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

21 November 1944

GENERAL ORDERS

NO 452

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.

✓ ~~HERBERT~~ AMEND, BY GO# 367 - SEP 5, 1945
✓ ROBERT F. ~~REWEL~~, W2110104, Warrant Officer Junior Grade, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Brownwood, Texas.

✓ CHARLES D. RICKEL, 20804241, Sergeant, Service Company, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Brownwood, Texas.

for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 14 June 1944 in Italy. These men were supervising the loading of ammunition onto a truck for shipment to forward elements when a white phosphorous grenade exploded. Aware that the burning chemical threatened to explode the ammunition nearby and endanger personnel in the area, they began moving the ammunition away from the fire and directed the removal of the truck from the vicinity of the dump. In spite of the danger from exploding ammunition, they calmly operated a fire extinguisher and, by smothering the blaze, brought the fire under control and saved valuable material in the area.

✓ HERBERT C. HARWOOD, 32639626, Technical Sergeant (Technician Fifth Grade until 10 July 1944), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 1 June to 31 August 1944 in Italy and France. Although his duties as battalion clerk would ordinarily keep him in the regimental field train, Tec 5 Harwood volunteered to remain with his battalion during all periods of combat and assist his unit in every way possible. During the operations which resulted in the downfall of Rome and the rapid pursuit of the enemy to the north, he frequently volunteered for hazardous duties normally outside his province when other personnel became battle casualties. When the battalion sergeant major was wounded, Tec 5 Harwood immediately assumed his duties and distinguished himself by his determination and ingenuity in accomplishing all assigned missions. On 10 July he was appointed battalion sergeant major and, during the operations in Southern France, has maintained the battalion records with unusual accuracy and efficiency. Entered the Service from Queens Village, Long Island, New York.

ROY F. RODMAN, 37047411, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 September 1944 in France. One of the jeeps of Headquarters Battery was struck by an antitank shell, burst into flames and was abandoned by its occupants. After sunset Sergeant Rodman, battery motor sergeant, and a companion volunteered to locate the jeep and ascertain whether or not it could be salvaged. The vehicle had been left in a no-man's-land between the friendly and enemy lines, and the area was constantly subjected to artillery shelling. He worked his way cautiously to the jeep and, after a hasty inspection, decided that the damage was not irreparable.

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✓ Ignoring the incessant shellfire which blasted the terrain, he removed the vehicle from the dangerous area and took it to the repair shop. Entered the Service from Anamosa, Iowa.

1 GEORGE F. SLINGER, 36222938, Sergeant, Company A, 753d Tank Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 15 August 1944 in France. Sergeant Slinger realized that he was seriously ill with malaria two days before embarking for the assault on the beaches of Southern France. Aware, however, that an untrained replacement might jeopardize the successful participation of his tank in the D-day operations, he refused to be relieved. During fighting on the beaches after the landing had been effected, one of the tanks of his platoon was disabled by heavy hostile fire. Sergeant Slinger swiftly directed fire on the enemy gun and destroyed it, thereby preventing additional damage to the already disabled tank. He distinguished himself by his skill and bravery, contributing materially to the success of the operation, until his company commander ordered him to a hospital on the second day of the invasion. Entered the Service from Madison, Wisconsin.

✓ CAXTON R. BIVIN, 20815331, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery A, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 September 1944 in France. Tec 4 Bivin was radio operator for a forward observer detail attached to Company B of the 143d Infantry Regiment. During an attack against enemy positions, the company was isolated by the hostile force and cut off without communications from all friendly units. Tec 4 Bivin courageously set up his radio in the face of incessant small arms fire and maintained contact with the battalion. Although he was constantly harassed by the hostile fire, he remained dauntlessly in position and directed help to the beleaguered company. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas.

✓ ASA L. BALLENGER, 34592428, Technician Fifth Grade, 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mcz), for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 26 August 1944 in France. When a large hostile force attacked a road block with small arms and 20mm cannon fire, friendly troops were forced to withdraw in the face of the numerically superior enemy. Other drivers of armored cars left their vehicles and sought places of cover for themselves, but Tec 5 Ballenger ran to his car and attempted to move it from the area of danger. An enemy cannon scored a direct hit on his gun turret, wounding his hand, but he pressed dauntlessly forward through a hail of small arms fire. Although three of the tires were blown, he succeeded in driving the vehicle to safety, and his was the only armored car saved from destruction or capture by the enemy. Entered the Service from Cramorton, North Carolina.

