

1945

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

AG RECORDS SEC.

3 April 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 115

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:

ELMER E. EILAND, 38052663, Technician Fourth Grade (then Technician Fifth Grade), Medical Detachment, 142d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 9 November 1944 in France. While the 1st Battalion was attacking an important enemy-held town, Tec 5 Eiland accompanied the assistant battalion surgeon to an advanced position and assisted in establishing a forward aid station so that the wounded could receive prompt medical attention. He immediately began administering first aid to three seriously injured soldiers who had been brought by litter bearers to the battalion command post. Although he was exposed to heavy artillery and mortar shelling, he worked calmly until all the casualties had been treated and evacuated. He then answered the 2d Battalion's call for help and, after administering emergency treatment to approximately 12 of the unit's many casualties, skillfully supervised their evacuation by means of a shuttle system. As a result of his prompt and courageous action, the lives of numerous wounded men were saved. Entered the Service from Houston, Texas.

FREDERICK D. BINGMAN, 35545871, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 29 May 1944 in Italy. Tec 5 Bingman was an assistant clerk in battalion headquarters. The battalion was ordered to attack through a wooded area preparatory to assaulting an important enemy stronghold. When he learned that the radio operator for the battalion commander had been hospitalized, Tec 5 Bingman, although without previous experience as a radio operator, unhesitatingly volunteered for the job. During a gruelling all-night march and throughout the intense fighting on the following day, he carried and operated the radio with outstanding efficiency. In spite of hostile artillery and small arms fire, he worked for 36 hours without rest or relief and successfully maintained the communications. Entered the Service from Wauseon, Ohio.

LLOYD E. GORDON, 13068450, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Paumotu, Penna.

ORVILLE LAUDERBACK, 18120501, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 23 August 1944 in France. When heavy enemy fire forced the command post group of the 1st Battalion to withdraw, two communications men, killed in the shelling, were left at the former command

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post position. After nightfall, these men volunteered to enter the no-man's-land area and attempt to recover the bodies. The night was dark, and the area was subjected to incessant artillery and mortar shelling and was covered by small arms fire. Ignoring the dangers which confronted them, they courageously advanced to the command post position and began searching in the debris for the casualties. They located the two bodies and, with the aid of two litter squads, carried them back to the friendly lines.

- HERMAN R. NIEDECKEN, 20805661, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Snyder, Texas.
- ALEXANDER VISOCKI, 32633587, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.
- IMON A. CANTRELL, 39146512, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Richmond, Calif.
- ISAAC JACOBOWITZ, 32061814, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Paterson, New Jersey.
- FRED S. KING, 34608257, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Valley, North Carolina.
- ROBERT H. BECK, 39421339, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Sacramento, Calif.
- KENNETH E. KINDER, 33764487, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Homer City, Penna.
- MILTON F. BOYES, 37684104, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Dubuque, Iowa.
- NELSON B. STURTEVANT, 31322445, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Waterville, Me.
- ALLEN L. BERGER, 33464071, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Greentown, Penna.
- MIKE SINOZICH, 35847475, Private First Class, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Leslie, West Va.

for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 12 December 1944 in France. The above men, members of the antitank platoon, were manning a road block on the left flank of the battalion. The enemy infiltrated during the night, and by morning had virtually surrounded the position and were attacking in great strength. The close nature of the fighting made it impossible to use the anti-tank guns, and the men fought as riflemen. Dauntlessly holding the position, they fought until late afternoon, when the enemy attack was finally repelled. The courageous devotion to duty of these men contributed largely to the repulse of the strong hostile force and the capture of over 100 prisoners.

RICHARD I. THOMAS, 36983235, Private First Class, Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 9 February 1945 in France. While the 1st Battalion was occupying a temporary defensive position, it was observed that the area between Private First Class Thomas' machine gun section and the nearby rifle elements was heavily mined. Acting on his own initiative, Private First Class Thomas exposed himself to artillery, mortar and tank fire in order to mark off the mine field with pieces of white cloth. In spite of the dangers, he continued wiring until his mission was completed. As a result of his quick-thinking and calmness in the face of danger, contact between the rifle and machine gun units was maintained without a single casualty. Entered the Service from Saginaw, Michigan.

