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

GENERAL ORDERS

11 August 1944

NO. 288

Commendation for Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct..... I
Corrected Award of Oak Leaf Cluster..... II

SECTION I — COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-55, each of the following named individuals is commended for exceptionally meritorious conduct.

CHARLES P. SELIN, 01310157, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 January 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Selin was ordered to move the battalion ammunition and ration dump to a new location. From a prior trip to the new dump site he knew the route was impassable for vehicles. He loaded each man of his detail with one case of rations and, carrying a case himself, led them forward. The road was so water-soaked that with each step he and his men bogged knee-deep in the mud. Walking at the head of the column, Lieutenant Selin clung to his box of rations even when he stepped into shell holes and sank to his waist in the mire. As they struggled the miserable two miles between the old and new locations, the men were under continual harassing and interdictory artillery fire that forced them to crouch for cover along the low banks of the road. Between shelling the men would continue forward. Inspired by Lieutenant Selin's example in dauntlessly carrying his load forward while he led them, the men accomplished their mission. Entered the Service from Reading, Pennsylvania.

BOB G. GAHAGAN, W-2109908, Chief Warrant Officer, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 28 February 1944 in Italy. During this period Warrant Officer Gahagan distinguished himself by his exemplary performance of duty as assistant S-4. While his unit was engaged in combat operations, he remained constantly at the forward regimental supply points, working under frequent artillery shell fire and difficult conditions of weather and terrain. On two occasions he volunteered to lead the regimental mule trains across a valley subjected to a heavy artillery barrage, thus greatly expediting the flow of supplies to the units. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

GEORGE R. WILLIAMS, 38035675, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 25 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Williams has tirelessly performed his duties as Battalion Sergeant Major ever since his unit landed in Italy. While in the front lines he has often shown outstanding courage and endurance. Many times he had performed duties such as carrying food and ammunition in the mountains where the supply of such items was extremely difficult. He served with the battalion on Mount *** and during the push from *** without the loss of a single day of duty. His work in combat has been of the highest calibre due to his tireless efforts and devotion to duty together with his calmness under enemy fire. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

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SAMUEL L. YOUNG, 20803739, Staff Sergeant, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 7 December 1943 in Italy. Sergeant Young was put in charge of a detail ordered to carry vital supplies to the forward battalion dump for troops fighting in the mountains. He organized his detail, issued their heavy loads, and started to lead them up the treacherous mountain slopes. Frequent rains had made the trail slippery and hazardous. The detail moved forward under constant enemy artillery fire. Peculiarities of terrain made it impossible to pick a covered route so there was no protection from the bursting shells. Despite all these difficulties, Sergeant Young led his men to their objective. Until an adequate supply of rations had been moved, he repeated the trying haul again and again, without one of his men being killed although several were wounded. Entered the Service from San Benito, Texas.

JOHN B. LEACH, 20803906, Staff Sergeant (then Corporal), Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 17 December 1943 in Italy. Corporal Leach volunteered to lead a litter squad forward of the friendly lines to pick up soldiers who had been wounded in a preceding engagement. Although he was aware that enemy forces still occupied positions in the area, he advanced fearlessly beyond the infantry outposts. He spotted a wounded soldier lying in a mine field, and he went to his aid. He reached the patient, placed him on a litter and led his litter squad safely out of the mine fields, successfully evacuating the casualty. Entered the Service from Bertram, Texas.

GEORGE J. MAYER, 20803571, Sergeant (then Private), Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 17 November 1943 to 26 November 1943 in Italy. Private Mayer was a messenger at the time his unit occupied precarious mountain positions during a bitterly fought engagement with the enemy. He volunteered to carry important messages, mail, and supplies to the most forward positions even though he knew that the hazardous trip involved over a mile of treacherous going under direct enemy observation and subject to severe artillery and mortar fire. Private Mayer made at least one trip nightly during this period, contributing both to the morale of the men and the success of the operations. Entered the Service from Waelder, Texas.

JOSEPH E. MATHEWS, 38037555, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 13 to 18 December 1943 in Italy. Tec 4 Mathews led a litter squad from the companies on top of the mountain to the first relay station four hundred yards down the mountain side. He encouraged and led the squad both day and night. He was able to expedite the evacuation of many casualties that otherwise may have been evacuated hours later. Constantly under snell fire he continued to lead the squad over the most rugged mountainous terrain, and by his leadership and physical endurance he was able to obtain the maximum from his men. Entered the Service from Gilmer, Texas.

GARRETT N. WOLF, JR, 20803389, Technician Fourth Grade, (then Technician Fifth Grade), Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 14 December 1943 in Italy. Tec 5 Wolf was assigned the task of accompanying the battalion surgeon and helping to establish a forward aid station before a projected attack. He carried a bulky load of supplies to the new position and worked tirelessly throughout the night sandbagging the aid station for protection. Although the position was subjected to heavy small arms fire and the building which sheltered the station received three direct artillery hits, he worked calmly and rapidly during the attack setting up blood plasma units and assisting the surgeon in dressing wounds. By rendering prompt, effective first aid treatment, he helped maintain a high standard of efficiency in

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the forward aid station. Entered the Service from Lampasas, Texas.

