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

GENERAL ORDERS

25 September 1944

NO. 356

Commendation for Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct, Missing in Action..... I
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SECTION I- COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT, MISSING IN ACTION

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

LORIN F. KALL, 36236422, Corporal, Antitank Company, 142d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Albertine Kall (Mother), 2216 Carney Avenue, Marinette, Wisc.
ALFRED C. L'VENHAGEN, 36236296, Private, First Class, Antitank Company, 142d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Mrs. Louis Pellum (Mother), 1642g Nebraska Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 4 and 5 December 1943 in Italy. These men were among a group of twenty detailed to carry direly needed rations and medical supplies up a mountain to the 2d Battalion. Following an unpioneered trail they made their way through darkness toward their objective. Near the top of the mountain they were caught in an artillery barrage. The shelling killed and wounded many men, but the carrying detail reorganized and went ahead under the continued artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Reaching the summit of the hill, they forced their way through dense underbrush to complete thirteen hours of painful progress and deliver the all-important supplies. The above named enlisted men have subsequently been reported missing in action.

SECTION II - 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.

JOHN M. STAFFORD, 0414553, Captain, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 25 June 1944 in Italy. Captain Stafford, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, landed in the invasion of Italy and, during the adverse conditions of the winter campaign, distinguished himself by his cheerful and competent performance of duty. During this period he has personally prosecuted 77 general court-martial cases and 156 special court-martial cases. His careful preparation of cases has assured justice for all the men being tried, and has materially assisted the Commanding General in maintaining a high degree of discipline in the division. He has tirelessly and cheerfully performed his duties, under adverse conditions and frequently under artillery fire and aerial bombardment, but always in a superior manner. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

JAMES D. EVANS, 01294639, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 1 to 11 September 1944 in Italy.

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1943 in Africa and Italy. In addition to his regular duties as executive officer of headquarters company, Lieutenant Evans served as transport quartermaster for the loading of a Liberty ship in preparation for the invasion of Italy. Possessing an exhaustive knowledge of the intricacies of loading equipment and with a view of rapid and efficient unloading on debarkation, Lieutenant Evans devoted the great amount of intensive study and planning he had devoted to his assignment. He planned his loading so skillfully that in addition to the planned cargo, space was available for several more much-needed vehicles. On arrival he accomplished debarkation according to schedule and without a mishap to personnel or equipment. Entered the Service from Sand Point, Idaho.

GEORGE W. DOWNS, 01288024, Captain, 536th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 1 to 11 September 1943 in North Africa and Italy. In addition to his duties as company commander of the Reconnaissance Company of his battalion, Captain Downs served as transport quartermaster for the loading of a ship in the preparation for the invasion of Italy. So skillfully did he load the boat that the consequent debarkation could be effected in a minimum of time, and so efficient was his handling of the assignment that several vehicles not included in the original plan were brought on board. Because of his superior supervision, the final debarkation was accomplished without a single mishap to personnel or equipment. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pa.

REYNOLDS D. RODGERS, 01288125, First Lieutenant, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 1 to 11 September 1943 in North Africa and Italy. In addition to his duties as executive officer of the Reconnaissance Company of his battalion, Lieutenant Rodgers served as transport quartermaster for the loading of a ship in the preparation for the invasion of Italy. So skillfully did he load the boat that the consequent debarkation could be effected in a minimum of time, and so efficient was his handling of the assignment that several vehicles not included in the original plan were brought on board. Because of his superior supervision, the final debarkation was accomplished without a single mishap to personnel or equipment. Entered the Service from Erie, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM P. SCHUMPERT, 01582114, First Lieutenant, 36th Quartermaster Company, 36th Infantry Division, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 20 May to 3 June 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Schumpert distinguished himself in commanding elements of the rear echelon of the 36th Provisional Pack Troop and in shipping animals and men to a strategic beachhead. When shipping plans were changed after the animals had been trucked to the port of debarkation, Lieutenant Schumpert, displaying unusual resourcefulness and initiative, located areas near the port and arranged for the care of the animals until shipping space was made available. In spite of numerous transportation difficulties, he carried out all orders and delivered the animals to the beachhead. Entered the Service from Portales, New Mexico.

