

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APC #36, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS

29 August 1944

NO. 302

COMMEMORATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-35, each of the following named individuals is commended for exceptionally meritorious conduct.

ROBERT H. SILER, 0403618, Captain, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 16 July 1944 in Italy. During this period Captain Siler performed his duties as S-1 and Adjutant of the 36th Infantry Division Artillery with unfaltering courage, sound judgment and unfailing tact. He habitually established his section in the forward division artillery command post, although it was frequently subjected to heavy enemy artillery fire; and he dispatched his personnel tasks with outstanding efficiency, rendering invaluable assistance to the Commanding General by advising him on matters pertaining to officer personnel. His careful checking of recommendations for awards and decorations for the artillery personnel resulted in an equitable distribution among the most deserving persons in the command. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

HOWARD E. CLEMENTS, 01703073, Second Lieutenant, 111th Medical Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 26 May to 1 June 1944 in Italy. During this period Lieutenant Clements was assigned the task of coordinating evacuation from the 2d Battalion aid station. Although his duties required him to make numerous trips over roads subjected to artillery and mortar shelling and sniper fire, he never faltered in performing his hazardous tasks. By working diligently and efficiently he contributed materially to the safe evacuation of casualties and the procurement of supplies. Entered the Service from Austin, Texas.

FREDERIC A. SPINDELL, 32498376, Master Sergeant, 2680 Headquarters Company M. I. S., Allied Force Headquarters Command (attached to 141st Infantry Regiment), for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 16 November 1943 to 26 February 1944 in Italy. As prisoner of war interrogator attached to the 141st Infantry Regiment, Sergeant Spindell worked indefatigably, often without rest or sleep, under the most adverse conditions of weather and terrain. Whenever the regimental command post area was blasted by enemy artillery and mortar barrages and air attacks, he retained his calm good judgment and encouraged his comrades by his coolness and intrepidity under fire. During this period he obtained much valuable information from the prisoners captured in the regimental sector. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

JOSEPH F. HESS, 38220350, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 11 to 14 February 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Hess, a squad leader in Company A, was assigned the mission of outpostting the company front. During a heavy artillery and mortar barrage, he kept his men in position and successfully directed fire on enemy riflemen who were harassing the squad members. Although he was suffering from near-exhaustion and his feet were half-frozen by the cold, he continued guarding the company positions and delivering fire on the hostile troops. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

- 1 -

(over)

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

WALTER J. HERRIDGE, 20803873, Technician Third Grade, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Lockhart, Texas.

CHERRY R. JONES, 20903879, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Lockhart, Texas.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct on 9 September 1943 in Italy. During the operations on a strategic beachhead, the above named enlisted men were attached to the aid station on the beach, but they volunteered to go forward as company aid men. They continually braved the intense fire which inflicted numerous casualties on the troops in order to give first aid to the seriously wounded. On one occasion they administered treatment to six enemy soldiers and supervised their evacuation to a point where they could be properly cared. Without consideration for personal safety, they worked indefatigably caring for the wounded and evacuating them to the aid station.

THOMAS L. DUKES, 54202232, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 13 September 1943 in Italy. Assigned as radio repairman, Tsg 4 Dukes set up his shop under heavy artillery and mortar fire immediately upon hitting the beach during the bitterly contested first landing in Italy. Without help at the time, he worked continuously to keep in use the maximum number of radios during this crucial period, steadfastly remaining at his job despite a foot injury which necessitated his working without shoes. Communications were materially assisted through his untiring efforts. Entered the Service from Lake Butler, Florida.

HENRY J. PAUL, 20815437, Technician Fourth Grade, Service Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Kerens, Texas.

THOMAS G. HAYLES, 38038294, Technician Fourth Grade, Service Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

RAYFORD C. NEWMAN, 14003477, Technician Fourth Grade, Service Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Macon, Georgia.

DONALD O. DEWISON, 35155072, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

CLARENCE A. SHIPARD, 35159297, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Glenwood, Indiana.

