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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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GENERAL ORDERS

18 May 1944

NO. 144

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR

Under the provisions of Army Regulation 600-45, as amended a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals for gallantry in action:

THOMAS H. NETHERTON, 01290798, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 January 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Netherton's reinforced rifle platoon was ordered to attack enemy positions west of a strongly defended river line. Led by him, his men carried rubber assault boats through enemy-sown mine fields to the river and prepared to cross in the face of heavy mortar and machine gun fires from weapons adjusted on the crossing points. A soldier was wounded and fell into the powerful river current. Ably Lieutenant Netherton directed his rescue. When violence of enemy resistance forced the platoon to withdraw, he skillfully maneuvered his men to safety and suffered only one casualty. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

RICHARD A. DANZI, 01822375, Captain, (then First Lieutenant), 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Chevy Chase, Maryland.

FREDERICK C. VEEVERS, 01171809, First Lieutenant, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Glen Ridge, New Jersey.

LEONARD F. COLLINGSWORTH, 20814633, Sergeant, Company C, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Dodd City, Texas.

NORMAN H. DECK, 37146935, Technician Fourth Grade, Reconnaissance Company, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Hoskins, Nebraska.

HENRY A. J. KOCH, R., 38052105, Corporal, Company C, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

BENJAMIN E. BORD, 36203495, Technician Fifth Grade, Company C, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.

ROBERT L. KERLEY, 38036282, Technician Fifth Grade, Company C, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Quanah, Texas.

JAMES L. HILL, 20813705, Private First Class, Company C, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Decatur, Texas.

JAMES C. HARRIS, 35213572, Private First Class, Reconnaissance Company, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Waverly, Ohio.

DONALD C. BACKSTROM, 37146908, Private, Reconnaissance Company, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Entered the Service from Wayne, Nebraska.

For gallantry in action from 21 November to 27 December 1943 in Italy. The above named officers and enlisted men, members of the communications section of the battalion, worked tirelessly under the most disagreeable weather conditions and under intense shell fire to lay wire and maintain the communications of the battalion. During this period, they helped lay a total of 72 miles of wire, much of it in forward positions at observation posts where enemy artillery shelling was almost constant. By their determined and fearless performance of duty they enabled the battalion commander to have constant communication with subordinate units.

WILLIAM R. MOREHEAD, 01307286, Second Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, ..

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for gallantry in action on 19 January 1944, in Italy. Lieutenant Morehead was ordered to lead his platoon across a strongly defended river line, penetrate four hundred yards west into enemy territory, dig in and hold the position until reinforced. The crossing was made in five-man rubber boats. One boat became deflated, making it necessary that the entire platoon be shuttled across in one boat. On the fourth trip the guide ropes tore loose and the boat capsized, throwing the men into the swift current. The resulting noise and confusion alerted the enemy and drew heavy concentrations of mortar and machine gun fire. Realizing that additional boats must be had, Lieutenant Morehead led a small group through the intense fire, across a four hundred foot minefield, to a point where additional boats were stacked, and returned with the needed craft. Entered the Service from Kingsville, Texas.

JESSE M. MORENO, 38035634, Staff Sergeant, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 19 January 1944, in Italy. Sergeant Moreno was ordered to establish telephone communications with a rifle squad that had dug in west of a strongly defended river line. Crossing perilous enemy sown minefields, he reached the river while ranged-in mortar fire destroyed rubber assault boats of the attacking troops. A soldier was thrown into the icy water. Quickly Sergeant Moreno dived into the swift current and attempted to rescue the drowning soldier, but the swift stream carried him out of reach. While making this effort Sergeant Moreno was wounded. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

RAYMOND G. FORE, 20806065, Sergeant, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 30 December 1943, in Italy. Sergeant Fore was ordered to lead a patrol during darkness deep into enemy territory and gather information. Adroitly moving over the rugged terrain, careful to make no noise that would betray their presence to the foe, he guided his men through both friendly and hostile artillery fire to a river bed, which they explored for enemy positions. The patrol then neared a farm house where they saw evidences of enemy occupation. Quietly and skillfully Sergeant Fore worked his way to a point where he could observe enemy soldiers digging in. Having the desired information that was to prove valuable to his unit in a later attack, he continued with his patrol to complete his mission and returned to his company. Entered the Service from Rockwood, Texas.

FLOYD C. STEVENSON, 20803811, Corporal, Cannon Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 January 1944, in Italy. Corporal Stevenson was a member of an M-7 105mm self propelled gun platoon. During an intense artillery barrage on the area, hits punctured the gasoline tanks of two vehicles causing the fuel to spill onto the ground and into the slit trenches of the men. The platoon leader ordered his men to withdraw from the highly inflammable area. Fire broke out in one of the guns. Heedless of his danger, Corporal Stevenson grabbed a fire extinguisher and quenched the blaze. His quick action, while artillery continued to fall in the area, saved a valuable piece of equipment for further use against the enemy. Entered the Service from Weslaco, Texas.

