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

GENERAL ORDERS

12 August 1944

NO. 291

Commendation for Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct..... I  
Correction..... II

SECTION I — 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.

LUTHER E. ORRICK, 0357391, Major, (then Captain), 36th Infantry Division Artillery, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 13 and 14 September 1943 in Italy. Captain Orrick, Division Artillery Communications officer, established communications from a forward switching central to the three artillery battalions supporting the infantry troops. Heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire neutralized one of the battalions and caused severe damage to the other battalions and their communication systems. Captain Orrick personally worked on the repair maintenance of the wire lines from the forward switching central to the artillery battalions. During the remainder of the day and all through the night he remained in his exposed position, reassuring his men by his composure and courage in the face of hostile fire and inspiring them to a greater display of bravery and efficiency in the successful maintenance of the vital communications system. Entered the Service from Italy, Texas.

JOHN B. VOSBURGH, JR, 01304595, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 10 to 15 February 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Vosburgh led Company B up a slippery, wet trail through snow to a position on the summit of a hill. Since his company had been relieved, he was assigned the task of assisting other units in holding the hill. He worked indefatigably for three days and nights directing the defense of the position. He supervised the resupply of the units and continually checked the positions of the troops. He also acted as liaison officer with the companies which relieved these units. Entered the Service from Wichita, Kansas.

RICHARD W. WHARTON, W-2110382, Chief Warrant Officer, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September to 26 February 1944 in Italy. As Assistant Adjutant, Warrant Officer Wharton performed his duties under adverse circumstances of weather, terrain, enemy machine gun, artillery and mortar fire and air attacks. Combat conditions and resultant casualties created unusual and numerous administrative details that required him to work eighteen and twenty hours a day. On numerous occasions he made trips between the personnel section and the regimental command post over routes subject to artillery harassing fire. His calmness during shelling of the command post inspired those with him. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

HAMILTON THEDFORD, 38037391, Technical Sergeant (then Sergeant), Antitank Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 14 September 1943 in Italy. Sergeant Thedford assumed command of a 57mm gun platoon when the section sergeant became a casualty. He placed his guns in a position on a forward slope of a strategic mountain. From this point of vantage he assisted in

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the repulse of a strong enemy tank attack, but during the action, a halftrack personnel carrier and prime mover received a direct hit. Sergeant Thedford realized the importance of removing the vehicle so that it would not draw enemy fire and endanger the lives of his comrades in the nearby vicinity. Despite the continued fire, he succeeded in repairing it and quickly drove it off thereby removing this target of opportunity for the enemy. Entered the Service from Tyler, Texas.

BILL F. WALLS, 34129967, Staff Sergeant, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 29 December 1943 in Italy. Sergeant Walls, a volunteer member of an eight man combat patrol, was advancing aggressively against enemy positions when he was suddenly caught in the cross fire of three hostile machine guns. Although pinned to the ground, he and his comrades continued their advance, firing their automatic rifles and submachine guns as they crawled forward. When the enemy directed artillery and mortar shell fire on the men, higher headquarters ordered the patrol to withdraw. Because a nearby draw was the obvious route of withdrawal, Sergeant Walls and his companions returned to the friendly positions over the high ground, thus avoiding a heavy concentration of hostile fire placed on the draw. Entered the Service from Murphy, North Carolina.

STANLEY LEAR, 35267993, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 1 June 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Lear's platoon was forced to withdraw from untenable positions, leaving a number of seriously wounded men behind. The platoon moved into an area blasted by friendly artillery fire, and Sergeant Lear ran back to the forward observer and had the fire lifted. He then quickly organized a squad of litter bearers and led them under heavy small arms fire to the place where the wounded soldiers lay and helped evacuate them. Entered the Service from McKee, Kentucky.

CHARLES H. SMODISH, 32222919, Staff Sergeant, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 18 January 1944 in Italy. As Sergeant Smodish led his patrol back from an early morning reconnaissance along a river that edged enemy strongpoints, he followed a narrow trail cleared through a minefield. A few yards ahead, hidden from him by the pre-dawn darkness, he heard a disturbance. He halted his patrol and went forward to investigate. Some enlisted men were trying to recover the body of a comrade who had been killed in the minefield, about five steps off the path. Just as Sergeant Smodish came up another mine exploded and severely injured him with five other soldiers. Though stunned and painfully hurt about the head and face, he kept his wits and rushed to the battalion aid station for medical help. He led the medical men and litter bearers back to the scene and at great personal risk worked with them until all the injured had been evacuated. This action helped in the saving of several lives. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

HARRY V. SCOTT, 33733639, Sergeant (then Private), Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 1 June 1944 in Italy. Private Scott braved incessant enemy small arms and shell fire to obtain mortar ammunition for his unit. Finding that the ammunition was not available at the forward dump, he went further back, loaded the company vehicle with mortar ammunition, and drove to a forward position. Then, with the assistance of several comrades, he carried the ammunition by hand for more than a mile under heavy enemy fire to the front line positions, where it was used effectively in repelling a counterattack. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Maryland.

