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

GENERAL ORDERS

11 August 1944

NO. 290

Commendation for Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct..... I
Corrected Posthumous Award of Bronze Star Medal..... II

SECTION I -- 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.

ANTHONY M. DE MUTH, 0369152, Captain, MC, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 February 1944 in Italy. When he was informed that a portion of the 3d Battalion medical section had become separated from the main body, Captain DeMuth volunteered to make a reconnaissance to locate it. Without a thought for his personal safety, he proceeded along roads and trails that were under constant enemy observation and subjected to artillery and mortar shelling. He finally succeeded in contacting the lost group and directed the men to their parent organization. Entered the Service from Farmville, Virginia.

EIDEN R. MC ROBERT, 01308161, Captain (then Second Lieutenant), Headquarters Company, 36th Infantry Division (then 141st Infantry Regiment), for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 11 to 27 February 1944 in Italy. During this period Lieutenant McRobert performed his important duties as supply officer for the 1st Battalion with unusual efficiency and dispatch. He skillfully organized his supply trains and often led them to the battalion position on the summit of a mountain. The trails crossed a valley and climbed steep slopes which were subjected to artillery and mortar shelling, but he never faltered in maintaining a continuous flow of supplies, including ammunition, blankets and clothing, to the front line troops. Entered the Service from Gales Creek, Oregon.

FLOYD D. GATTIS, 0382333, Captain, Headquarters 36th Division Artillery for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 20 September 1943 and from 15 November 1943 to 13 March 1944 in Italy. Landing with the assaulting infantry shortly after H hour on D day, Captain Gattis, with little assistance, set up and organized a fire direction center and was prepared to handle fire missions as soon as the batteries were in position. Through the initial operations from 9 to 20 September 1943 he worked night and day with very little rest or help, under continual threat from enemy guns, supervising the fire direction center. During later periods of combat he served as assistant S-3 with a measure of skill and efficiency that greatly contributed to the effectiveness of his battalion's supporting fire. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

MANLEY P. MADDOX, JR, 01577506, First Lieutenant, 36th Quartermaster Company, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 13 to 25 February 1944 in Italy. While the division was engaged in an intense battle against stoutly defended enemy positions, Lieutenant Maddox was assigned the mission of establishing forward supply dumps in the mountains overlooking the front lines. Although he and his men were under enemy observation and subject to heavy artillery and mortar fire, he maintained the dumps within carrying distance of the infantry and, by his careful supervision, greatly facilitated the supply of front line elements during this

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operation. Entered the Service from Pettit, Mississippi.

DOWING O. SMITH, 38050987, Master Sergeant, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 26 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Smith, chief clerk of the chemical warfare section and liaison section, landed on the first day of the invasion of Italy and, working calmly under shell fire and aerial bombardment and strafing, swiftly organized his section and put it into operation. When he learned that the graves registration officer was in urgent need of assistance in burying the bodies of numerous soldiers killed in action, he volunteered for the job. For eight days he continued performing his regular duties as well as assisting at the cemetery. During the succeeding periods of combat Sergeant Smith served as liaison non-commissioned officer with the advance elements of the division, working calmly and efficiently under frequent artillery and sniper fire, remaining constantly on the alert and exercising sound judgement and perseverance in performing his important duties. Entered the Service from Galveston, Texas.

CALLIE D. NORTHCUTT, 20803147, Technical Sergeant (then Corporal), Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 December 1943 in Italy. One morning Corporal Northcutt volunteered for two reconnaissance patrols to make contact with friendly troops to be relieved by his unit. He followed steep mountain trails which were under direct observation of the enemy and were subjected to constant artillery and mortar shelling, but he courageously continued on to complete his mission. On his second trip up the mountain, he was exposed to enemy machine gun fire while locating the friendly positions, but he succeeded in returning to his unit with the necessary information. Entered the Service from Luling, Texas.

PAUL J. LINK, 38120958, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 10 to 27 February 1944 in Italy. During this period Sergeant Link performed his duties as operations sergeant calmly and efficiently under the most hazardous conditions. The company area was frequently subjected to artillery and mortar shelling and repeated enemy assaults with rifle grenades and small arms fire. Although he suffered from the intense cold and the rain and snow, he remained with his unit until it was relieved and succeeded in getting vital information to the battalion S-3 when several attempts to contact him had failed. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

ELWOOD P. HOPKINS, 33315284, Corporal (then Private), Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 December 1943 in Italy. Although he had already completed one trip to front line positions on a strategic mountain, he volunteered on the same day to accompany a second mule pack train up the steep trail. When artillery fire blasted the area, the mules and drivers scattered, some starting back down the mountain. Heedless of personal safety, Private Hopkins swiftly reorganized the mule train. Because the sergeant in charge of the train suffered a leg wound, he assumed command and led the pack train to its destination. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM H. SMITH, 37302574, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 January 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Smith, jeep driver assigned to the battalion S-4, was leading a small convoy toward the front lines when the enemy began blasting the area with a heavy artillery barrage. Some of the drivers were making their first trip to the front; and, confused by the

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incessant shelling, they left their vehicles to take cover. Private First Class Smith, exposing himself to the hostile fire, moved from man to man, explained the urgent need for the supplies loaded on their vehicles and encouraged them to continue forward to the front. He succeeded in reorganizing the convoy and led it under the hostile shell fire to its destination. Entered the Service from Lingwood, North Dakota.