EDWARD W. ANDRESEN, 37146948, Technician Fifth Grade, Company A, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in Italy. Crew member of an M-10 Tank Destroyer, Tec 5 Andresen was on guard duty near the weapon during an enemy artillery barrage. A direct hit on the tank destroyer knocked a .50 caliber machine gun from its mount and exploded its ammunition setting fire to a camouflage net and waste inside the M-10. Heedless of the danger from the bursting shells, Tec 5 Andresen grabbed a fire extinguisher and rushed over to put out the fire. When the extinguisher was empty he used sand

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and worked until the fire was out, saving a valuable and much needed piece of equipment for further use against the enemy. Entered the Service from Hartington, Nebraska.

EDWARD A. ALAGA, 36738464, Private First Class, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944, in Italy. As a member of a heavy machine gun section attached to one of the forward rifle companies of the 2d Battalion, Private Alaga crossed a swift-flowing river on a shaky foot bridge while under heavy fire from artillery and mortars. Despite the confusion resulting in the darkness when the enemy opened up with many automatic weapons, he stayed with his unit and set up a machine gun on the battalion's right flank. When the enemy attacked, he remained in his position and assisted in keeping the right flank clear until the battalion's position became hopeless. He then assisted many men who were trapped on the west side of the river to get back although under almost continual artillery and mortar fire. Entered the Service from 10800 Avenue M, Chicago, Illinois.

WARREN S. CONDRA, 20816428, Private First Class, Company B, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1944, in Italy. During strong counterbattery shelling of the company area, Private First Class Condra saw another soldier fall, struck in the chest by a shell fragment. Immediately he went to the wounded man and administered first aid. While he did this the enemy reintensified its counterbattery fire. Seeing that the injured soldier was helpless to move, Private First Class Condra shielded him with his own body against flying steel fragments. When the barrage subsided he took the hurt man to the battalion aid station for further treatment. Entered the Service from Fort Worth, Texas.

ROBERT L. BARANCHER, 36735449, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 19 January 1944, in Italy. Private First Class Barancher was assigned the task of laying a telephone line through a known dangerous mine field in order that reports might be made of a patrol which was crossing a river. Despite the fact that many men had been killed and wounded by mines and despite heavy enemy artillery falling in the area, he persisted in his efforts until the line was laid. When the patrol was discovered by the enemy and heavy fire was brought to bear on the area, the communication line was broken in several places. Private First Class Barancher succeeded in repairing the line and restoring communications. When the platoon leader and the assistant leaders were wounded, he gave accurate reports to the battalion commander on the progress of the patrol force. As a result of the information given, the battalion commander was able to place mortar and artillery fire upon enemy positions and to withdraw the patrol to safety. The wounded were then evacuated with a minimum loss of life. Entered the Service from Benton, Illinois.

ALFRED E. JONES, 33268159, Private First Class, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944, in Italy. As a member of a mortar squad Private First Class Jones crossed a swift-flowing river on a shaky footbridge to attack the enemy. When the enemy counterattacked under cover of darkness, he assisted in keeping his squad together as an effective fighting force. When the enemy launched a second counterattack he remained with his mortar until the ammunition was exhausted. When the battalion's position became hopeless he plunged into the icy river and avoided capture by swimming across in spite of heavy fire all along the river. Entered the Service from Washington, Pennsylvania.

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LEONARD J. ZIEMANN, 32044514, Private First Class, Company B, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 5 February 1944, in Italy. During an intense artillery barrage, Private First Class Ziemann heard the anguished cries of a comrade, wounded by a shell fragment, lying exposed to the enemy fire. Aware that no other would risk crossing the shell blasted terrain to aid the man, he unhesitatingly left his protective shelter and went to his wounded comrade. After stopping the profuse flow of blood by skillfully applying a dressing from his first aid packet, Private First Class Ziemann, still exposed to enemy fire, assisted the soldier to an aid station. Entered the Service from Rome, New York

RANDALL R. DEAN, 33127160, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 27 December 1943, in Italy. Private First Class Randall braved intense observed enemy artillery fire to lead litter bearers along a hazardous trail to wounded soldiers. After helping administer first aid to the injured, he led the litter squads back through the heavy fire to the aid station. Because of his action the wounded were quickly evacuated and saved from hours of exposure to the extreme weather. Entered the Service from Harrisonburg, Virginia.

VINCENT J. DELLA GALA, 32222430, Private First Class, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944, in Italy. As a member of a machine gun section attached to one of the forward rifle companies of the 2d Battalion, Private First Class Della Gala crossed a swift-flowing river on a shaky footbridge while under heavy fire from artillery and mortars. Despite the confusion resulting in the darkness when the enemy opened up with many automatic weapons, he stayed with his unit and set up a machine gun on the battalion's right flank. When the enemy attacked, he remained at his position and assisted in keeping the right flank clear until the battalion's position became hopeless. He then assisted many men to recross the river although he was unable to swim. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lookhart
VINCENT M. LOOKHART

Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Asst, Adjutant General

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