

RESTRICTED

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

18 June 1944

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ORIGINAL ORDER  
JUN 21 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 189

COMMENDATIONS FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

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

JOSEPH (NMI) TYRELL, 012989957, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 12 February 1944 in Italy. Ordered to install and maintain communication lines from the rear command post to the forward command post, Lieutenant Tyrell moved through intense enemy artillery shell fire which had shattered all the wire lines to try to reestablish the broken communications. In spite of the heavy shelling, he calmly directed his crew in repairing the important lines and restoring communications between the forward command post and higher headquarters. Entered the Service from Annandale, New Jersey.

THOMAS W. THOMPSON, 20803815, First Sergeant, Cannon Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 3 February 1944 in Italy. When enemy artillery fire damaged the gasoline tanks of two 105mm self-propelled howitzer mounts and spilled the gasoline in puddles around the weapons, the gun crews were ordered to move to safer positions away from the inflammable area. After the less damaged mount had been driven to safety, Sergeant Thompson volunteered to try to retrieve the other weapon. After advancing across 1000 yards of shell torn terrain, he reached the gun position and started the motor. The sputtering of the engine and the fire from the exhaust attracted enemy artillery and mortar fire, but he dauntlessly drove the vehicle, guided by the soldier who had accompanied him, toward the rear and successfully removed the invaluable gun mount from the dangerous area to a place of safety. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas.

RALPH J. RESTAINO, 32237054, Staff Sergeant, Company L, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 19 January 1944 in Italy. During the action on the banks of a strategic river, Sergeant Restaino was ordered to discover the location of enemy gun emplacements. He fearlessly led his squad across an uncleared minefield, preceding his men and choosing the route of advance. He then purposely exposed himself to the enemy observers who opened fire on him. By making himself the target of enemy fire, Sergeant Restaino discovered previously concealed gun positions. Entered the Service from Newark, New Jersey.

CHARLES E. REESE, 20807333, Sergeant (then Corporal), Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 3 October 1943 in Italy. During a furious battle in an apple orchard near an enemy held town, Corporal Reese volunteered to drive a truck and trailer loaded with ammunition to the forward elements of Company A whose supply of ammunition was depleted. Skillfully maneuvering his vehicle through intense mortar and small arms fire, he successfully delivered the ammunition and enabled the company to continue the attack and capture its objective. Entered the Service from Clifton, Texas.

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WILLIAM (NMI) REESE, 34286765, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 14 January 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Reese went with his company commander to inspect a forward outpost. When the enemy blasted the area with artillery shell fire and shattered the communication lines between the outpost and the command posts, he braved the intense shelling four times to repair the lines. The outpost was ordered to move 1000 yards forward into enemy territory, and Private First Class Reese assisted his company commander in directing the movement, at the same time extending the wire line to the new positions. Again, when the line was broken by shell fire, he moved across an area bristling with enemy patrols to repair the line and maintain the vital communications. Entered the Service from Newport, Tennessee.

FRANK J. NOVELLI, 38050988, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Company, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 18 March 1944 in Italy. Tec 5 Novelli volunteered to man a heavy machine gun mounted on a truck during deadly bombing and strafing attacks by enemy aircraft. Although the planes swooped low and inflicted much damage on the area, he fearlessly continued operating his gun, firing at aircraft that passed within range throughout the entire day. Entered the Service from Galveston, Texas.

OWEN B. ROBERTS, 34727686, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 February 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Roberts volunteered for an important forward outpost position, and, when the enemy launched a fierce counterattack, he held back the assaulting forces in his sector with his accurately hurled hand grenades and his well aimed rifle fire. Withstanding the desperate enemy thrusts and undaunted by their grenade assaults, he maintained his position despite the bitter cold and flurries of snow and was successful in foiling the enemy attempts to overrun his position. Entered the Service from Paris, Tennessee.

BERNARDO (NMI) ROBLEDO, 38025983, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 December 1943 in Italy. As platoon runner during a furiously contested assault on an enemy held village, Private First Class Robledo maintained contact with all the squad leaders of his platoon. Although the routes over which he travelled were exposed to enemy artillery shelling and small arms fire, he never faltered in carrying the important messages from the platoon leader to the leaders of the various squads. Entered the Service from Mercedes, Texas.

ALTON C. JONES, 34732207, Private First Class, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 February 1944 in Italy. As a member of the wire section of his company, Private First Class Jones was ordered to maintain communications between the company command post and the platoons. He assisted in laying the wire line over snow-covered and muddy terrain, then, heedless of the intense artillery shelling and sniper fire, moved along the length of the line to check for breaks and make certain that it remained intact. Entered the Service from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

LEROY (NMI) RICHTER, 34082935, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 25 December 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Richter was laying a communication line around the base of a mountain, stringing the wire from his jeep, when the enemy began shelling the area with artillery fire. Heedless of personal danger and aware of the necessity for completing the line, he parked his

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jeep in a covered position and started laying the wire by hand. He worked calmly and rapidly through the intense enemy shell fire and succeeded in completing the vital communication line. Entered the service from Moultrie, Georgia.

