

RESTRICTED

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

ORIGINAL ORDER
DLR.

GENERAL ORDERS

2 June 1944

NO. 158

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SECTION I — AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action.

BENJAMIN D. FISHER, 35384387, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Steubenville, Ohio.
JOHN T. LYNCH, 33359949, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Friendville, Pennsylvania.

For gallantry in action on 23 December 1943 in Italy. The above named enlisted men were ordered to lay a wire line, from the battalion command post to Company B, a unit then in the assault. Through the freezing winter night, across exceptionally rough terrain, they determinedly strung the wire, making their way toward the fighting troops. The route which these men had to travel crossed open terrain covered by enemy small arms fire and blasted by artillery and mortar shells. Unhesitatingly they started across the area and, when a machine gun opened fire on them they continued laying the vital wire lines. By retaining their calmness under hostile fire the above named enlisted men succeeded in reaching the attacking unit and established the contact essential for the success of the operation.

SECTION II — AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, the following named individuals are each awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received as a result of enemy action in Italy.

FREDERICK W. BRADY, 01289380, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, 14 February 1944. Entered the Service from Cleveland, Ohio.
EUELL E. WOODS, 20806827, Sergeant, Antitank Company, 142d Infantry Regiment, 28 May 1944. Entered the Service from Electra, Texas.
LEONARD A. OBERMLIER, 35259888, Corporal, Company E, 142 Infantry Regiment, 9 December 1943. Entered the Service from Rockport, Indiana.
WALTER G. KNEISLEY, 33507092, Private First Class, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, 28 May 1944. Entered the Service from Conestoga, Pennsylvania.
MEARL D. SEIGAL, 18108153, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, 28 May 1944. Entered the Service from Tulsa, Oklahoma.
JAMES A. BRADLEY, 34779662, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Inf Regt, 28 May 1944. Entered the Service from Lancaster, South Carolina.
ROBERT D. BUIRLEY, 35866834, Private, Headquarters Battery, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, 22 May 1944. Entered the Service from Dayton, Ohio.
ANDREW A. HOFFMAN, 36174285, Private, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, 14 December 1943. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.

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AMERIGO J. BEVILACQUA, 33317861, Private, Headquarters Battery, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, 26 May 1944. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

SECTION III — AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, an Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of a second Purple Heart is awarded to the following named enlisted man.

JAMES T. FOSTER, 20814383, Master Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, 25 May 1944. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas.

SECTION IV — COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-55, each of the following named individuals are commended for exceptionally meritorious conduct:

C. L. (IO) BALL, 38037311, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 8 December 1943 in Italy. Tec 5 Ball, liaison radio operator, set up his radio near the Italian Motorized Brigade command post and established communications with his own headquarters. When a battalion wire detail arrived at his post and asked directions to the Italian command post, Tec 5 Ball, aware that the chances of crossing the shell blasted terrain through the darkness and rain were slim, volunteered to lead the detail to the command post. Leaving the safety of his position and starting out at a run, he guided the men safely through the bursts of mortar fire to their destination. Entered the Service from Bonham, Texas.

ROBERT C. TIJERINA, 20801396, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 November 1943 in Italy. When serious casualties were sustained by front line units during an intense enemy artillery and mortar barrage, Private First Class Tijerina volunteered to accompany a litter party in an attempt to evacuate the wounded. Moving courageously forward into the hazardous area through increasingly heavy hostile fire, he assisted in the removal of several casualties to positions of safety from which they were later evacuated after the lifting of the barrage. His determined contribution to the dangerous mission was a material factor in its successful execution. Entered the Service from Van Arney, Texas.

CHARLES (NMI) BRANSCOM, 39256288, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 2 February 1944 in Italy. Spotting one of his comrades lying to the front of the company positions, seriously wounded and unable to escape from the fire swept area, Private First Class Branscom unhesitatingly deserted his place of safety and advanced in the face of intense enemy fire to aid the wounded man. He reached the soldier and carried him quickly to a secure position where he was given medical attention. Entered the Service from Hynes, California.