JOSEPH BRICIA, 38051862, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

For exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 September 1943 to 26 June 1944 in Italy. The above named enlisted men served with exceptional ability during ten months of fierce combat and rigid training beginning with the invasion of Italy. Tumbling cold weather, sloppy mud, slippery trails over rocky mountains, snow, rain and sleet, were their lot. They braved the worst the enemy offered in air attacks, artillery barrages and the lurking peril of hidden mines. Despite all difficulties and dangers their determination to keep the battalion mobile never wavered, and they worked tirelessly to accomplish their tasks.

FRANK H. MECHLER, 33039692, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 16 November 1943 to 26 February 1944 in Italy. As regimental stenographer, Tsg 5 Mechler often worked under adverse circumstances of weather, terrain, enemy artillery and mortar fire and inadequate facilities. To accomplish the clerical work incident to a regiment in combat he often worked eighteen and twenty hours a day. Frequently the regimental command post was under enemy artillery and mortar fire and air attacks. His calm

R E S T R I C T E D

demeanor and diligence inspired those with whom he worked. Entered the Service from Scranton, Pennsylvania.

RICHARD D. JOHNSTON, 33296064, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 14 February 1944 in Italy. Private Johnston, a driver with a wire section, was at a battalion command post when it was hit during a heavy concentration of enemy artillery fire. With six men seriously injured and communications knocked out by the exploding shells, he voluntarily exposed himself to the barrage by getting into his vehicle and driving to an aid station to summon medical help. Successfully clearing a burning ammunition dump which had also been hit by shellfire, he brought an ambulance and aid men back to the command post. Prompt medical attention which he obtained saved the lives of at least three of the wounded soldiers. Entered the Service from Meadville, Pennsylvania.

LORANZIE D. HARRISON, 35267513, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 11 to 14 February 1944 in Italy. During a violent enemy counterattack, Private First Class Harrison occupied an exposed and dangerous position. He remained constantly on the alert, maintaining his position under heavy, incessant artillery, mortar and rifle grenade fire. Although his feet were half-frozen by the cold, he continued directing effective fire on the enemy attackers for a period of 72 hours and contributed materially to the repulse of the assault. Entered the Service from Milan, West Virginia.

HAROLD C. KRIPISCH, 35090726, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Medaryville, Indiana.

LESTER A. KAIGER, 32951183, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Camden, New York.

ARTHUR G. WILSON, 42023946, Private First Class, Company A, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from East Syracuse, New York.

For exceptional meritorious conduct on 11 June 1944 in Italy. The above named enlisted men were advancing with the scout squad in an attack on enemy positions when the leading elements were suddenly caught in the cross fire of hostile machine guns. Without hesitation they exposed themselves to direct fire on the well concealed emplacements, thereby reducing their effectiveness. Although the enemy began blasting the area with artillery and mortar fire, they continued delaying the hostile force until the remainder of the company had occupied a more secure position.

PAUL A. STAECHER, 38317295, Private, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 15 December 1943 in Italy. Private Staecher, an aid man, accompanied Company E in an attack against well fortified enemy positions. When the assault elements were pinned down by heavy machine gun and mortar fire which inflicted heavy casualties on the troops, he left the safety of his fox hole and moved over the fire swept area administering effective first aid to the wounded. While so engaged he was wounded, but he refused to be evacuated until all the patients had received medical attention. Entered the Service from Roxborough, Pennsylvania.

- 5 -
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R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

MERRITT D. ROSE, 35094390, Private, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 15 January 1944 to 25 February 1944 in Italy. During this period Private Rose performed his duties as clerk in the regimental S-1 Section with extraordinary skill and coolness under the most hazardous conditions. Although often subjected to heavy enemy fire, he worked with tireless efficiency making a daily report of the actual fighting strength of the regiment for use of the commanding officer and higher headquarters. Upon his own initiative he devised an approved code whereby the unit reports could be phoned to the regiment. In spite of heavy enemy fire directed near and at the regimental command post, he efficiently and accurately did his work which included distribution of orders, memoranda, and messages of great importance to the members of the staff. His untiring efforts and devotion to duty materially assisted in the regimental operations during this period. Entered the Service from Lebanon, Indiana.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart
VINCENT M. LOCKHART

Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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