

1945

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

AG RECORDS SEC.

29 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 235

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I. COMMENDATION OF UNIT. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-55, the following unit is commended for exceptionally meritorious conduct and outstanding devotion to duty:

COMPANY I, 142D INFANTRY REGIMENT, for exceptionally meritorious conduct and outstanding devotion to duty in combat on 10 and 11 February 1945 in Oberhoffen, France. With a strong enemy force stubbornly holding the northwest section of Oberhoffen, Company I was ordered to establish a second bridgehead across the Moder River north of the town, strike at the enemy's flank and link up with other elements of the battalion to the south. Crossing the swift-flowing, treacherous stream under cover of darkness, elements of Company I swiftly overwhelmed hostile resistance on the edge of town and seized a railroad station and factory building. Leaving a small group to outpost this area, the 3d Platoon turned south and attacked toward Company L. Approximately 50 Germans counterattacked the factory buildings and forced the outpost to withdraw to the railroad. Although the enemy was threatening from the factory area to the left, the entire bridgehead was being subjected to heavy concentrations of artillery, mortar and self-propelled weapons fire, and hostile troops were converting each house along the route of advance into a strong point, the assault elements of Company I pressed dauntlessly toward their objective. A second enemy counter-attack, which threatened to cut off the company's only line of supply and communication, was stopped by the hard fighting of the headquarters group which held the company command post near the railroad. After dawn on the following morning the three rifle platoons of Company I launched a coordinated attack and, despite stubborn resistance and intense enemy fire, fought through to contact Company L. As a result of the courage and determination displayed by every man, Company I, in 36 hours of continuous fighting, broke the deadlock in the northwest section of Oberhoffen, captured 130 enemy prisoners and overcame the resistance of an entire German battalion.

II. AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL - POSTHUMOUS. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Soldier's medal is posthumously awarded to the following named individual for heroism:

WILLIAM H. SMITH, 36729004, Technician Fifth Grade, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for heroism on 27 March 1945 in Germany. Tec 5 Smith was

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one of a party of men engaged in ferrying civilians from an island in the Rhine to the river bank. During one of the trips the boat capsized, and all reached land except Tec 5 Smith and one of the men who could not swim. Seeing his companion struggle in vain against the strong current, Tec 5 Smith pushed the water-filled boat to him and held it steady so that he could support himself on it. Exhausted by his strenuous exertions and numbed by the icy water, Tec 5 Smith was unable to maintain his hold on the boat, and he slipped beneath the surface of the swiftly moving river. He gave his life in order to save the life of a fellow soldier. Next of kin: Mr. William Smith (Father), 4000 South Drexel Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

III. AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL. 1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named individual for heroic achievement in combat:

FRED POPPLER, 32435085, Technician Fourth Grade (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment, 22 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

2. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named individual for meritorious service in direct support of sustained operations against the enemy:

WILLIAM P. JONES, 0402078, Captain, 36th Quartermaster Company, 15 August 1944 to 19 November 1944, France. Entered the Service from Austin, Texas.

IV. AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the second Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named individual for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations:

JOHN N. GREEN, 033369, Lieutenant Colonel, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 15 to 24 March 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas.

V. AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - AIR MEDAL. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the second Air Medal is awarded to the following named individual for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight:

JAMES W. CARTER, 01183483, Second Lieutenant, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division Artillery, 19 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from New Britain, Connecticut.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DAHLQUIST:

JESSE B. MATLACK
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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