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

GENERAL ORDERS

13 July 1944

NO. 238

Combat Infantry Regiment..... I
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SECTION I — COMBAT INFANTRY REGIMENT

Under the provisions of War Department Circular #269 of 1943, more than sixth-five percent of the command having established eligibility to wear the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the 141st Infantry Regiment is hereby designated a Combat Infantry Regiment and is entitled to a "Combat Infantry Regiment" white streamer for the Regimental Colors.

COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

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

ROBERT E. GRAHAM, 01168254, First Lieutenant, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 28 January 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Graham, with the remainder of his platoon was quartered on the premises of a stone building used as the company command post when the enemy began shelling the area with heavy artillery fire. The entire platoon had taken the best cover available; only one man was still in the building when it was struck and demolished by an enemy shell. Without hesitation Lieutenant Graham left his covered position and braved the intense bombardment to dig away the debris beneath which the soldier had been buried. With the assistance of several men from the platoon, he succeeded in removing the wounded man from the shattered building and carried him to a sheltered position where he was given first aid treatment. Entered the Service from Sumter, South Carolina.

CLAUDIE E. GARNER, 20848520, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 22 November 1943 in Italy. After completing his duties as a member of a ration carrying detail, Sergeant Garner volunteered to assist in recovering the bodies of three soldiers from a point in advance of the friendly lines. He struggled forward over steep, rocky terrain, rendered slippery by the blinding rain, exposed to ceaseless enemy artillery and mortar shell fire. Upon reaching the location, he found that the bodies had been buried by a direct hit from a mortar shell, and he proceeded immediately to uncover them. After digging tirelessly for six hours, constantly threatened by the enemy fire, he removed the three bodies from the mass of debris covering them and helped carry them over the steep, treacherous trail, continuing on for five hours to cover the two miles to the collecting point. Entered the Service from Gonzales, Texas.

BILLY J. GREEN, 20804221, Staff Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Company K, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 and 21 January 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Green crossed a strategic river with his

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company and, upon reaching the hostile bank, was pinned down by the intense enemy machine gun and rifle fire. When he realized that his assault boat was the only one which had successfully crossed the river at that point, he directed the men in his group to dig in; and he expertly maintained control within the group and kept it intact. Rather than risk an attempt at crossing the river during daylight hours, he waited through the entire day, constantly imperilled by the enemy artillery and mortar shelling and small arms fire, until his unit recrossed the river that night. He then directed his men in rejoining their unit and proceeding with the attack. Entered the Service from Brownwood, Texas.

WALTER C. POLONCASZ, 36320771, Sergeant (then Corporal), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

NORBERT J. WARNING, 36813147, Private First Class (then Private), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Hortenville, Wisconsin.

JOHN M. KELLY, 32340243, Private First Class (then Private), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

EDWIN GILES, 32239394, Private First Class (then Private), Anti-tank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Rutherford, New Jersey.

EDWARD A. TRAYWICK, 20848333, Private First Class (then Private), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas.

LOUIE D. PUTMAN, 38037247, Private First Class (then Private), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Sulphur Springs, Texas.

ROBERT H. DRUM, 39251997, Private First Class (then Private), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Canyon, California.

EDGAR G. VOISINS, 31221626, Private First Class (then Private), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Ft. Kent, Maine.

JOSEPH H. PEARCE, JR, 37666239, Private First Class (then Private), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Eldera, Iowa.

WILLIAM J. WOLEK, 36320463, Private First Class (then Private), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 8 December 1943 in Italy. The above named soldiers were assigned as litter bearers to evacuate the dead and wounded from front line positions. Ignoring the furious mortar, machine gun and sniper fire they dauntlessly followed the attacking troops and evacuated the casualties. Moving across the shell blasted terrain, they removed the dead and wounded with extraordinary efficiency and promptness.

THOMAS S. DOCHAK, 32302187, Corporal (then Private), Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 and 21 January 1944 in Italy. Assigned as messenger and body guard to a regimental staff officer, Private Dochak advanced toward a strategic river point, exercising his keen sense of direction and employing his ability to move cautiously under cover of darkness. When he reached the crossing and discovered that it was being subjected to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire, he fearlessly carried vital messages to the various units which had lost contact with the battalion command post and in this way facilitated their reorganization under the heavy barrage. Entered the Service from Bernardsville, New Jersey.