WILLIAM E. BROWN, 34133158, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 131st Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 12 February 1944 in Italy. When the vital wire communication lines between the artillery batteries and the infantry were shattered by enemy artillery shelling and by tanks and other vehicles, it was expedient to relay the lines along a new route. Aware that the only remaining route crossed a field thickly sown with antipersonnel mines, Private First Class Brown, with another soldier, volunteered to scout a

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path across the hazardous terrain. Fearlessly and skillfully he dug up the mines and exploded them with rifle fire; thus he cleared a jeep path through the field and made possible the relaying of the wire lines. Entered the Service from Tylertown, Mississippi.

HENRY E. BERGGREN, 31273223, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 19 November to 8 December 1943 in Italy. Assigned the task of driving an ambulance from the 2d Battalion aid station to an ambulance loading post, Private First Class Berggren performed his duties during this period with tireless efficiency. Although the road was extremely narrow and muddy and intermittently subjected to artillery and mortar fire, he made innumerable trips over this route both day and night without once injuring a patient. Entered the Service from Collinsville, Connecticut.

HENRY T. BARTHOLOMEW, 35277427, Private First Class, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 3 February 1944 in Italy: While his company was moving to a more favorable position during an intense enemy artillery barrage, several of his comrades were wounded and unable to reach cover. Leading several other members of the company back into the fire-swept area, Private First Class Bartholomew courageously removed all of the wounded despite the increasingly heavy fire then supplemented by hostile mortars and machine guns. His determined leadership and loyalty saved the lives of several of his comrades. Entered the Service from Wooster, Ohio.

ALFRED J. ALLEN, 34732359, Private Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20-21 January 1944 in Italy. For a day and a half Private Allen placed and lighted smoke pots to afford cover for the area and permit the troops and tanks to move up. The enemy constantly shelled the area with artillery and mortar fire, but he continued performing his important duties. When additional pots were needed, he travelled through enemy small arms and mortar fire to secure them. By his determined, efficient handling of his job, he clouded the enemy's observation and protected the movements of friendly forces. Entered the Service from Knoxville, Tennessee.

ALVIN L. BODVIG, 19146457, Private, Headquarters Company 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 22 January 1944 in Italy. Private Bodvig, a member of the wire section of a communications platoon, accompanied a rifle platoon in the attack to the banks of a strategic river, laying wire lines connecting this unit with the battalion command post. When the enemy discovered the platoon's position and blasted it with mortar fire, the communication line was shattered and contact destroyed. Ignoring the danger from the heavy shelling, Private Bodvig immediately repaired the breaks in the line and reestablished communications with the battalion commander. Entered the Service from Everett, Washington.

SECTION V — CORRECTED AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

So much of General Orders Number 152, 24 May 1944, and General Orders Number 154, 26 May 1944, this headquarters, awarding a Bronze Star Medal to Staff Sergeant CHARLIE F. DUNCAN, 20817912, Company C, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion and Private WESLEY O. MURSCHER, 37554530, 111th Engineer Combat 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 each of the following

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named individuals for gallantry in action:

"CHARLIE F. DUNCAN, 20817912, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 29 January 1944 and 2 February 1944 in Italy. He was one of a party assigned the mission of clearing three pathways through enemy mine fields from the main road down to a treacherous river, which was essential for the use of infantry assault troops. Since the presence of Schu mines precluded the use of mine detectors they were forced to employ the probing method, which is both tedious and dangerous. Sergeant Duncan and his comrades, laboring constantly under the threat of enemy fire and imperilled by the presence of Teller mines fiendishly booby trapped, worked indefatigably on their hands and knees, sometimes crawling forward on their stomachs to avoid hostile fire. By his technical efficiency and determination to complete the mission in spite of all dangers, he and his comrades cleared the pathways in a short time and made possible the safe advance of the infantry. Entered the Service from Leonard, Texas."

"WESLEY O. MURSCHER, 37554530, Private, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in Italy. Private Murscher was a member of a party assigned the mission of clearing mines from a roadway to be used by tanks approaching a river to support infantry troops. Realizing the importance of the task, the clearing party started down the road carefully checking for mines and trip wires. Although constantly harassed by artillery, mortar and small arms fire, he displayed extraordinary tenacity in performing his task, never allowing the intense enemy shelling to confuse him. By his intrepidity in the face of danger and his technical efficiency, this fearless soldier helped a speedy clearing of the road and thus successfully completed the mission. Entered the Service from Webster, South Dakota."

By command of Major General WALKER:

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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