson unhesitatingly volunteered to lead a bazooka squad in the face of the heavy tank fire, and he directed the squad in bringing accurately aimed bazooka fire on the tank, forcing it to withdraw. Entered the Service from San Marcos, Texas.

PHILIP F. STROM, 20808679, Corporal (then Private), Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 September 1943 in the vicinity of Mount \*\*\*\*, ITALY. In spite of continuous enemy artillery shelling and sweeping machine gun and rifle fire, Private Strom, a member of the crew of a 105mm self-propelled howitzer, fired his weapon with great accuracy and effectiveness into the face of the attacking enemy until his ammunition was exhausted. Spotting a comrade, seriously wounded by machine gun fire, lying exposed to the fury of the enemy attack, he left the comparative safety of the vehicle and crawled across the shell torn ground under intense small arms fire toward the man. After rendering speedy, efficient first aid to the wounded soldier, Private Strom carried him back to the shelter of the vehicle amidst a hail of hostile fire. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

*Vincent M. Lockhart*  
VINCENT M. LOCKHART

Captain, Adjutant General's Department  
Assistant Adjutant General

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