

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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ORIGINAL ORD
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GENERAL ORDERS

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NO. 267

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SECTION I -- AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, the following named soldier is awarded a Soldier's Medal for heroism.

CLUSTER C. VAN DE VELDE, 36319279, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for heroism on 25 May 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Van De Velde was advancing in a convoy when a truck loaded with artillery shells struck a mine and burst into flames. The route was congested with vehicles bringing personnel and equipment to the rapidly advancing forward elements; and the hot, smoking shells and smouldering debris formed an effective road block which halted all traffic. Although the fire had been setting off the ammunition and a series of violent explosions had sent shell fragments hurtling in all directions, Sergeant Van De Velde, aware of the necessity for removing the block which prevented his convoy from continuing, began clearing the road of the hot shells and debris. Constantly imperilled by the unexploded ammunition smoking on the truck, he worked swiftly at his hazardous task until the obstructions were removed and the traffic could continue forward. Entered the Service from Texarkana, Texas.

SECTION II -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the following named individuals are each awarded a Bronze Star medal for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations in Italy.

DIMOS C. THILLERPE, 20819402, Technician Fifth Grade, 736th Ordnance (Ld) Company, 16 November to 30 December 1943. Entered the Service from Round Rock, Tex.
THOMAS J. FRATE, 35137529, Technician Fifth Grade, 736th Ordnance (Ld) Company, 16 November to 30 December 1943. Entered the Service from Wheeling, W. Va.
HARVEY J. SMITH, 38035945, Technician Fifth Grade, 736th Ordnance (Ld) Company, 16 November to 30 December 1943. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.
WILLIAM F. ROOK, 36192046, Private First Class, 736th Ordnance (Ld) Company, 16 November to 30 December 1943. Entered the Service from Jackson, Michigan.
HARVEY E. TOWNSEND, 20806747, Private, 736th Ordnance (Ld) Company, 16 November to 30 December 1943. Entered the Service from Wichita Falls, Texas.
WILLIS M. POORMAN, 33247628, Private, 736th Ordnance (Ld) Company, 16 November to 30 December 1943. Entered the Service from State College, Pennsylvania.

SECTION III -- AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the following

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named soldier is awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in combat in Italy.

HAROLD C. SPRING, 39309677, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 142d Infantry Regiment, 3 June 1944. Entered the Service from Seattle, Washington.

SECTION IV -- COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT, MISSING IN ACTION

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

CARL C. TSCHANTZ, 013174444, Second Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment.
Next of kin: Mrs Margaret Tschantz (mother), 373 Pearl Street, Akron, Ohio.

JULIUS F. ROHAN, 38026867, Private First Class, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment. Next of kin: Miss Sophie Rohan (Sister), city unknown, Texas.

RICHARD V. GONZALES, 39564974, Private, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment.
Next of kin: Mrs Concepcion Gonzales (mother), 700 South Concord, Los Angeles, Cal.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 January 1944 in Italy. The above named officer and enlisted men were ordered to cross a strategic river and attack strongly fortified enemy positions on the opposite bank, they approached the river across open, heavily mined terrain, subjected to intense artillery barrages, and under enemy observation. Although many of the assault boats employed in the river crossing were destroyed by enemy fire, they continued valiantly forward and helped launch the attack against the enemy. With contact between units rendered impossible by a dense fog, the above named officer and enlisted men courageously took positions under continuous artillery, mortar and machine gun fire and engaged the enemy in close combat. They held their positions until their ammunition was completely exhausted and they were ordered to withdraw. Since this engagement they have been reported missing in action.

SECTION V -- 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.

MURREL P. ADAMS, 20818603, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas.

ERNEST M. POOL JR, 36065976, Technician Third Grade, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Dumas, Texas.

JAMES A. THOMAS, 20818627, Technician Third Grade, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas.

JAMIA P. PATTON, 20814540, Sergeant, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion, Entered the Service from Cleburne, Texas.

IRA E. SCHLIENTZ, 36359805, Technician Fourth Grade, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

JAMES H. DAVIS, 20818631, Technician Fourth Grade, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct from 4 December 1943 to 7 January 1944 and from 21 January to 26 February 1944 in Italy. As aid men, the above named soldiers worked tirelessly during savage mountain fighting, enduring bitter cold weather, to treat the wounded and alleviate their suffering. Under continual artillery bombardment, they worked with calm efficiency even when a direct hit on the aid station killed one man and injured others. Later, when the aid station was so far to the front that it was under direct enemy observation and artillery

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and mortar shells peppered the area, piercing nearby ambulances, they still worked on, unperturbed by their own great danger and the hardships they endured.

