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NO. 155

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL..... I
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SECTION I-- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

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

ALBERT C. SUESSMUTH, 0403559, Captain, 143d Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 9 September 1943 to 28 February 1944 in Italy. Captain Suessmuth was in command of the Service Company when it landed during the invasion of Italy and continued in command throughout the entire period that the regiment was in combat. During the critical period after the landing, when our troops were not yet strongly established, he maintained a continuous flow of supplies and equipment to the fighting men, in spite of the dangers and difficulties which were encountered. During the winter, he worked long and hard to keep supplies moving smoothly to the front. During much of the time he was exposed to enemy artillery fire, but he and his men supplied enough material to reequip the troops twice. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

HERMAN W. HEATH, 38051312, Corporal, Medical Section, Headquarters Special Troops, 36th Infantry Division (then Private, Headquarters Detachment, 11th Medical Battalion), for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 29 September 1943 to 13 October 1943 at sea enroute from North Africa to Italy. Voluntarily over a period of fifteen days, and in the absence of a medical officer, Private Heath held sick call for approximately 175 enlisted men and officers aboard a transport during its voyage from north Africa to Italy. With exceptional ability and outstanding devotion to duty he dispensed proper treatment for such diseases as dysentery, burns, malaria and infections. The sound judgment, fidelity and skill displayed by Private Heath, who was on call twenty-four hours a day, contributed materially to the health and morale of the troops; kept the sick rate at a minimum, and in one instance according to later judgment of medical officers, probably saved the loss of an arm of one of his patients. Entered the Service from Port Arthur, Texas.

LEONARD J. BRUNO, 33282974, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 18-29 December 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Bruno was assigned as a member of a carrying party to furnish supplies and heavy weapons to the troops fighting in mountain heights. For eleven days he indefatigably carried the bulky supplies up the precipitous trails on the mountain side in spite of the inclement weather conditions. Often half-frozen by the cold, drenched by the heavy rainfall, and stumbling on the treacherous, muddy slopes Private First Class Bruno was compelled to crawl forward on his hands and knees; but he never faltered in his all-important task of carrying the vital supplies to the fighting men. Remaining on the mountain, though constantly exposed to the bitter cold, he assisted in moving Company D into a strategic position from which withering fire could be delivered against the enemy. And he made certain that all the

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troops were constantly supplied with food and ammunition. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

CIRILO M. MIRANDA, 38051446, Private First Class, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 15 November to 27 December 1943. Private First Class Miranda was detailed as a member of a carrying party to supply water, rations, and ammunition to front line troops on two mountain heights and to assist in evacuating the dead and wounded from these positions. The supply routes were from three to five miles long, running over slopes rendered almost impassable by rain, sleet and snow. For more than a month Private First Class Miranda often half frozen and blinded by blizzards, struggled over the treacherous trails carrying 47-pound water cans and even heavier ammunition bags to the front lines and returning with casualties. Although constantly harassed by heavy enemy artillery, mortar and sniper fire, Private First Class Miranda never faltered in performing his all-important tasks and, by his admirable determination to do his job, maintained the physical welfare and high morale of the men on the lines. Entered the Service from Rusk, Texas.

LEROY D. SCHMIDT, 36598718, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations on 14 February 1944 in Italy. Private Schmidt volunteered to guide a mule train, loaded with supplies for front line forces, up a mountainous trail to the forward dump. Although subjected to an intense mortar barrage, the supply train continued toward its destination. Upon reaching the dump, Private Schmidt discovered that a number of mules had been lost from the column in the confusion of enemy shelling, and he unhesitatingly started back down the trail to find them. He made many trips along the shell torn trail collecting the mules until, almost exhausted, he managed to retrieve every pack load of supplies. Entered the Service from Temperance, Michigan.

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.

JAMES W. AUSTIN, 20803713, Technical Sergeant, Company M, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 10 to 15 February 1944 in Italy. Ordered to lead his 81 mm mortar platoon up a mountainous trail to bring fire on enemy positions, Sergeant Austin started climbing the trail in the freezing temperatures of a dark, rainy night. Although the rain turned to blinding snow and the steep trail, ordinarily precipitous, became icy and slippery, he succeeded in reaching his objective without losing a piece of equipment or a single man. During the next four days he skillfully directed his platoon in bringing and maintaining accurate and effective fire on the enemy positions. Entered the Service from Harlingen, Texas.

