

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS

3 October 1944

NO. 368

Award of Soldier's Medal..... I
Commendation For exceptionally Meritorious Conduct..... II

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Soldier's Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals of the 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroism.

EDWARD R. PARKER, 0425847, Captain. Entered the Service from Frederick, Okla.
HENRY A. GILL, 0323789, Captain. Entered the Service from Hillsboro, Texas.
THOMAS B. GAUTHIER, JR., 0461111, Captain. Entered the Service from Charlestown, South Carolina.

HICKS A. TURNER, 38036338, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters & Service Company. Entered the Service from Clyde, Texas.

DANIEL L. JUNELL, 20817965, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters & Service Company. Entered the Service from Sulphur Springs, Texas.

VERNON W. MASON, 38037036, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters & Service Company. Entered the Service from Chico, Texas.

WALTER A. COX, 20817629, Staff Sergeant, Medical Detachment. Entered the Service from Gonzales, Texas.

RUFUS L. FLOYD, 20817691, Technician Third Grade, Medical Detachment. Entered the Service from Gonzales, Texas.

BERTIE E. BROCK, 37049821, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters & Service Company. Entered the Service from Princeton, Kansas.

SALVADOR L. MAZZARA, 20817736, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters & Service Company. Entered the Service from Port Arthur, Texas.

BYRON C. WOODWARD, 31151019, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Detachment. Entered the Service from West Buxton, Maine.

JOHN R. KEPFLER, 32392886, Corporal, Medical Detachment. Entered the Service from Dunellen, New Jersey.

MARVIN W. BRAUNE, 20817628, Technician Fifth Grade, Medical Detachment. Entered the Service from Gonzales, Texas.

ALLEN A. GEISMAR, 32335580, Private First Class, Headquarters & Service Company. Entered the Service from Hewlett, New Jersey.

JOHN G. MYERS, 20817521, Private, Headquarters & Service Company. Entered the Service from Groves, Texas.

For heroism on 15 August 1944 in France. In the invasion of Southern France, a large landing craft approaching the coast was struck squarely by an enemy glider bomb. The seriously damaged vessel, loaded with heavy artillery, ammunition and personnel, drifted ashore in flames and the ammunition began to explode. Although the above named individuals had been moved inland from the beach to escape the hurtling shell fragments, they returned to the shore near the burning ship and began rescue work. Aware of the desperate plight of the men who had been forced to abandon the craft by leaping overboard into the water, they worked indefatigably until midnight, swimming alongside the ship and dragging the men ashore. As the injured men were brought to the beach they were carried to a place of safety and given first aid treatment. The above named individuals did not cease their unselfish and hazardous work until they had saved 75 men from drowning and had

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treated another 15 for burns, wounds and shock.

SECTION II — 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.

JOHN S. WHITFIELD, 0284242, Major, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 20 to 31 May 1944 in Italy. When it was necessary to ship pack troops by boat to a recently established beachhead, Major Whitfield, acting as Transport Quartermaster for the move, devised a method of shipping which eliminated the usual confusion of loading animals onto the landing craft. In subsequent action with the Special Service Force, he repeatedly exposed himself to small arms and artillery fire in order to direct the movements of the pack train. Because of his outstanding leadership the force was able to use the animals in packing arms, ammunition and food in the approach march and in supplying military equipment to the force after engaging the enemy. Entered the Service from Florence, Mississippi.

GUY WRAY, JR, 37666232, Private First Class, Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 28 May 1944 in Italy. In addition to acting as liaison between the 2d Platoon of the Antitank Company and the 2d Battalion, Private First Class Wray was also used as a runner between two front line companies. He frequently braved the hazards of mortar and small arms fire to carry important information to the two companies and, upon returning to his platoon would report the exact locations of the front line units. By maintaining contact with the forward elements, Private First Class Wray enabled the antitank platoon to direct effective supporting fire and to move forward much more rapidly than would otherwise have been possible. Entered the Service from Lenox, Iowa.

BERT L. NEWTON, 35702552, Private First Class, Company B, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 9 June 1944 in Italy. As Company B moved into a supposedly secure position, the soldiers were surprised by heavy fire from automatic weapons. Although Private First Class Newton lost contact with his squad leader, he led his automatic rifle team to an advantageous position from which he directed effective fire on the enemy target. By his correct estimate of the situation and skillful maneuver Private First Class Newton materially assisted his company in defeating the enemy and accomplishing its mission. Entered the Service from Bardstown, Kentucky.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart
VINCENT M. LOCKHART
Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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

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