GEORGE M. LESKO, 01015785, First Lieutenant, 751st Tank Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 4 June 1944 in Italy. While reservicing their tanks in preparation for a forthcoming engagement, the commander of Company D and several other men were wounded. Lieutenant Lesko, a platoon leader, immediately assumed command of the company and, despite heavy shell fire, went from tank to tank, skillfully regrouping the company, supervising the care and evacuation of the wounded and restoring order within the unit. When the tanks again moved forward into the attack, his calmness under fire and his intelligent leadership were largely responsible for the successful participation of the company in the operation. Entered the Service from Danbury, Connecticut.

CLARENCE J. BOUNDY, 01294423, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 June 1944 in Italy. As the 1st Battalion Headquarters personnel marched forward across flat, open terrain, they were suddenly subjected to a heavy enemy artillery barrage. When Lieutenant Boundy was informed of the situation, he immediately pressed through the ceaseless shell fire to the men. Realizing the necessity for moving the men from the exposed area, he urged them to leave their holes and directed them forward. He courageously remained in the shelled area until all the men had moved to the positions of safety. Entered the Service from Highland Park, Michigan.

DICHLINSON O. COLLINSON, 01015453, Second Lieutenant, 753d Tank Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 13 June 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Collinson, when informed that his company commander had been wounded on a reconnaissance patrol and was lying exposed to heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire, unhesitatingly moved forward of the friendly lines to assist the officer. He rendered effective first aid and, ignoring the ceaseless shelling and the sweeping machine gun fire, remained with the company commander until a tank could arrive for his evacuation. Entered the Service from Arcadia, Wisconsin.

FRANK M. GASTON, 20814774, First Sergeant, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 8 February 1944 to 12 March 1944 in Italy. At various intervals during this period when the only remaining officer in the battery was called away to attend conferences and reconnoiter new positions, Sergeant Gaston assumed command of the battery. Under his capable guidance the battery continued to function normally; and, through his untiring efforts the handling of fire missions was performed efficiently and without delay. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas.

JACK H. AUTEN, 38025463, Staff Sergeant, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 21 June 1944 in Italy. When he was told that the regimental mail truck had been hit by enemy fire and one of the men had been seriously wounded, Sergeant Auten immediately volunteered to go to the rescue. He drove along the highway with a jeep driver and a rifleman until he came within sight of the abandoned truck. He then left the jeep and moved alone. In spite of intense sniper fire and harassing artillery fire he reached the truck and, finding that the wounded man had already been evacuated, drove the vehicle back to the safety of the friendly positions. Entered the Service from San Angelo, Texas.

WILLIAM H. WHITLOCK, 20814441, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 17 November

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1943 to 3 March 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Whitlock, having been informed that vitally needed radios had been disabled because of inclement weather and enemy action, volunteered to carry new radios to units located on mountains. The trails were slippery and dangerous and at times subjected to heavy enemy artillery and mortar shelling. Despite these hazards, Sergeant Whitlock succeeded in his task. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas.

LEWIS G. WORRELL, 34131132, Technician Fifth Grade, Company A, 753d Tank Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 23 to 25 May 1944 in Italy. Although the usual procedure in repairing tanks involved retrieving the tanks and bringing them to a rear assembly area, Tec 5 Worrell, aware of the shortage of tanks in his unit, voluntarily remained at the front lines during this period. He worked indefatigably, without rest or sleep, under constant artillery and mortar shelling and sweeping machine gun fire. He helped retrieve and repair six disabled tanks and, in spite of the hazardous conditions, had them back in action with a minimum of delay. Entered the Service from Olla, Louisiana.

BILLY Y. LOONEY, 38037595, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private), Company A, 111th Medical Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 19 December 1943 in Italy. When wounded men were reported beyond the 3d Battalion command post, Private Looney led a litter squad through a heavy enemy artillery and mortar barrage to find them. Shells bursting nearby forced the squad to take cover in a bomb crater, but Private Looney crawled seventy yards under terrific fire to treat a badly wounded soldier. On returning to the squad he was pinned down by an enemy sniper. Escaping from this threat, he led his squad to the wounded man and directed his evacuation. The prompt treatment made possible by Private Looney's courage saved the soldier's life. Entered the Service from New Boston, Texas.

MARION R. CAMERON, 33832614, Private First Class, Company D, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 June 1944 in Italy. During a determined enemy counterattack, Private First Class Cameron left the comparative safety of the company command post and braved continuous fire from self-propelled weapons and tanks to reach an unoccupied mortar position. He helped put the mortar into action against the enemy and then, ignoring the small arms fire which was directed at his position, delivered effective mortar fire against the enemy. Entered the Service from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

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