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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 154

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SECTION I -- Combat Infantry Regiment

Under the provisions of War Department Circular 269 of 1943, more than sixty-five per cent of the command having established eligibility to wear the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the 143rd Infantry Regiment is hereby designated a Combat Infantry Regiment and is entitled to a "Combat Infantry Regiment" white streamer for the Regimental Colors.

SECTION II -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

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

WILLIAM H. McMORROUGH, 30809225, Technician Third Grade, (then Private First Class), Medical Detachment, 143rd Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from West, Texas.

ROBERT E. WINGARD, 32467382, Corporal (then Private First Class), Medical Detachment, 143rd Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Dover, Delaware.

BENJAMIN S. SELICK, 32822652, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143rd Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

For gallantry in action on 21 December 1943, in Italy. Wounded while on a combat patrol, a soldier of the 141st Infantry Regiment lay all night near enemy positions exposed to their fire. Although inaccessibility of his location prevented aid men of his own regiment from attempting a rescue, the above named litter bearers for the 2nd Battalion aid station volunteered to try to reach the wounded man. Headless of their danger, they struggled up the steep, rugged mountainside in the face of enemy mortar, rifle and machine gun fire. Finally succeeding in reaching the soldier, they carried him down the precipitous slope to safety.

FRANK (SMI) CARROLL, 12095257, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 February 1944 in Italy. Private First Class Carroll was assigned to a party instructed to guide a mule train up a mountainous trail with supplies for the front line troops. When the enemy unexpectedly blasted the trail with intense artillery fire, most of the men took cover; but Private First Class Carroll, with two comrades, remained with the mules, constantly exposed to the shelling. As soon as the barrage lifted, he continued onward with the train, composed of some forty mules, and successfully delivered the vital supplies. Entered the Service from Newark, New Jersey.

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WILLIAM E. WOOD, 38066045, Private, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion, for gallantry in action on 11-12 February 1944 in Italy. After a furiously resisted attack by the 2nd Battalion, Private Woods, attached to the battalion aid station, was put in charge of a litter squad. Indefatigably, all day and night without relief, he evacuated casualties from the battlefield. The following morning, during a severe artillery barrage, he volunteered time after time to lead litter squads to the front line companies although he had not rested for over twenty-four hours. Braving the intense enemy shelling, Private Woods successfully evacuated many wounded men and was instrumental in saving the lives of numerous comrades. Entered the Service from Lubbock, Texas.

JOSEPH S. VODVARKA, 32367830, Private, Company B, 111th Medical Battalion, for gallantry in action on 7 and 11 February 1944 in Italy. Private Vodvarka, an aid man, crossed a shell blasted field with three comrades to bring in several wounded soldiers. When the large number of casualties required additional litter bearers, he removed the wounded to the comparative safety of a nearby house, and, while two of his companions went for assistance, he remained and administered expert first aid. Four days later, while travelling in an ambulance loaded with wounded soldiers, he treated several who were struck when a shell exploded a few yards from the vehicle. After calming the terrified patients, he directed the re-loading of the ambulance and proceeded to an aid station. Entered the Service from Dover, Delaware.

MORRIS (MII) WAGNER, 32345837, Private, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in Italy. When a comrade was seriously wounded during an intense concentration of hostile artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, Private Wagner courageously left his covered position to go to his immediate help. Although exposed to the continued heavy barrage he calmly administered first aid and then successfully evacuated the injured man in the face of great danger. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York.

EZRA (MII) WATSON, 15057874, Private, Company C, 111th Medical Battalion, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in Italy. When word was received at his aid station that several casualties had become stranded on the enemy side of a swift flowing river during a bitterly contested crossing, Private Watson volunteered to accompany a party going to their assistance. Moving determinedly through an intense concentration of enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, he reached the near bank of the river and skillfully guided a boat across the treacherous waters to pick up the wounded men. Displaying calm determination and outstanding courage in the face of the deadly fire sweeping the area, he constantly exposed himself while loading the casualties in the boat and evacuating them. Entered the Service from Lexington, Kentucky.

WESLEY C. MURSCHEL, 37554530, Private, 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in Italy. Private Murschel was a member of a party assigned the mission of clearing mines from a roadway to be used by tanks approaching a river to support infantry troops. Realizing the importance of the task, the clearing party started down the road carefully checking for mines and trip wires. Although constantly harassed by artillery, mortar and small arms fire, he displayed extraordinary tenacity in performing his task, never allowing the intense enemy shelling to confuse him. By his intrepidity in the face of danger and his technical efficiency, this fearless soldier helped a speedy clearing of the road and thus successfully completed the mission. Entered the Service from Webster, South Dakota.