MINOR C. SHIPP, 34077170, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 December 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Shipp was a member of a carrying party instructed to furnish supplies to Company B, a unit on the front lines forward of the remainder of the battalion. Carrying 40 pounds on his back, he proceeded over unfamiliar terrain, following a circuitous route in order to avoid the enemy fire. Although he and his comrades were often subjected to artillery and mortar shelling and frequently lost their way, they continued dauntlessly forward after nightfall, finally reaching their destination after 12 hours of marching. By his determination and courage, Private First Class Shipp furnished Company B with urgently needed supplies. Entered the Service from Plain Dealing, Louisiana.

JAMES R. MACKIN, JR, 32753013, Private First Class (then Private), Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 3 December 1943 in Italy. Private Mackin, a member of a ration carrying detail, climbed over slippery rocks up a muddy mountainous trail toward his destination. He and his comrades were forced to move through an area subjected to heavy artillery and mortar fire. On the way back down the mountain, while recrossing the same shelled area, he spotted a wounded soldier lying exposed to the enemy fire. Although he had been instructed to move through the area as quickly as possible, he courageously stopped and, with shells bursting around him, assisted the wounded man to safety. Entered the Service from Ashland, New Jersey.

CHRIS HARLOW, JR, 33533021, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 3 December 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Harlow voluntarily helped carry rations to troops fighting high in the mountains. He picked up his case of rations and started up the steep, rocky, wet, slippery trail. Along the way enemy artillery fire, directed by observers watching the trail and listening post operators who fired tracer bullets to indicate the presence of troops, made going extremely hazardous. The carrying party followed a body of friendly soldiers. Suddenly a terrific barrage of artillery and mortar fire blanketed the area. Private First Class Harlow knew it was his responsibility to get food to the fighting men, so despite all difficulties, he clung to his cumbersome burden and struggled on to his destination. Over and over he repeated the gruelling trip and carried box after box of rations past dead and wounded who lay along the trail in witness of the dangers he braved. Entered the Service from Bristol, Virginia.

ROBERT L. PAINE, 20814569, Private First Class, Battery B, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 18 January 1944 in Italy. During enemy artillery shelling of an area near Battery B, several men of an anti-aircraft unit were wounded. Despite the continued fire, Private First Class Paine, an aid man, on his own initiative went to the aid of the injured. To reach them he had to pass through the shelled area and as he treated them he had to remain perilously near the shelled area. His medical skill under stress of great danger alleviated the suffering of the wounded men and contributed materially to the saving of their lines. Entered the Service from Cleburne, Texas.

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WILLIAM T. WEST, 32801407, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 21 January 1944 in Italy. Private West, a switchboard operator in the communications platoon, volunteered to assist two linemen in laying a wire line from the battalion command post to the bank of a strategic river. He proceeded along a path under direct enemy observation and subjected to heavy mortar fire. Aware of the urgency of his mission, he never hesitated, but continued dauntlessly forward to complete the line. While he was returning to his unit, he was struck to the ground and stunned by the concussion of a nearby shell explosion. Entered the Service from Elmhurst, N. Y.

EDWARD A. WALCH, 36577367, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 16 to 26 February 1944 in Italy. Private Walch volunteered to maintain an essential forward supply dump which was under direct observation of the enemy. The building which housed the dump was subjected to constant, accurate artillery shelling, but he always performed his duties with a calmness and efficiency which inspired the respect of his comrades. He remained in this hazardous position, meeting all the battalion's requirements for rations and munitions and maintaining an essential link in the chain of supply to the forward elements. Entered the Service from Inkster, Michigan.

SECTION II — CORRECTED POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

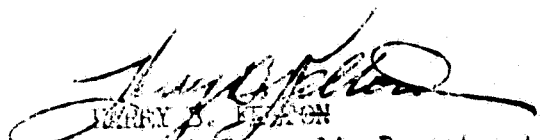
So much of General Orders Number 265, cs, this Headquarters, as awards a Bronze Star Medal to EDWIN E. FOJTASEK, 20807998, Corporal, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, is corrected to read as follows:

"Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the following named individual is posthumously awarded a Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in combat in Italy.

"EDWIN E. FOJTASEK, 20807998, Corporal, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, 28 May 1944. Next of kin: Mrs. Willie Mae Fojtasek (Wife), Route #4, Rosebud, Texas."

OFFICIAL:

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


J. B. FELTMAN
Major, Adjutant General's Department
Asst. Adjutant General

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