

26
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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 306

29 August 1944

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.

CLAUDE B. OSBURN, JR., 0411098, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 25 May to 27 June 1944 in Italy. The 1st Battalion's rapid advance during this period made the tasks of Lieutenant Osburn, the battalion supply officer, extremely difficult. He was constantly alert to the needs of the front line troops; and, by his skillful coordination of the work of his section, he insured his battalion of a steady flow of all types of supplies. Although he was frequently exposed to hostile artillery and mortar fire, he worked indefatigably to supply his organization; and, through his efforts, the combat soldiers were fed hot meals while on the front lines. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas.

HALL W. GRIMMITT, 0009481, Technical Sergeant, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 14 December 1943 in Italy. Sergeant Grimmitt volunteered to lead a patrol to a bridge in his regiment's sector. The intelligence officer had reported the bridge as heavily mined and guarded by enemy riflemen. The mission was to ascertain the truth of these facts. He led the patrol to the objective through heavy enemy artillery fire and light sniper fire. Finding the bridge unguarded, he immediately placed a small force in a position from which they could secure the left rear of Company L and at the same time defend the bridge against a counterattack. Then Sergeant Grimmitt made a personal reconnaissance and found a route of approach toward Company L that could very well have been used by the enemy. He had this route covered by friendly fire at once thereby preventing a surprise attack by the enemy on the company positions. Entered the Service from Hillsboro, Texas.

SELVIN E. SAMPSON, 01309840, 2d Lieutenant, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Hector, Minnesota.

RAYMOND E. FRAZIER, 35050962, Sergeant, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Ashtabula, Ohio.

STANLEY MICHALSKI, 32283714, Private First Class, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Buffalo, New York.

OTIS H. HEISELETTZ, 20807818, Private First Class, Company C, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Beaumont, Texas.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 30 January 1944 in Italy. While in position along a bitterly defended river line awaiting orders to make a third crossing attack, Company C was directed to send a patrol and learn the strength and dispositions of the enemy. Lieutenant Sampson led the three enlisted men and crossed the swift river to patrol into enemy territory on the other side. A bright moon and flat open terrain made every movement of the patrol fraught with danger of detection by the enemy. Only by employing their best skill to move stealthily

-1-

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RESTRICTED

44-306- Aug 29, 1944

R E S T R I C T E D

and take full advantage of all possible cover, was the patrol able to accomplish its mission and return across the river without alerting the enemy. Back within friendly lines, they consolidated the information they had gained into a situation map that was of exceeding value to the regimental intelligence officer.

WHAINE S. DICKEY, W-2109909, Warrant Officer Junior Grade, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 27 June 1944 in Italy. Warrant Officer Dickey, assistant munitions officer for his regiment, has, through his initiative, courage and foresight, been largely responsible for the successful supply of ammunition and ordnance equipment. He organized and operated a regimental ordnance repair shop, thereby enabling the companies to get immediate repair or replacement of all ordnance materiel. Although he was frequently exposed to enemy artillery and mortar fire, he always performed his duties with calm efficiency and dispatch. Entered the Service from Henrietta, Texas.

PAUL H. WYATT, 38036083, Staff Sergeant, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 10 to 28 February 1944 in Italy. Leader of an 81 mm mortar squad, Sergeant Wyatt was ordered to bring his squad to a position up a mountain with their heavy weapons and a basic load of ammunition. Through snow, rain, mud and cold, over a slippery, dangerous trail he led his men forward under constant threat of artillery fire. He reached his objective without loss of men or equipment. During the remaining hours of darkness he set his mortars in a position and by dawn he was ready to fire in support of an attack. The next four days, although he and his men underwent severe punishment by enemy fire of all types, he accurately fired every mission required of his squad. With deadly effective fire he and his squad were paramount contributors to the defeat of an enemy counterattack. Entered the Service from Grand Prairie, Texas.

DEWEY L. COX, 20807227, Staff Sergeant, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 18 May to 27 June 1944 in Italy. Participating in his unit's rapid advance during this period, Sergeant Cox was responsible for delivering supplies to the front line companies. Although communications were frequently broken between the supply dump and the assault elements, he was always cognizant of the needs of the troops and invariably carried the necessary supplies to the proper place. The supply routes were frequently subjected to enemy shelling and small arms fire, but he never faltered in delivering hot meals, water, signal equipment, weapons and ammunition to the combat soldiers. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

*PAYNE V. RUCKER, 20808089, Staff Sergeant, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Temple, Texas.

