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

Per by a H.
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GENERAL ORDERS

11 August 1944

NO. 289

Commendation for Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct..... I
Corrected Posthumous Award of Bronze Star Medal..... 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.

ALBERT MENDEZ, 38026008, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 February 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Mendez volunteered for a security patrol in advance of his company's defenses. When the patrol encountered the advance elements of a strong enemy force, the hostile soldiers began hurling hand grenades at the group. Private First Class Mendez immediately returned their fire with accurately hurled grenades and a volley of rifle fire. The friendly troops in the area were alerted by the fire fight and began firing to cover the patrol's withdrawal. Private First Class Mendez and his companions successfully delayed the enemy attackers until the company was ready to meet the assault. Entered the Service from Weslaco, Texas.

NORMAN E. METCALF, 14073518, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 12 February 1944 in Italy. Tec 4 Metcalf was a radio operator in the battalion communications platoon during the action around strategic hill positions. Aware of the necessity for maintaining unbroken radio communications with the regimental commander, he courageously remained at his set under heavy, incessant artillery and mortar shelling and small arms fire. He refused to leave his radio throughout the operations and kept the communications intact. Entered the Service from Fayetteville, North Carolina.

JOHN T. LYNCH, 33359949, Corporal, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 December 1943 in Italy. Corporal Lynch, a member of the antitank platoon, volunteered as lipeman when the number of skilled linemen was depleted. When Company B launched an attack against well fortified enemy positions, he accompanied the battalion commander and laid a wire line as the attack progressed. Exposing himself to the enemy artillery and mortar shelling and small arms fire, he moved over the difficult terrain; and, by his skill and courage, insured the battalion commander of unbroken communications with Company B. Entered the Service from Friendsville, Pennsylvania.

LEO F. SZCZESNIEWICZ, 32222477, Technician Fifth Grade, (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 10 to 12 February 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Szczesniowiec was carrying a two-man load of telephone wire to the summit of a hill when, in the confusion engendered by heavy traffic on the trails, he became separated from his unit. He continued dauntlessly forward, through blinding rain and snow, up muddy, slippery trails subjected to enemy artillery and mortar shelling toward his objective. When he reached the battalion command post, he put the switchboard into operation and maintained it for 48 hours. During the time he was relieved at the switchboard, he volunteered to lay and repair telephone lines under

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constant shell fire to the most forward companies of the battalion. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

ALBERT B. MC BRIDE, 20816759, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery C, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 2 June 1944 in Italy. Tec 5 Mc Bride, with two comrades, accompanied the commander of Battery C on a battalion reconnaissance for howitzer positions. He picked up a prisoner and was proceeding, with his companions, along a draw when an enemy machine gun opened fire. The prisoner tried to escape, but he was killed before he could reach cover. Spotting the battery commander pinned down by the sweeping small arms fire, Tec 5 McBride covered his withdrawal, engaging the machine gunners in a fire fight. Realizing the need for reinforcements, he ran back along the draw and brought up the remainder of the battalion party; and, with their help, he succeeded in forcing the enemy to withdraw. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

FILOMENO PENA, 38027481, Private First Class, Reconnaissance Company, 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 15 to 25 December 1943 in Italy. During winter mountain fighting, Private First Class Pena assisted in establishing an observation post on a forward slope. He endured rigorous hardships and dangers and worked long hours to help establish radio and telephone communications with battalion headquarters. For the entire ten days of the operation he remained with the observation post, refusing relief. At night he traversed the treacherous mountain trail to help bring food and supplies to the observers. Entered the Service from Taft, Texas.

PLACIDO L. MAYORGA, 38025821, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 11 to 14 February 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Mayorga was a messenger for Company I when that unit was occupying a defensive position on a hill. Although the area was raked by machine gun fire and blasted by mortar shelling, he carried messages to the platoon leaders; and, when communications were shattered by the incessant artillery shell fire, he traversed hazardous trails to contact higher headquarters and deliver important messages. He was half-frozen and numbed by the cold winds and the rain and snow, but he made frequent trips under machine gun fire to the ammunition dump to secure urgently needed cases of grenades and ammunition. Entered the Service from Rio Grande City, Texas.

GEORGE R. WINTON, 32639467, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 23 December 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Winton volunteered to establish communications between the battalion commander and the battalion observation post. He advanced over unfamiliar terrain to the summit of a mountain to locate a telephone line laid by another unit. After searching for three hours over terrain known to contain enemy patrols, he located the line, spliced his own to it and proceeded toward the observation post. He was forced to go through an area subjected to heavy shell fire; but, he braved the artillery and mortar shelling to complete his mission and establish the vital communications. Entered the Service from Bayside, New York.

