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

GENERAL ORDERS

29 August 1944

NO. 307

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.

PATRICK W. McROBERTS, O403482, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 15 February 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant McRoberts was in charge of a mule pack train manned by Negro quartermaster troops that had been detailed to carry supplies to the battalion front line positions in the mountains. The column moved out after dark. About half way up the mountain the train received a heavy barrage of artillery, mortar and nebelwerfer fire. Both the mules and men balked. Lieutenant McRoberts realized that the crouching men would soon become very confused by the continued shelling. Leaving his place of safety he went from one man to another and by words of encouragement calmed the men. Steadied by the officer's example of bravery the men got on their feet, assembled their mules and continued to their objective. Entered the Service from Muscatine, Iowa.

BOB G. GAHAGAN, W-2109908, Chief Warrant Officer, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 25 May to 27 June 1944 in Italy. During this period Warrant Officer Gahagan, assistant S-4 of his regiment, kept the supply point as close as possible to the rapidly advancing troops. Although he was frequently exposed to enemy shelling and sniper fire, he made the necessary supplies constantly available to the battalions with a minimum of delay, facilitating their work by moving the supply point forward in close support of the combat units. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

JOE SANCHEZ, 20801491, Technical Sergeant, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 19 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Sanchez, acting platoon leader, was leading his platoon in an attack against an enemy strong point when his company was subjected to small arms fire directed from a hill to the front. He was ordered to move his platoon forward and occupy the hill. After skillfully maneuvering the elements of his unit in routing an enemy assault, he spotted a tank which had been harassing the friendly troops. He established contact with the artillery by radio and fearlessly exposing himself to heavy, direct tank fire, adjusted fire on the tank, forced it to withdraw. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

RAYMOND LIVINGSTON, 7006652, Technician Third Grade, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 18 June 1944 in Italy. When he was informed of wounded men at a forward battalion command post, Tec 3 Livingston immediately set out through driving rain, following a wire line over two precipitous mountains toward the command post. While crossing an enemy mine field, he stopped to treat and evacuate a soldier injured by a mine explosion. When he reached the command post he treated all the casualties and started evacuation to the rear. Upon learning that there were two seriously wounded soldiers at a forward company command post, he unhesitatingly braved sniper and artillery shelling to reach the position. He administered effective first aid.

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and evacuated his patients by a litter squad. By his many courageous deeds saved the lives of many of his comrades and relieved the suffering of many. Entered the Service from Union, Mississippi.

CLINTON T. MILES, 37262836, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 June 1944 in Italy. While crossing an open field, a battalion was subjected to a heavy mortar barrage. The litter squads scattered, and Tec 4 Miles immediately left the aid station to locate the various companies of the battalion which were partially sheltered by the slope of a hill. To reach them, he had to cross a mile of flat, barren terrain, constantly exposed to artillery and mortar fire. When he had ascertained their position, he returned to the aid station, helped find the scattered squads and led them back through heavy artillery shelling to the companies in time to handle the casualties. Entered the Service from Britton, South Dakota.

BERNARD W. JOYCE, 32432442, Corporal, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 1 June 1944 in Italy. When a battalion aid station moved to a new location, it was immediately subjected to a heavy mortar barrage which scattered the litter squads. Upon learning that one of the companies of the battalion had sustained several casualties and was cut off from the remainder of the organization, surrounded by the enemy, Corporal Joyce immediately reorganized the litter squads and led them toward the unit. Although he only knew the general location of the company, he led the squads unerringly through heavy mortar and sniper fire to the unit and quickly evacuated the wounded. Entered the Service from Port Chester, New York.

DWARD I. HARVEY, 20809078, Technician Fifth Grade, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 6 to 28 February 1944 in Italy. In the early morning the 3d Battalion occupied a new assembly area within range of enemy artillery fire. Aware of the necessity for dispersing and camouflaging the battalion vehicles before daybreak, Tec 4 Harvey made a reconnaissance under hostile fire, located a motor park and moved the vehicles into it. During this period he voluntarily assisted the Battalion S-4 in supplying the organization with rations, water and ammunition. Under almost constant enemy observation and fire, he brought supplies forward and reconnoitered the area for better routes of supply. Entered the Service from Belton, Texas.

FRED S. HAVENS, 32386725, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 30 January 1944 in Italy. When a cargo carrier, loaded with ammunition and water, vitally needed by the front line troops, threw a track, Tec 4 Havens, a mechanic in Headquarters Company, immediately started to repair it. Although he was frequently forced to take cover, he realized that the vehicle blocked the narrow trail, the only suitable supply route, and he continued working on it throughout the night. At daybreak he completed the job and drove the vehicle, pierced with shrapnel holes, to the safety of the rear positions. Entered the Service from Sussex, New York.