CLIFFORD J. WATERS, 38052676, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 36th Infantry Division, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 3 July 1944 in Italy. During ten months of combat Sergeant Waters maintained a high standard of efficiency in the maintenance section of the 36th Infantry Division Transportation Platoon. He skillfully supervised the training and work of mechanics and drivers in the Division Forward Echelon, and he personally evacuated disabled vehicles from the battlefield under heavy shell fire. All vehicles were maintained at a standard that rendered them immediately available, and he contrib-

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uted materially to the efficiency and mobility of the division headquarters. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

MORACE S. LYNCH, 34384864, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company F, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 21 January 1944 in Italy. During the action on the banks of a strategic river, members of Company F were attempting to launch an assault boat in order to cross the stream and attack hostile positions on the opposite side. Because of confusion due to darkness, smoke and artillery and machine gun fire, two of the soldiers were thrown into the icy waters of the river with all their bulky equipment. The men struggled vainly against the swift currents and would have drowned but for the quick thinking and decisive action of Sergeant Lynch. Braving a heavy barrage of mortar fire which blasted the bank, he secured a rope and used it to pull his comrades from the water. Entered the Service from Simpsonville, South Carolina.

ANTHONY GELOMINO, 31040359, Sergeant, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 30 May 1944 in Italy. When it was essential to locate the 56th Provisional Pack Troop and guide it to the division sector, Sergeant Gelormino volunteered for the hazardous mission. Starting out at dusk, he trailed the troop for six miles, following it through darkness across a mountain. Because the regular trails were subjected to artillery and sniper fire, he was forced to move over unfamiliar terrain. In spite of the hostile fire and the rugged, mountainous terrain, he and a companion succeeded in locating the troop in a minimum of time, successfully completing the mission. Entered the Service from Torrington, Connecticut.

RENNIS G. PULLEN, 38051670, Technician Fifth Grade, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 27 to 29 May 1944 in Italy. Ordered to operate an angledozer in improving a mule trail for use by thirty ton tanks, Tec 5 Pullen worked tirelessly with his companions to clear the trail and construct a passable road. The trail ran over mountainous terrain which included flat open areas, rock structures and heavy underbrush, and the task was rendered doubly difficult by constant enemy artillery and mortar shelling and sniper fire. With his companions, he worked on two men shifts, twenty-four hours a day, always ignoring personal comfort and security in order to get the job done. He performed his duties skillfully and courageously until he became ill and was forced to stop working. Entered the Service from Shelbyville, Texas.

THOMAS RUDITIS, 36451592, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 3 June 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Ruditis was an automatic rifleman in the 3d squad of the 1st Platoon. When his unit seized a group of buildings on open, dominating ground, he and a companion were ordered to guard the rear of the position against counterattack from the woods below the house. Spotting hostile troops approaching through trees and underbrush, he opened fire, killed the officer in command and forced the enemy to halt. Having thwarted the surprise attack, he and his companion continued to deliver effective bursts of automatic rifle fire into the midst of the attackers. In spite of answering rifle and machine gun fire which swept their exposed position, they continued to man the weapon until ordered to withdraw to an alternate platoon position. Entered the Service from Sault Ste Marie, Michigan.

GEORGE W. DRURY, 33550412, Private, Personnel Center #9, PBS. Entered the Service from Bowie, Maryland.

JAMES R. LA ROW, 32856004, Private, Personnel Center #9, PBS. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.

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For exceptionally meritorious conduct from 15 December 1943 to 5 January 1944 in Italy. During this period these men performed outstanding veterinary aid work for the 1st Italian Pack Troop. Although the weather was cold and wet and the area was under constant enemy artillery fire, they worked tirelessly and skillfully to keep a high percentage of the animals in service; and, by their calm and efficient performance of duty, they contributed materially to the support of the front line troops.

CASHEE J. LOUNDAS, 33590494, Private, Personnel Center #9, PMS, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 20 November 1943 to 25 June 1944 in Italy. Private Loundas was assigned as horseshoer to the 36th Provisional Pack Troop. He contributed materially to the effective functioning of the troop by training eight men as assistant horseshoers. Although the weather was inclement and the area was frequently subjected to hostile artillery fire, he worked calmly and tirelessly, often for long periods without rest or sleep. His outstanding services made possible the uninterrupted flow of supplies to the front line troops. Entered the Service from East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

SECTION III - CORRECTED AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

OK { So much of General Orders No. 317, this Headquarters, as awards an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a third Bronze Star Medal to JOSEPH S. VODVARKA, 32367830, Technician Fourth Grade, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor.

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

"JOSEPH S. VODVARKA, 32367830, Technician Fourth Grade, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion, 2 June 1944. Entered the Service from Hartley, Delaware."

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

Vincent K. Lockhart
VINCENT K. LOCKHART
Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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