TOMMY B. RUSSELL, 38050503, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 12 January 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Russell was assigned the task of carrying urgently needed batteries for a radio in the 1st Battalion. After night-fall, he and several comrades started up a slope toward the battalion positions.

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Then the enemy began directing artillery and mortar fire on the path, the men took cover to wait for the shelling to abate. The hostile fire continued, and Private First Class, aware of the urgency of his mission, determined to brave the shelling and continue toward his destination. He crawled forward with his bulky load until the barrage was lifted, and he walked the remainder of the distance to the battalion. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

EDWIN O. KOSSINA, 36055698, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 January 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Kossina was assigned the task of establishing wire communications from his company to battalion headquarters. While he was laying the wire line, the area through which he passed was subjected to a heavy artillery barrage. Aware that the shell fire was probably the prelude to a counterattack and that the communications would be urgently needed, he valiantly continued forward, exposing himself to the hostile fire. He completed the wire line and insured his unit of communications with higher headquarters during the attack. Entered the Service from Columbia, Illinois.

HUTSEL E. MALONE, 34736216, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 12 February 1944 in Italy. Private Malone was a member of a party ordered to carry urgently needed mortar ammunition to Company B. While climbing a hill toward the company positions, the party was subjected to heavy, direct mortar fire. Private Malone continued courageously onward, over 100 yards of shell torn ground. He finally succeeded in delivering the ammunition to the company, and he was the only man of the party to reach his destination. Entered the Service from Afton, Tennessee.

HILTON L. MENESS, 14137209, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 15 February 1944 in Italy. Private Meness was instructed to carry radio batteries urgently needed by front line companies. He started at nightfall and proceeded along a path toward his destination. Intermittent artillery and mortar fire often forced him to take cover, and he frequently crawled forward under the heavy shelling. Before he reached the company positions, he was subjected to rapid machine gun fire which raked the area, and he crawled the last 50 yards. After delivering the batteries he returned over the same hazardous route to his platoon. Entered the Service from Troy, North Carolina.

RUSSEL J. SOYARS, 33638132, Private, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 12 January to 3 February 1944 in Italy. Private Soyars was assigned to Company F as aid man while that unit was subjected to heavy artillery and mortar shelling and small arms fire, and the organization sustained numerous casualties. Private Soyars unhesitatingly left his place of safety and moved over the shell torn terrain, rendering calm and effective first aid to the wounded. He continued administering medical treatment until he himself was ordered to the hospital. Entered the Service from Danville, Va.

ANDREW C. HUSKEY, 38513123, Private, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 25 June 1944 in Italy. As a volunteer member of the 133d Field Artillery Battalion's infantry regimental liaison section, Private Huskey advanced with the infantry regimental commander until an enemy force opened fire with mortars, artillery and antitank weapons. Aware that supporting artillery fire was urgently needed, Private Huskey assisted in setting up the radio and establishing communications with the artillery. He then acted as a relay between the artillery observer and the radio operator, and

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working calmly and efficiently under the heavy enemy fire. Entered the Service from Graham, Texas.

ROBERT J. SPENNELLA, 36578424, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 22 December 1943 in Italy. Although his duties were those of scout-observer for the battalion intelligence section, Private Spenella volunteered to guide a pack train to front line positions on the summit of a mountain. Pushing forward in the most inclement weather, driving rain and bitter cold, climbing over slippery rocks and mud-clogged trails, he moved on toward his destination. Although the increased tempo of hostile small arms and mortar fire forced him to stop momentarily, he maintained excellent control within the train and finally succeeded in reaching the battalion with the vital supplies. Upon returning to the battalion dump below, he was told that another load of supplies was needed forward; and he unhesitatingly volunteered to make the perilous trip again. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.

SECTION II -- CORRECTED POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

So much of General Orders Number 265, cs, this Headquarters, as awards a Bronze Star Medal to GEORGE M. TAYLOR, 33127292, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, is corrected to read as follows:

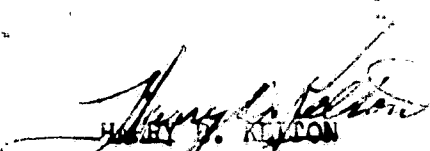
"Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the following named individual is posthumously awarded a Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations in Italy.

"GEORGE M. TAYLOR, 33127292, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 19 January to 27 February 1944. Next of kin: Mrs. Daisy H. Taylor (Mother), Spottswood, Virginia."

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

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

OFFICIAL:


HARRY D. KINTON
Major, Adjutant General's Department
Asst. Adjutant General

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