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

Handwritten: 11-11-44

3 August 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 271

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.

CARTHEL N. MORGAN, 0342878, Major, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 February 1944 in Italy. Major Morgan, commanding the 3d Battalion, a skeleton force depleted by a previous operation, was assigned the mission of supporting the 1st Battalion's attack on an enemy-held hill. A few minutes before the assault was to be launched, the enemy attacked; and, in the ensuing battle, many casualties were sustained by the friendly troops. The heavy artillery shelling and ceaseless small arms fire threatened to disorganize the battalion; but Major Morgan, displaying unusual qualities of leadership and courage, succeeded in reorganizing his command and, in spite of the heavy shell fire to which his command post was subjected, directed his men in holding their positions. Entered the Service from Amarillo, Texas.

RALPH J. EASTBERG, 01316997, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 1 June 1944 in Italy. During a furious enemy counterattack, Companies C and D expended almost their entire supply of ammunition to delay the attackers, and an additional supply was vitally needed. Lieutenant Eastberg volunteered to assist in carrying the ammunition from the dump to the front line troops. Although the route was constantly subjected to hostile fire, he made one trip by jeep during daylight hours and, by moonlight, completed several more trips, thus furnishing the troops with an ample supply of ammunition and enabling them to repel the enemy force. Entered the Service from Menominee, Michigan.

BURL A. DAVIS, 20848295, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 10 to 18 December 1943 in Italy. As a member of a pioneer unit with the assault platoons, Sergeant Davis was one of the first to reach the top of a hotly-contested mountain. Returning on orders to the battalion command post he was directed to manage a supply dump and supervise the carrying of water, rations, ammunition, and clothing to the troops fighting on top of the mountains. Working over routes constantly harassed by artillery and mortar fire, enduring bitter weather, he accomplished his mission with such effectiveness that the fighting soldiers were always properly supplied. Entered the Service from Oglesby, Texas.

JAMES O. HALL, 20813445, Staff Sergeant, Battery B, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 19 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Hall maintained a superior mess for his battery through ten months of combat under the most trying conditions. Even when other messes were forced to cease operating by the difficulties encountered in heavy

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mountain fighting, Sergeant Hill continued to serve a well-prepared, varied menu and operate an efficient and sanitary kitchen. Well fed, the members of the battery were kept in a state of excellent morale and fighting fitness. Entered the Service from Amarillo, Texas.

LEMUEL T. HODGES, 34131132, Technician Fourth Grade, Company A, 753d Tank Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 23 May to 25 May 1944 in Italy. During the three days 23 May through 25 May 1944, Tec 4 Hodges voluntarily worked at the front lines without sleep or rest retrieving and repairing disabled tanks. During this time he was continuously under heavy and direct enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire. Many times he was forced to cease work because of the intensity of the enemy fire. On 23 May he repaired three disabled tanks and had them back in action the following morning. On 24 May he retrieved and repaired two tanks under heavy mortar fire and had them back in action the following day. On 25 May he retrieved an immobilized tank, repaired it and had it in action the evening of the same day. The company was operating at reduced strength, but Tec 4 Hodges by his undaunted courage and devotion to duty kept the company operating at a high level and materially contributed to the success his company achieved in these operations. Entered the Service from Coalgate, Oklahoma.

check HAROLD D. RINE, 19096326, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 4 June 1944 in Italy. The infantry troops had taken their objective and were fortifying their new positions when the enemy opened fire with mortars. Although mortar shells were exploding within several yards of him, Tec 5 Rine, radio operator for the artillery liaison section, ran across open terrain under enemy observation to his radio. He contacted the artillery and, working calmly under the intense shell fire, adjusted artillery fire which neutralized the enemy guns. Entered the Service from Yakima, Washington.

CECIL E. TURNER, 38066091, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 36th Division Artillery, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 28 February 1944 in Italy. Tec 5 Turner was assigned as a radio operator on liaison duty, maintaining radio communication between Headquarters 36th Division Artillery and a French Corps Headquarters. When radio communication ceased to be available, Tec 5 Turner, against the advice of an officer, voluntarily maintained and repaired the wire communication between the two Headquarters, despite intense shelling and adverse weather. He made possible, through his courageous action and determination, the only communication by which French Corps Headquarters could request artillery support from 36th Division Artillery. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas.