GEORGE D. BELL, 20808636, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

ROBERT E. GIBSON, 20808436, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Huntsville, Texas.

ANDREW J. RAYMOND, 20808478, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Huntsville, Texas.

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ROBERT A. WILLIAMS, 35018805, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Toledo, Ohio.

ODELL T. GREEN, 20808646, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Marquez, Texas.

WALTER F. DUCKWORTH, 38037774, Private First Class, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Greggton, Texas.

VIRGIL S. RENEAU, 18037633, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

BENNIE J. JUDD, 37035201, Private First Class, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Yahoo, Nebraska.

JIM E. EDWARDS, 38038397, Private, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Stephenville, Texas.

JOHN L. GRANT, 34774975, Private, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Guilford County, North Carolina.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 8 to 30 March 1944 in Italy. Assigned as truck drivers, the above named enlisted men were ordered to carry ammunition and other supplies loaded in their trucks to a strategic beachhead. The trip to the beachhead was made on landing craft which was often subjected to bombing and strafing attacks from enemy aircraft. Upon reaching the point of debarkation, they drove their vehicles to the various dumps under almost continuous artillery shelling and unloaded the ammunition themselves. Although they were completely unfamiliar with the area, they drove to the front lines to evacuate a group of paratroopers from positions rendered untenable by the heavy artillery and mortar shelling. During this period they made four round trips to the beachhead, always performing their duties with exemplary calmness and dispatch.

WILLIAM A. COOKE, 35751470, Private First Class, Company M, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 January 1944 in Italy. Ordered to attack the strongly fortified, well concealed positions on a hostile bank of a strategic river in an attempt to push a spearhead into the enemy defenses, Private First Class Cooke advanced fearlessly in the face of heavy artillery and mortar shelling; intense machine gun fire. When the increased tempo of the enemy fire stopped most of the attackers, causing casualties and threatening the organization of the troops; he courageously continued on to cross the river, braving the holocaust of enemy opposition and stormed the hostile positions on the opposite bank. Entered the Service from Wellsburg, West Virginia.

PRESTON D. GRAYBEAL, 33384080, Private First Class, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 26 February 1944 in Italy. During this period Private First Class Graybeal, a member of the maintenance section of his company, repaired thirteen vehicles damaged by enemy shell fire. Working calmly and efficiently under the constant threat of mortar and artillery fire, he continued repairing the vehicles, adding materially to the effectiveness of the Cannon Company. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Maryland.

WILSON J. GIERKE, 36184751, Private First Class, Antitank Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 14 February 1944 in Italy. Assigned as a forward litter bearer during the fighting on a strongly defended mountain, Private First Class Gierke had just reached the foot of the mountain after assisting in carrying a wounded soldier in a five hour descent from the heights, when another detail of litter bearers were in need of a guide to the forward collecting point. Although exhausted by his recent exertion, Private First Class Gierke volunteered to lead the detail up the difficult

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snow-covered trails, subjected to artillery and mortar fire, to the mountain top. Upon reaching his destination, he assisted in evacuating a wounded soldier to the battalion aid station at the foot of the mountain. Entered the Service from Grayling, Michigan.

FRANK D. PRUEADENTI, 33679776, Private, Company M, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 January 1944 in Italy. Ordered to attack the strongly fortified, well concealed positions on the hostile bank of a strategic river in an attempt to push a spearhead into the enemy defenses, Private Prueadenti advanced fearlessly in the face of heavy artillery and mortar shelling and intense machine gun fire. When the increased tempo of the enemy fire stopped most of the attackers, inflicting many casualties and threatening the organization of the troops, he courageously continued on to cross the river, braving the holocaust of enemy opposition and stormed the hostile positions on the opposite bank. Entered the Service from Erie, Pennsylvania.

HARRY GOLDBERG, 36627453, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 11 to 14 February 1944 in Italy. While his company was in a defensive position and was being subjected to numerous severe enemy assaults, Private First Class Goldberg, a radio operator for his unit, volunteered to maintain the telephone lines to the battalion command post. During this period the line was repeatedly broken by the heavy artillery, mortar and nebelwerfer fire with which the enemy blasted the route to the battalion command post. Private First Class Goldberg never hesitated to expose himself to the shell fire and direct sweeping fire of enemy machine guns to check the line and repair the breaks. He maintained almost unbroken communications between his company and the battalion at a crucial period in the operations. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

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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