CARL SIMS, 20802530, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 and 12 February 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Sims, a member of a mortar squad supporting the company in an attack, remained steadfastly with his weapon when the enemy launched a violent counter-attack. When his supply of mortar ammunition was expended, he volunteered to assist in manning a machine gun whose crew had been wounded by the hostile fire.

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By operating the gun effectively until he was wounded, he contributed materially to the repulse of the attack. Entered the Service from Lockhart, Texas.

ROBERT E. COUCH, 14130849, Private First Class, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 22 January 1944 in Italy. During the bitter fighting on the banks of a strategic river Private First Class Couch was assigned as runner with Company H. As the battalion started to withdraw from untenable positions on the hostile side of the river, the battalion commander called for a strength report. Fully aware of the hazards involved in the mission, Private First Class Couch unhesitatingly volunteered to carry the report to the battalion command post. With great fortitude he advanced in the face of intense artillery and mortar shelling and machine gun and rifle fire. Although he was often forced to hit the ground when shells crashed near him and to crawl forward under the machine gun fire which raked the area, he continued on determinedly and delivered the vital report to the battalion. Entered the Service from Winfield, Alabama.

LEONARD L. FRERICK, 20803960, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 18 June 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Frerick made repeated trips in his jeep to evacuate the wounded from the forward battalion aid station to the rear station. Although the roads were heavily mined and frequently subjected to artillery shelling, he never faltered in performing his duties, skillfully maneuvering his jeep over the rough roads through driving rain. By his courageous deeds he greatly expedited the evacuation of patients, insuring them prompt medical attention, and relieved the litter squads for other duties. Entered the Service from Red Rock, Texas.

BENSON A. WIGGINS, JR., 36823659, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 June 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Wiggins was a member of a seven man patrol detailed to secure high ground flanking the company's position. Subjected to a strong enemy counter attack when it reached the objective, the patrol took firing positions in a house overlooking the oncoming enemy. Firing his submachine gun with deadly accuracy, Private First Class Wiggins and his comrades stood off the superior enemy forces, despite the small arms fire laid on his position, until the company was able to reinforce the patrol and repel the counterattack. Entered the Service from St. Ignace, Michigan.

HARRY J. SCANLAN, 32994353, Private First Class, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

ROLAND A. PACETTI, 31342298, Private First Class, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Barre, Vermont.

VICTOR C. TELANDER, 36643897, Private First Class, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

ALFRED M. SCOTTI, 32973190, Private First Class, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Rockville Center, New York.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 10 July 1944 in Italy. A group of men from Companies K and L were swimming in the ocean when the sea became very rough and some of the men were unable to make their way to shore. Hearing the cries for help, these men swam into the deep water to aid their comrades who were struggling vainly against the strong undertow. Displaying outstanding ingenuity and courage, they managed to keep the men afloat with a water can and an improvised rope made of machine gun belts. Exercising unusual physical prowess, they helped carry the men into shallower water where they were passed along a human chain to the shore.

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HOWARD L. MURPHY, 19153140, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 23 December 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Murphy volunteered to help carry supplies forward to the battalion command post in the mountains. This work he did at night after daytime duty at company headquarters, including guard duty. Picking up his load at the rear ration dump he labored up the rough, slippery trail under continuous enemy shell fire. At the command post he delivered the supplies and learned that men recently returned from the hospital were on the way to their units. Since he was familiar with the terrain he volunteered to lead them to their organizations. Through rain and mud, while the enemy continued to harass with artillery, he guided the men to a dispersing point for the various companies. There he was hit and seriously wounded in the leg. Entered the Service from Ogden, Utah.

LEONARD C. GAUTHIER, 31267664, Private, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 26 May to 1 June 1944 in Italy. A member of 36th Division Pack Troop, Private Gauthier was assigned to carry radio equipment for an artillery forward observer with the 1st Special Force. When small arms, mortar and artillery fire prevented him from leading the loaded mules farther up the mountains, Private Gauthier carried the radio on his back to the objective. He then returned and guided the mules over another route so that they were available for the next move by the forward observer. During these days he had to keep his animals watered, fed and cared for and keep constantly on the move so that the forward observer could keep pace with the fast moving troops. Entered the Service from Berlin, New Hampshire.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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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