ARVIAL (NMI) MC MAN, 38050815, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 16 November to 25 December 1943 in Italy. Sergeant McMan, as mess sergeant, prepared hot drinks and hot meals for the battalion aid station and the company forces at the front. On Thanksgiving Day, he brought a delicious dinner to the front line troops, braving intense shelling from the enemy artillery to serve them. By his cheerful devotion to duty he immeasurably increased the morale of the men. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

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CHARLES D. BORSELLINO, 20814394, Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 30 January to 24 February 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Borsellino, message center chief, volunteered to carry new codes, radio batteries, clothing, mail and other much needed equipment to the battalion liaison sections. Although the trails led up precipitous mountains and were often subjected to heavy artillery and small arms fire, he dauntlessly delivered the equipment whenever it was needed, thus contributing to the efficiency and morale of the organization. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas.

STANLEY H. CHAMBERLIN, 36545464, Corporal, Company J, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 February 1944 in Italy. While his machine gun section was moving into position under heavy enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, Corporal Chamberlin courageously exposed himself to the intense barrage to go to the immediate aid of a wounded comrade who was unable to walk. Determinedly assisting him to an aid station despite a painful wound he received while so doing, Corporal Chamberlin bravely saved the life of the wounded soldier who was helpless on the field of battle. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.

WALTER F. SHERMAN, 32222867, Technician Fifth Grade, Cannon Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 15 November to 21 December 1943 in Italy. Assigned the task of establishing and maintaining communications between his platoon's command post, the firing positions and its forward observation post, Tec 5 Sherman worked indefatigably for more than a month, moving across the muddy terrain in cold, rainy weather, constantly exposed to enemy observation, and he succeeded in maintaining excellent wire communications. Largely through his determined performance of duty, cannon fire could be directed at enemy positions within a moments notice. Entered the Service from Jamaica, NY.

TCNY J. BASHINSKI, 38050887, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 8 to 30 March 1944 in Italy. Assigned the task of carrying supplies to a strategic beachhead in his truck, Sergeant Bashinski made four round trips to and from the beachhead during this period. Although subjected to continuous artillery shelling and intermittent bombings and strafings from enemy aircraft, he retained his calmness and good judgment and performed his duties with great efficiency. On one occasion he drove to the front lines and successfully evacuated a group of paratroopers from a shell blasted area. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

ORVILLE J. CANTRELL, 38219451, Private First Class, Antitank Company, 142d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 2 February 1944 in Italy. As a member of a litter bearer platoon, he volunteered to assist in evacuating three wounded men from a mountain. In order to arrive at his destination, he advanced over the rugged mountainous terrain under heavy enemy artillery, machine gun and sniper fire. After the completion of the initial task Private First Class Cantrell was wounded in the shoulder by a shell fragment which necessitated his evacuation.

JAMES K. HILL, 20603185, Private First Class, Service Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 8 to 30 March 1944 in Italy. Assigned to deliver vital supplies to a hazardous beachhead under constant heavy enemy artillery fire, Private First Class Hill, a truck driver, determinedly refused to be deterred by the dangerous barrages and by repeated bombings and strafings. He courageously completed four missions during this period and, in addition, voluntarily assisted in the front line evacuation of imperiled troops. Entered the Service from Elgin, Illinois.

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HOY V. BLEVINS, 35267296, Private, Service Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for meritorious conduct on 16 November 1943 in Italy. Assigned to maintain supplies to forward positions during an important assault, Private Blevins, a truck driver, undertook several trips necessitating the crossing of a two mile strip of road under enemy observation and subject to heavy artillery fire. Courageously continuing on these missions during repeated barrages which hit other vehicles and caused several casualties among the drivers, he successfully delivered necessary supplies and contributed materially to the operation by his determined efforts. Entered the Service from Somerset, Kentucky.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart

VINCENT M. LOCKHART
Captain Adjutant General's Department
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