DONALD A. LSTEP, 35208319, Sergeant, Service Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 26 June

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1944 in Italy. Sergeant Estep was battalion motor parts sergeant. From the invasion of Italy, through ten months of fighting and rigid training, he worked faithfully to keep vehicles of his unit in prime condition. He made numerous trips on roads harassed by enemy fire to get urgently-needed parts and equipment. Largely because of his unwavering diligence in cold, sloppy, wet weather, during fighting in rocky mountainous terrain, and under the hazards of mines and enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, all necessary repairs were made promptly on damaged vehicles of the battalion. Entered the Service from Wheeling, West Virginia.

HAROLD H. HERZOG, 36199378, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 28 January 1944 in Italy. Tec 5 Herzog, a lineman in the battalion wire section, volunteered to repair a wire line which was the only means of communication to the regimental command post. He was forced to follow a route under constant enemy observation, and he crawled 300 yards on his stomach to avoid being seen. When he reached the point of the break in the line, he stood up, exposing himself to enemy observation, to repair it. He immediately became the target for hostile mortar fire, but he calmly and determinedly finished splicing the line, thereby reestablishing the vital communications. Entered the Service from Six Lakes, Michigan.

HOWARD W. MATCHETT, 13079983, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 21 January 1944 in Italy. During the operations on the banks of a strategic river, Private First Class Matchett, a company messenger, was proceeding across heavily mined terrain when he encountered three soldiers who were lost from their organizations. Aware of the danger of sending the men through a minefield marked by white tapes hardly visible in the dense fog, he selflessly volunteered to lead them to safety. When he discovered that the tape outlining the field had been destroyed by enemy shell fire, he ordered the men to wait while he scouted the safe lane. He then guided the soldiers out of the mine field and showed the way to their units. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

QUENTIN FIORI, 36601128, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 17 to 26 November 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Fiori volunteered to carry rations, water, dry socks, and mail to soldiers fighting high in the mountains. His route lay over a mile long trail through open terrain and following a narrow gulch past enemy-patrolled territory. The entire route was harassed by direct, observed, artillery and mortar fire. Constant rains made the clay-surfaced rocky terrain treacherously slick. For ten nights Private First Class Fiori made this trip at least once each way a night. Often, when messages too important to be telephoned had to be taken forward, he made additional trips. The items he delivered contributed much to the morale of the combat infantrymen. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

EDGAR K. SUNDBY, 36258623, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 17 to 19 February 1944 in Italy. Because of large scale troop movements to the left, the battalion commander decided that contact should be maintained with the British units on that flank. Telephone communications had been knocked out by artillery. Learning that a contact patrol was needed for this assignment, Private First Class Sundby, a scout in the intelligence section, volunteered for the detail. For three nights and two days he made his way to and from the British command post and was fired on by enemy machine guns. Mistaken for an enemy soldier, he was fired upon three times and twice captured by the British Chama Troops en route. Despite all these dangers and difficulties he performed his assigned duty with creditable

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efficiency. Entered the Service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

GERALD B. LEESER, 20802934, Private First Class, Company H, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 19 June 1944 in Italy. When Private First Class Leeser, a jeep driver of a mortar platoon, arrived at the banks of a river where his ammunition was to be delivered, he learned that his comrades were engaged in a fierce struggle some three miles ahead and that the ammunition was sorely needed. He volunteered to drive this distance under the most hazardous conditions involving the crossing of streams and uncleared mine strewn lanes. Overcoming these obstacles and braving the heavy artillery fire which was sweeping the area, he successfully delivered the vital ammunition which proved to be the deciding factor in completing the attack. Entered the Service from ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~.

ROBERT B. KARPINSKI, 36288178, Private, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 11 to 13 February 1944 in Italy. Private Karpinski was an ammunition bearer for a machine gun protecting the left flank of Company A. When a series of savage enemy attacks were launched against the company, the gun position and the route of supply came under heavy enemy fire. Ignoring the hazards to which he was exposed, Private Karpinski returned to the supply point and continued furnishing the gun crew with ammunition. Although the machine gun changed positions several times, he always located the weapon and insured a constant flow of ammunition. Entered the Service from Montreal, Wisconsin.

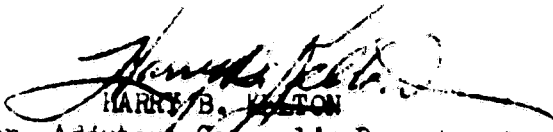
SECTION II -- CORRECTION

✓ So much of General Orders Number 279, cs, this Headquarters, as commends Private JOHN SALLOZZO, 32634724, and Private CLEVER ROUSE, 14187779, both of Company C, 111th Medical Battalion, is amended to read Private JOHN SELLAZZO, 32634724, and Private CLEBER ROUSE, 14187779, both of Company C, 111th Medical Battalion.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

OFFICIAL:

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

  
HARRY B. WALTON  
Major, Adjutant General's Department  
Asst. Adjutant General

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