SAM F. POOLE, 14176920, Private, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 12 to 15 February 1944 in Italy. Although his feet were badly frozen from continual exposure to icy temperatures for 52 hours, Private Poole helped move his machine gun into position and put it in action. He remained in this position, constantly threatened by enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, helping to repel the desperate enemy counterattacks for 72 hours. He refused to be evacuated and continued performing his duties fearlessly and efficiently until his entire platoon was relieved. Entered the Service from Beaufort, South Carolina.

MILTON A. PRITT, 15116061, Private, Company A, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 December 1943 in Italy. When an intense enemy artillery bombardment shattered the communication lines between Private Pritt's platoon and the company command post and set ablaze a large ammunition dump in the area, Private Pritt volunteered to brave the enemy shelling and the hurtling fragments from exploding ammunition to repair the line. Working with his platoon leader, he checked the line and repaired the breaks calmly, speedily, and skillfully, successfully reestablishing the vital communications. Entered the Service from Charleston, West Virginia.

CHARLES J. DE FRANCESCO, 33586143, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 23 December 1943 in Italy. Assigned to Company A as a radio operator during a night attack on enemy positions, Private De Francesco advanced with the company across muddy, mountainous terrain. Although it was his first combat experience, he performed his duties calmly and capably in the face of intense enemy artillery and mortar shelling and kept the vital radio communications intact throughout the attack. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

VITO A. RIZZO, 36661638, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 21 and 22 January 1944 in Italy. Private Rizzo was ordered to place and light smoke pots along the bank of a strategic river to screen the withdrawal of his battalion from the hostile bank. He remained near the river for a day and a half, continually menaced by artillery and mortar shelling and often by small arms fire, performing his duties skillfully and fearlessly. When one of his comrades was wounded, Private Rizzo laid the remainder of the smoke pots for the wounded soldier and then assisted him to the aid station. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

BERNARD F. BESECKER, 33503883, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 December 1943 in Italy. Assigned the task of laying wire from the battalion switchboard to Company B in its attack on enemy positions, Private Besecker advanced with the unit in the face of continuous artillery and mortar shelling and intense small arms fire. Continually exposing himself to repair breaks in the line, he managed to maintain communications with the battalion commander. By his determined and skillful performance of his difficult task he enabled the commander to order the necessary fire support for the attacking unit. Entered the Service from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

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CHRIS J. COTZIAS, 36598826, Private, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 12 February 1944 in Italy. Charged with the responsibility of maintaining the wire line between the battalion command post and Company F, Private Cotzias, acting on his own initiative, left his place of safety during an intense enemy artillery, mortar, and nebelwerfer barrage and moved out to repair a break in the communications line. Working speedily and skillfully, constantly exposed to the furious shelling, he succeeded in repairing the line in minimum time and reestablished the vital communications. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.

EARL W. CRIST, JR, 33589587, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 February 1944 in Italy. During a fierce enemy counterattack, Private First Class Crist put his mortar into action on a snow covered hill and delivered accurate fire on the assaulting enemy troops, stopping them until his company had prepared for the attack. He remained at his position the entire night, disregarding the enemy artillery and mortar shells which exploded around him; and, when the enemy launched a second counterattack, he neutralized two machine guns and one mortar with his skillfully directed fire. Entered the Service from Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

MANUEL O. ZEPEDA, 38025712, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 11 to 13 February 1944 in Italy. Although exhausted from carrying his 60mm mortar up a steep, snow covered hill under hostile artillery and small arms fire, Private First Class Zepeda, acting on his own initiative, put his weapon into action and delayed a fierce enemy counterattack until his company could get into position. Firing with deadly accuracy for an entire day and night, he knocked out two enemy machine guns and supported the riflemen at all times. Entered the Service from Harlingen, Texas.

OSCAR V. HERNANDEZ, 20801504, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 February 1944 in Italy. While Private First Class Hernandez was loading his vehicle at the battalion ammunition dump, the area was suddenly bombarded by enemy artillery. Noticing another truck in an exposed position near a pile of small arms ammunition which had been set off by shell fragments, he courageously drove his vehicle to the hazardous spot and calmly pulled the disabled truck to cover. By risking the heavy artillery fire and the exploding small arms ammunition, he saved a vehicle urgently needed to maintain the flow of vital supplies. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

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