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336-1113

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

AG RECORDS SEC

15 MAY 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 175

Citation of Unit.....I
Award of Purple Heart.....II

I. CITATION OF UNIT. Under the provisions of Circular 333, War Department, 1943, each of the following named organizations is cited in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction:

The 2D BATTALION, 141ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, for extraordinary heroism, gallantry and esprit de corps from 7 December to 19 December 1944 in France. During the 14 days of this action, the 2d Battalion held the most important single terrain feature on the exposed right flank of the 36th Infantry Division. The enemy hurled thousands of rounds of artillery and repeated infantry assaults against the Battalion positions and each attack was thrown back with disastrous losses. On 12 December the Germans infiltrated approximately 700 men to a point 2 kilometers behind the front lines and attacked the rear installations. By desperate fighting, the Headquarters personnel of this Battalion drove the enemy back and inflicted severe casualties. For the next four days units of the Battalion, cut off on three sides, withheld all enemy assaults and prevented the Germans from overrunning their positions. On 17 December, in spite of having lost 40% of its fighting strength, the Battalion launched a tank-infantry attack against the center of German resistance. With outstanding aggressiveness they successively stormed the three towns from which the enemy had mounted his entire offensive. The success of this brilliant attack, coupled with the overwhelming casualties inflicted on the enemy, definitely ended the enemy's offensive capabilities in the area. More than 600 Prisoners of War were taken by the Battalion, 150 of whom were wounded, and at the conclusion of the operation, more than 600 enemy dead were found in the Battalion area.

The 3D BATTALION, 142D INFANTRY REGIMENT, for extraordinary heroism, gallantry, and outstanding achievement in combat from 24 November to 3 December 1944 in France. Ordered to seize the vital German supply base of St. Marie-aux-Mines, which controlled the St. Marie Pass and the main road leading to the Ribeaupville and Colmar sectors, the 3d Battalion was split into two forces. While one reinforced company attacked frontally, encountering a strongly fortified road block, two other rifle companies executed a bold flanking maneuver and took the German garrison in the town completely by surprise. After clearing hostile troops from the area and capturing 170 prisoners, the Battalion pressed across precipitous mountain terrain to seize the commanding ground around Roenigsbourg Chateau. Then, spearheading the Division's advance, 3d Battalion troops drove relentlessly forward toward Kintzheim and Chatenois, the first towns to the East in the Rhine lowland. While part of the Battalion battered strong enemy defenses in Kintzheim under intense mortar, tank and small arms fire, the remainder of the organization occupied high ground overlooking

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Chatenois and directed the artillery on lucrative targets in the valley. During the night of 30 November the enemy was forced to withdraw from both towns; and the Battalion was swiftly reorganized at Chatenois in preparation for an attack against a designated sector of the important railroad and communication center of Selestat. In spite of heavy enemy shelling and stubborn resistance on the outskirts of town, elements of the Battalion fought from house-to-house, neutralizing hostile strong points and successfully clearing the assigned sector of Selestat. As a result of the determination and aggressiveness displayed by every man, the 3d Battalion opened the way through the Vosges to the Rhine River Valley and by this action accomplished a feat which had previously been considered impossible.

II. AWARD OF PURPLE HEART. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Purple Heart is awarded to each of the following named individuals of the 1st Infantry Regiment for wounds received as a result of enemy action:

FREDERICK L. YOUNG, 01304301, First Lieutenant, 8 December 1943, Italy. Entered the Service from Los Angeles, California.

ROBERT B. FARILS, 0295318, First Lieutenant, 2 March 1945, France. Entered the Service from Radnor, Pennsylvania.

GIVENS L. THORNTON, 0547494, First Lieutenant, 16 March 1945, France. Entered the Service from Pontiac, Michigan.

JACOB S. BRANCATO, 01316008, Second Lieutenant, 17 December 1944, France. Entered the Service from Buffalo, New York.

GEORGE KOWACH, JR., 01998642, Second Lieutenant, 10 February 1945, France. Entered the Service from Warren, Ohio.

ALVIN E. DE WITT, 37425683, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 4 February 1945, France. Entered the Service from New Sharon, Pennsylvania.

ROBERT V. MOKRACEK, 42081240, Sergeant, Company B, 3 February 1945, France. Entered the Service from Ft. Pleasant, New Jersey.

EDWARD M. MATUSZEWSKI, 33584732, Technician Fourth Grade, Company B, 4 February 1945, France. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

CARL H. BRAUN, 33784307, Corporal, Company C, 19 February 1945, France. Entered the Service from West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

GEORGE MASCELLINO, 35530388, Technician Fifth Grade, Company B, 4 February 1945, France. Entered the Service from Cleveland, Ohio.

FRANK C. PHILLIPS, 33259434, Technician Fifth Grade, Company B, 17 March 1945, France. Entered the Service from Boswell, Pennsylvania.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DAHLQUIST:

JESSE B. MITLACK
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart
VINCENT M. LOCKHART

Major, Adjutant General's Department
Asst Adjutant General

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