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JOSEPH C. RANDOLPH, 38036303, Private First Class, Company K, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 13 September 1944 in France. When Company K had cleared a thick woods of enemy troops and was preparing to advance in an attack on a town, a call was sent back for a re-supply of ammunition. Aware that the distance to the company made it difficult and dangerous to hand-carry the ammunition, Private First Class Randolph, a driver, began loading it into his vehicle. In spite of heavy mortar fire which blasted the area, he drove to a place slightly in rear of the troops from which the vital ammunition was easily carried to the leading elements. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

DONALD K. ANDERSON, 36903773, Private, Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Elgin City, Illinois.

WERNER K. LOEB, 35893450, Private First Class (then Private), Company A, 142d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Indianapolis, Indiana.

for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 9 November 1944 in France. The enemy launched a savage counterattack against Company A and directed heavy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire on the company area. A squad leader in one of the platoons was severely wounded by machine gun bullets. Two attempts to reach the injured soldier were frustrated, and an aid man was killed by the hostile fire. Although the remainder of the platoon was pinned to the ground, the above men left a place of comparative safety and crawled toward their squad leader. Fearlessly exposing themselves to the incessant shelling and small arms fire, they placed the wounded man on a stretcher and removed him to a covered position where first aid treatment was administered.

TOM GOLLIHUE, 35430641, Private, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Huntington, West Virginia.

WALKER B. SHELTON, 38036717, Private, Headquarters Battery, 133d Field Artillery Battalion. Entered the Service from Lampasas, Texas.

for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 25 September 1944 in France. These men were members of an artillery liaison section which was operating an observation post in a building subjected to enemy sniper fire. The snipers were harassing the infantry elements, and it became necessary for the liaison section to withdraw and direct artillery fire on the area. In order to leave the house, the group was forced to cross two stretches of open terrain which afforded excellent observation for the hostile snipers. Although they were carrying heavy radio equipment and knew that they would be the target for enemy fire, the above men courageously exposed themselves to cross the fire-swept terrain. After reaching a spot approximately 600 yards away, they directed artillery fire on the position they had just vacated, neutralizing hostile troops in the area.

RICHARD F. CURRAN, 32999855, Private First Class, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 28 August 1944 in France. Company L, attacking an enemy stronghold, was delayed by heavy machine gun fire from a group of houses. Instantly aware of the urgency of the situation, Private First Class Curran swiftly put his automatic rifle into action and opened fire on the hostile positions. He immediately became the target for heavy enemy fire, but he courageously maintained his position and continued operating his

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weapon, covering the advance of his comrades and enabling them to overcome enemy opposition in the group of houses. Entered the Service from Haverstraw, New York.

VAN E. E. HARPE, 39146062, Private First Class, Company K, 142d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 15 February 1945 in France. Private First Class Harpe was occupying a defensive position when one of his comrades was wounded in a house approximately 100 yards away. Leaving his place of comparative safety and exposing himself to heavy enemy machine gun and tank fire, he worked his way across the flat, open terrain toward the casualty. He fired as he advanced, keeping the enemy pinned to the ground. Upon reaching the injured soldier, he administered first aid and carried him through the hostile fire to a place of safety. His unselfish action, at the risk of his own life, was probably responsible for saving the life of his wounded comrade. Entered the Service from Hopland, California.

JAN J. KERSZNOWSKI, 32239168, Private First Class, Service Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 13 and 14 December 1944 in France. Private First Class Kersznowski, a truck driver assigned the mission of transporting vitally-needed ammunition from the Army Supply Depot, led a column of six trucks toward the regimental ammunition dump. Hostile troops infiltrated the friendly lines and, in attempting to establish a road block on the main route of supply, engaged an artillery battalion in an intense fire fight. Aware that to proceed further would endanger the load of ammunition, Private First Class Kersznowski halted the column of trucks and, pressed forward alone, under hostile fire, to the artillery command post. Upon contacting his regimental S-4, he was instructed to lead the trucks over a different route which he had never travelled. Returning to his vehicle, Private First Class Kersznowski led the column safely over the unfamiliar road to its destination. Entered the Service from Edgewater, New Jersey.

By command of Major General DAHLQUIST:

JOHN J. ALBRIGHT
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

Vincent M. Lockhart

VINCENT M. LOCKHART
Major, Adjutant General's Department
Asst Adjutant General

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