RILEY T. POWELL, 33635958, Private First Class, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 28 May 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Powell's platoon was pinned down by sniper and heavy machine gun fire from an enemy weapon emplaced in a house. To free his comrades from their precarious position, Private First Class Powell carried his bazooka forward through furious fire and, reaching an advantageous position, neutralized the threat with a blast from his weapon. His company was then able to continue the push against an enemy defensive key point. Entered the Service from South Boston, Virginia.

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HARRY C. BURCH, 33454725, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 19 January 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Burch was assigned to accompany a combat patrol that was ordered to cross a perilous river and probe the enemy defenses on the opposite bank. His duty was to lay lines and maintain telephone communication between the patrol and the battalion. He laid the wire and, until a mortar barrage destroyed the line, kept communications intact. When the enemy shelling broke the wire he traced down the break and working under constant fire, repaired it. Each time communications were disrupted he repaired the line, working under fire and often in complete darkness. Entered the Service from Washington, D. C.

CHLSTER J. PADGETT, 35267980, Private First Class, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 1 June 1944 in Italy. During an attack on well fortified enemy positions, the 1st Battalion's ammunition supply became critically low. Although the route of supply was covered by hostile small arms and artillery fire, Private First Class Padgett volunteered to secure a jeep and furnish the vitally needed ammunition. Constantly harassed by sweeping machine gun fire and artillery shelling, he made several trips to the ammunition dump and successfully maintained the supply necessary for continuing the attack. Entered the Service from Stanford, Kentucky.

CHARLES L. SHERK, JR., 13095265, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 36th Division Artillery, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 15 September 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Sherk was a member of a forward observer detail attached to the 1st Battalion of the 504th Paratroops. In order to direct accurate counterbattery fire on the enemy weapon it was necessary to establish a forward observation post on the upper crest of a hill under enemy observation. Aware that the use of radio communications was impossible in that location, Private First Class Sherk volunteered to act as a voice relay stationed on the hill. In spite of the intense artillery shelling to which he was exposed, he courageously maintained his position, relaying the fire orders from the observation post. Entered the Service from Penbrook, Pennsylvania.

JAMES P. ROST, 36823721, Private, Medical Detachment, Company M, 142d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 31 May 1944 in Italy. The 1st Platoon of Company M, to which Private Rost was attached as aid man, organized the defense of a strategic hill. During these preparations the hill was subjected to intense mortar fire, and three men were wounded. Private Rost worked indefatigably in the dangerous area to comfort and administer first aid to the wounded men. Throughout the entire barrage he remained with the men, until they could be evacuated. Through his efficient care and devotion to duty under the hazardous conditions, the lives of two men were saved. Entered the Service from Calumet, Mich.

RALPH F. FERGUSON, 6939192, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 17 November to 19 December 1943 in Italy. Private Ferguson was assigned as wireman with the liaison section attached to the 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. During the savagely contested operations on the heights of a mountain, Private Ferguson volunteered to move down the mountain and bring up supplies. The weather was cold and rainy, and the trails were steep, narrow, muddy, and subjected to artillery and mortar fire, but he never faltered in performing his duties. He assisted in bringing medical aid to a soldier wounded by the hostile shelling, and he made the hazardous trip down the mountain in the dark with a bulky radio which was in need of repairs. Entered the Service from Jefferson City, Missouri.

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STEPHEN MICHALSKI, 36880769, Private, Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 4 June 1944 in Italy. Ordered forward, Private Michalski and the other members of his squad attempted to advance but were halted by deadly sniper fire. Knowing that the action of the entire platoon would be delayed until this obstacle was cleared, Private Michalski cautiously crawled forward to an advance position, surprised the snipers, and destroyed them. The way was thus opened for the platoon to advance against an important objective. Entered the Service from Piamtramack, Michigan.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

John J. Deane

JOHN J. DEANE

Lt Col, Adjutant General's Department
Adjutant General

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