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TYPED BY E. EISER  
14 Feb 45

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

GENERAL ORDERS

22 November 1944

NO

455

Award of Soldier's Medal..... I  
Award of Bronze Star Medal..... II  
Award of Oak Leaf Cluster..... III

# SECTION I - AWARD OF SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, a Soldier's Medal is awarded to the following named individual for heroism.

VICTOR F. FONTANEZ, 32003120, Private, Headquarters & Service Company, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroism on 15 August 1944 in France. In the invasion of Southern France, a large landing craft approaching the coast was struck squarely by an enemy glider bomb. The seriously damaged vessel, loaded with heavy artillery, ammunition and personnel, drifted ashore in flames and the ammunition began to explode. Although the Headquarters and Service Company had been moved inland from the beach to escape the hurtling shell fragments, Private Fontanez, with some companions, returned to the shore near the burning ship and began rescue work. Aware of the desperate plight of the men who had been forced to abandon the craft by leaping overboard into the water, he worked indefatigably until midnight, swimming alongside the ship and dragging the men ashore. As the injured men were brought to the beach they were carried to a place of safety and given first aid treatment. Private Fontanez and his comrades did not cease their unselfish and hazardous work until they had saved 75 men from drowning and had treated another 15 for burns, wounds and shock. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

# SECTION II - AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals, for heroic achievement in combat.

HAROLD R. HANCOCK, 01294470, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, 6 October 1944, France. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

JOHN E. FRANCKOWIAK, 38026548, Technical Sergeant, Company I, 143d Infantry Regiment, 15 October 1944, France. Entered the Service from St. Hedwig, Texas.

WILLIAM A. WERTZ, 33058147, Staff Sergeant, Battery C, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, 29 February 1944, Italy. Entered the Service from Easton, Pennsylvania.

GEORGE K. HITSMAN, 36459414, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, 6 October 1944, France. Entered the Service from Grand Haven, Michigan.

THOMAS C. CAIRNS, 15317002, Private, 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mcz), 26 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from Niles, Ohio.

ALEXANDER L. TALAGA, 33705878, Private, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, 28 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from Donora, Pennsylvania.

- 1 -

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JAMES C. WORKE, 34884212, Private, Company H, 143d Infantry Regiment, 15 September 1944, France. Entered the Service from Dickson, Tennessee.

✓ RAMON ROMERO, 38065484, Private, Battery A, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, 22 September 1944, France. Entered the Service from El Paso, Texas.

✓ WILLIAM V. FREEMAN, JR., 34637156, Private, Battery B, 133d Field Artillery Battalion, 24 September 1944, France. Entered the Service from Hamberg, Mississippi.

SECTION III - AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals for heroic achievement in combat.

✓ ERNEST S. PRANCE, 01683464, Second Lieutenant, 142d Infantry Regiment, 21 September 1944, France. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

HARRY W. VIEHMAN, JR., 13107976, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 21 June 1944, Italy. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

✓ HARRY J. ELLENBURGER, 33701382, Private First Class, Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, 16 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

✓ ORVAL E. BOX, 38588538, Private First Class, Company G, 142d Infantry Regiment, 28 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from Miami, Oklahoma.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a second Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a third Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named individual of the 142d Infantry Regiment for heroic achievement in combat in France.

HAROLD C. SPRING, 39309677, Staff Sergeant, Company B, 29 September to 1 October 1944. Entered the Service from Seattle, Washington.

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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