✓ WILLIE V. FLEETWOOD, 34352097, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 19 September 1944 in France. Tec 5 Fleetwood was driving his battalion commander on a reconnaissance for new battery positions when he encountered a road block of felled trees. While the officer was searching for a bypass around the obstacle, the enemy suddenly opened fire with mortars, machine guns and rifles. The jeep was hit by the hostile fire and burst into flames. After searching the area for his battalion commander, Tec 5 Fleetwood returned to the battalion command post and reported the incident. After sunset he volunteered to lead a wrecker crew back to the road block and attempt to rescue the vehicle. In spite of artillery shelling which blasted the area, he led the detail to the jeep and brought it back to the friendly positions. Entered the Service from Meigs, Georgia.

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CHARLES L. BRADDY, 37209023, Technician Fifth Grade, Company C, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 16 August 1944 in France. Tec 5 Braddy's squad was assigned the mission of assisting in establishing road blocks along an important road. As the group proceeded toward the site of the proposed road blocks, it was subjected to heavy fire from enemy antitank and self-propelled weapons. The unexpected barrage forced the members of the engineer squad to dismount from their truck and seek cover along the roadside. Aware that the truck contained valuable equipment difficult to replace, Tec 5 Braddy voluntarily returned to the vehicle. Although the enemy shelling continued and high explosives on the truck added to the danger of his undertaking, he calmly drove the truck away from the area of impact to a place of safety. Entered the Service from Manhattan, Kansas.

THOMAS L. STRAUSS, 35169084, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery A, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 24 September 1944 in France. Tec 5 Strauss was a member of a forward observer detail attached to the 1st Battalion, 143d Infantry Regiment. He was advancing with the assault company of the battalion when the leading tank destroyer encountered an enemy road block and was subjected to heavy fire from an antitank gun. Tec 5 Strauss set up his radio in the face of the hostile fire and established contact with his artillery battalion. While the tank destroyer attempted to neutralize the road block and was damaged by the antitank gun fire, he calmly transmitted fire commands from the forward observer. His skill and daring enabled the artillery to adjust accurate fire on the road block, and the action resulted in the destruction of the road block, and the loss of three hostile soldiers and the antitank gun. Entered the Service from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

JAMES B. KNOWLTON, 35759131, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Lynchburg, Virginia.

FASTINO L. CARRASCO, 38036478, Private First Class, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas.

FRANK DI PIETRANTONIO, 32961322, Private, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from New York City, New York.

RICHARD W. LYON, 42003063, Private, Company C, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from West New York, New Jersey.

for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 24 to 26 September 1944 in France. During an attack, the 2d Platoon of Company C overpowered an enemy road block and captured 19 prisoners. These men were assigned the mission of taking the prisoners to the rear. After leaving their unit, they were cut off from the rear and from all friendly troops by heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire. They took the prisoners into a house and guarded them there for two days and nights, never relaxing their vigil until the 2d Battalion entered the area and cleared it of the enemy. The detail then proceeded to the division prisoner-of-war stockade with their prisoners.

STANLEY SAKIN, 12065060, Private First Class, Battery A, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 3 October 1944 in France. Private First Class Sakin was radio operator for a forward observer party attached to Company A of the 143d Infantry Regiment. While friendly troops were engaged in an intense fire fight with the enemy, he voluntarily crawled to the crest of a hill and, exposing himself to heavy machine gun fire, set up his radio

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He maintained his hazardous position throughout the action and calmly transmitted the forward observer's fire commands. His daring and initiative enabled his battery to direct effective artillery fire on the hostile force, inflicting heavy losses in personnel and equipment. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

V ERNEST F. TODD, 31321127, Private, Battery A, 133d Field Artillery Battalion for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 24 August 1944 in France. Private Todd was assigned as jeep driver and radio operator with the forward observer party attached to Company C of the 143d Infantry Regiment. The party was following Company C in an attack in which artillery observation was necessary to insure effective artillery support. Without a thought for personal safety, Private Todd courageously drove his vehicle for a distance of 1200 yards across flat, exposed terrain harassed by sniper and machine gun fire. By this daring action he succeeded in reaching a position where observation was possible and enabled the artillery to render effective support to the assaulting infantrymen. Entered the Service from Portland, Maine.

WADE H. BERRYMAN, 38343719, Private, Company A, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11 June 1944 in Italy. While attempting to remove an enemy road block, a platoon of Company A was subjected to a heavy concentration of enemy artillery fire. Aware that the valuable tools and mine detectors stored in the platoon trucks were endangered, Private Berryman and the other drivers began removing their trucks from the shell torn area. When five of the tires on Private Berryman's truck were blown out by a nearby shell explosion, he unhesitatingly dismounted and, fearlessly exposing himself to the heavy artillery fire, repaired and changed the tires so that each wheel had one good tire. Displaying unusual calmness and courage under hazardous conditions, he drove his truck through the barrage to a place of safety, thereby saving it from destruction by the enemy fire. Entered the Service from Matador, Texas.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

ROBERT I. STACK
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Acting Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart

VINCENT M. LOCKHART
Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

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