ANTHONY P. FALDOWSKI, 31275987, Corporal, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 January 1944 in Italy. Corporal Faldowski volunteered to help carry rubber boats to patrols waiting to cross a river that bordered enemy territory. Enroute with the boats the party came under an enemy artillery barrage and the officer in charge was wounded. Corporal Faldowski took command, sent a runner for medical aid, and moved the officer to a defiladed place. Restoring order among the confused men, he sent for a guide to lead them on to their objective. His clear-headed alacrity actions saved the men from further injury and enabled them to complete their mission. Entered the Service from New Kingston, Pennsylvania.

CICERO W. HAY, 33036376, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 December 1943 in Italy. In order to establish and maintain wire communications between units on a strategic mountain, it was imperative to locate a wire line laid in a forward area, splice it to another line, and string it from that point to an advance unit. Doc 5 Hay volunteered to attempt the mission, and he proceeded up steep, muddy slopes over unfamiliar trails through darkness and driving rain. He located the wire in an area subjected to artillery and mortar fire, and he unhesitatingly braved the shelling to splice the lines and advance to the most forward unit of the battalion, laying the wire and successfully establishing the communications. Entered the Service from Pickwick, Texas.

HERBERT C. HARWOOD, 32639626, Technician Fifth Grade, (then Private), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 27 February 1944 in Italy. During this period Private Harwood was assigned as orderly to the executive officer of his battalion; and, in addition to the duties of orderly, he also carried water, rations, and ammunition, and worked as message carrier and radio operator, performing all his duties tirelessly and efficiently. On one occasion, he moved forward to determine the disposition of the hostile force and the location of gun emplacements. He was caught in an enemy trap and subjected to incessant hostile fire in a position where the slightest move exposed him to death. In spite of these hazards, he observed the enemy positions calmly and carefully and, at nightfall, returned to the battalion command post to report the valuable information he had secured. Entered the Service from Queens Village, Long Island, New York.

FRANCIS J. HOHMAN, 36680729, Private First Class, Company E, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 1 June 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Hohman, a radio operator in Company E, advanced with his unit in an attack on an enemy stronghold. Although he was constantly exposed to hostile fire, he remained with his company commander and maintained unbroken communications with the battalion. He struggled over rugged terrain in the face of enemy small arms fire and artillery and mortar shelling; but, in spite of all hazards and difficulties, he succeeded in keeping the communications for his company commander intact. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

WILLIAM CASHEL, 6933971, Private First Class, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 13 to 27 February 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Cashel went forward with the Assistant Division commander to establish an advance command post deep in a salient that penetrated far into enemy territory. The land between the advanced and forward command post was under constant observation of enemy in the overlooking mountains and could be

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traversed only at risk of destruction by artillery shells that continually fell. Despite these dangers, Private First Class Cashel volunteered to make a daily round trip to pick up rations at the forward command post and deliver papers that demanded the attention of the Assistant Division Commander. One night, while Private First Class Cashel voluntarily stood guard to be sure the general slept safely, the enemy laid down a particularly heavy barrage. One of the hundreds of shells dropped in the immediate vicinity fell so near that the concussion blew him against the door he guarded. Unhurt and undaunted by his narrow escape, he returned to his post and finished his tour of duty. Entered the Service from St. Louis, Mo.

JAMES W. FULLER, 20807979, Private, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 February 1944 in Italy. Private Fuller, while camouflaging guns with his platoon in a newly occupied position, heard a mine explosion and a cry of an injured man. He crossed an unmarked minefield for a distance of 50 yards and located his gravely injured section sergeant whose leg had been amputated. Private Fuller administered first aid and carried his injured comrade out of the minefield to a road approximately 150 yards away. He remained with his stricken comrade until an ambulance arrived and then placed him in the care of the aid men. By his courageous action and disregard for personal safety, Private Fuller materially assisted in saving the life of the wounded man. Entered the Service from Temple, Texas.

WALKER W. WOODARD, 14189988, Private, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11-14 February 1944 in Italy. During a series of enemy counterattacks against an exposed automatic rifle position which he was occupying, Private Woodard remained at his post and delivered effective fire against the hostile troops. In constant danger from sweeping artillery, mortar, and small arms fire and suffering from frozen feet due to exposure to snow and ice throughout this period, he steadfastly maintained his position until fresh troops were available to relieve the situation. Private Woodard was then evacuated and hospitalized because of the severity of the condition of his feet. Entered the Service from Kenly, North Carolina.

SECTION II -- CORRECTED AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

So much of General Orders Number 265, cs, this Headquarters, as awards a Bronze Star Medal to HERBERT R. PATRICK, 20816074, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, is corrected to read as follows:


"Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the following named individual is awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in combat in Italy.

"HERBERT R. PATRICK, 20816074, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, 21 June 1944. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Tex."

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:


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

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