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GORDON L. BOGY, 36569579, Private Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 21 January 1944 in Italy. Private Bogy, driving the vehicle of a regimental wire party which was laying a line to a strategic river for the crossing of infantry forces, was subjected to heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire which inflicted many casualties on his comrades. He had completed the wire line and driven his vehicle to safety along a covered route when a medical officer asked for a volunteer to evacuate an officer lying wounded near the river. Braving the furious enemy fire which had increased in intensity since dawn, Private Bogy fearlessly drove across the exposed approaches to the river, located the wounded officer, and returned with him to a medical aid station. Entered the Service from Saginaw, Michigan.

SECTION III -- 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.

WILMER W. SCHROEBEL, 0452028, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 141st Infantry Regiment for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 15 December 1943 in Italy. Lieutenant Schroebel was a battalion staff officer at the time of an attack on an enemy-held mountain village. He was ordered to establish battalion headquarters on the forward slope of a mountain prior to the attack. He found it necessary to move his personnel from the first location selected and to have them dig in where there was better protection. Enemy artillery shelled their position almost continuously for twenty-four hours and several men were killed or wounded. Lieutenant Schroebel moved about among his men, encouraging them and giving aid to the injured. In so doing he frequently exposed himself to shellfire, but he succeeded in holding his men together and in keeping casualties to a minimum. Entered the Service from Johnstown, California.

LAWRENCE F. NEFF, 35277264, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company C, 142nd Infantry Regiment for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 20 December 1943 in Italy. Private First Class Neff, as a member of a six man patrol, was assigned the mission of relieving a group on patrol duty. When the leader left his patrol to seek one of the men who was lagging behind, and failed to return, Private First Class Neff, acting entirely on his own initiative, assumed command of the group and, although unfamiliar with the route, led them towards their objective. In spite of the danger from heavy enemy artillery fire, he continued to advance until he located the officer to whom the patrol had been instructed to report. Entered the Service from Ashville, Ohio.

THOMAS E. BOHANNON, 38036507, Sergeant, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 19 January 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Bohannon and his gun section had been ordered to occupy a certain position. While the crew was preparing to move the gun into firing position, enemy artillery and mortar fire were brought to bear upon the new location. In spite of this danger Sergeant Bohannon directed his men to set up the gun and prepare to fire. Enemy fire continued to fall in the vicinity for some time but under Sergeant Bohannon's direction and encouragement the crew stuck to their posts and kept the gun in action. Entered the Service from Coleman, Texas.

JAMES H. HILVER, JR, 34195014, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 12 February 1944 in Italy. Suffering from a severe stomach disorder, Tec 5 Hilver was ordered to remain at the aid station in the bivouac area when his battalion moved

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into an assembly area in preparation for an attack. Aware that his comrades, heavily loaded with equipment, had been forced to leave behind the three extra batteries which he had been accustomed to carry, he voluntarily left the aid station to deliver the batteries which he knew would be needed in the attack. Although still weak, he struggled over a snow clogged trail, constantly threatened by hostile artillery fire, until he reached his battalion with the vital equipment. Entered the Service from Atlanta, Georgia.

CAMILLE (MI) BOUTOT, 31146739, Private First Class, Company C, 111th Medical Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 6 February 1944 in Italy. While Private First Class Boutot was carrying patients from a regimental aid station to his ambulance for evacuation to the collecting station, enemy planes swooped down and strafed the immediate area. Acting quickly without thought for his own safety, he unloaded the ambulance and placed the patients in a secure position in a house. When the raid was over, he discovered that the vehicle had been seriously damaged by the enemy bullets. Heedless of artillery shells exploding around him, Private First Class Boutot repaired the ambulance, reloaded it, and drove through a heavy artillery barrage to the collecting station. Entered the Service from Fort Kent, Maine.

JOHN L. BOYD, 38050572, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 11-12 February 1944 in Italy. Although almost exhausted from previous steady, strenuous action, Private Boyd, a member of the artillery liaison section, volunteered to operate a radio all night. Aware that his radio furnished communications with the attacking companies and was vital for coordination of artillery fire with the infantry movements, he continued working with enemy artillery and nebelwerfer shells exploding around him. Disregarding the furious blasting, he operated his mud-covered radio until daylight, refusing to allow his comrades to relieve him. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

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