*MILLARD R. TOLLENGER, 35204659, Corporal, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Havre De Grace, Maryland.

*GEORGE G. GUNZELMAN, 12050773, Private First Class, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Somerville, New Jersey.

*BIBBIE GRONKMEYER, 37479568, Private First Class, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Burswell, Nebraska.

*LEON G. MORRIS, 20539473, Private First Class, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Madison, Indiana.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 15 July 1944 in Italy. Members of a 75 mm gun section, they were bringing their mount forward under enemy artillery fire to support an infantry battalion in the attack. Their mount was immobilized when the tank threw a track. Although they were without experience in repairing

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Aug 3-5-Sept 9, 1944

R E S T R I C T E D

tank tracks and had none of the necessary equipment, they braved the hostile fire in an attempt to repair the damage. By using calm, good judgment they succeeded replacing the track and delivering the gun in time to support an attack against the enemy.

REYNA REYNALDO, 38025808, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 February 1944 in Italy. As a voluntary member of a security patrol, private First Class Reynaldo moved forward of the company positions until his patrol made contact with the advance elements of an enemy attacking force. When an enemy soldier hurled a grenade at the patrol leader, Private First Class Reynaldo threw an answering grenade into the midst of the attackers, and a fierce fire and grenade fight ensued. The noise of battle alerted the friendly troops and they began firing to cover the patrol's withdrawal. Private First Class Reynaldo and his comrades continued firing at the onrushing enemy, successfully holding them off until the patrol had regained contact with the friendly lines. This action resulted in repelling an enemy counter-attack which lasted five and one-half hours. Entered the Service from Rio Grande City, Texas.

ALVIN HUTTO, 38037742, Corporal, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Henderson, Texas.

JOSEPH BATISSA, 32301719, Private First Class, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

WILLIE E. WHITESIDE, 39311151, Private First Class, Company G, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Buxton, Oregon.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 28 May 1944 in Italy. While their company was hard pressed by a savage enemy counterattack, they volunteered to haul urgently needed supplies of ammunition, water and rations to the front line positions in a jeep. The road, narrow and rough, with deep ditches on either side, was subjected to hostile sniper and machine gun fire and intermittent mortar shelling. Observing strict blackout regulations, they made continuous trips through the darkness to and from the supply point, driving without rest for four and a half hours. By skillful operation of the vehicle and by calm behavior under enemy fire, they supplied their organization with enough ammunition to repel the attack.

JAMES S. WIGHTMAN, 34585342, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Saluda, South Carolina.

CECIL E. WICKMAN, 32301393, Private, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Plainfield, New Jersey.

JOSEPH D. KHLEBER, 32267594, Private, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Claymont, Delaware.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 21 December 1943 in Italy. While their battalion withdrew from positions on a strategic mountain, they were assigned to a party instructed to furnish supplies and ammunition to the unit remaining on the hill to cover the battalion's withdrawal. Although without rest for 32 hours, they volunteered to locate and evacuate the soldiers wounded in the withdrawal. They proceeded up the hill, constantly harassed by hostile fire, and advanced beyond the front line elements to search for the wounded. They were finally successful in recovering the injured soldiers and evacuating them to the rear.

-3-

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R E S T R I C T E D

R E M I N I S C E N T S

CHARL H. BARTON, 33536160, Private First Class, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Pennington Gap, Virginia.

MERVIN K. BIKENS, 17024849, Private First Class, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Iron Mountain, Wyoming.

RALPH ADAMS, 20808340, Private First Class, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Galveston, Texas.

GEORGE H. ULICH, 35023702, Private First Class, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from East Orwell, Ohio.

HUGH S. PLATT, 34384943, Private First Class, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Denmark, South Carolina.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 22 January 1944 in Italy. They were truck drivers for Company H when that unit crossed a treacherous river to attack well fortified positions on the hostile bank. The casualties were heavy and the company lost all but 71 men, an insufficient number to operate the guns and carry ammunition. They were aware of the desperate situation, immediately volunteered to haul the ammunition directly to the gun positions so that members of the gun crews could remain constantly with their weapons. They made numerous trips to the front lines through heavy artillery and mortar fire, skillfully operating their vehicles and maintaining a steady flow of ammunition to the guns.

By command of Major General DANIELQUIST:

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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