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HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
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GENERAL ORDERS

20 June 1944

NO. 193

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 gallantry in action.

EARL A. HIGGINBOTHAM, 0416232, Captain, (then First Lieutenant), 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in Italy. When severe casualties were being sustained among his men by the intense enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire during the bitterly contested crossing of the \*\*\* River, Lieutenant Higginbotham courageously exposed himself to the heavy barrage in order to encourage his men and direct them to strategic positions. With his available troops skillfully deployed, he then personally laid communication lines to his gun positions despite the increasingly hazardous hostile fire and aggressively maintained his well planned disposition in the sector. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

WENDELL C. PHILLIPPI, 01288114, Captain (then Second Lieutenant), 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in Italy. When his battalion occupied new defensive positions, Lieutenant Phillippi tirelessly directed his communications platoon during the night in laying wire lines to all the units and the battalion observation post in preparation for an expected enemy attack. When the enemy launched a furious assault, preceded by a heavy artillery shelling, their tanks succeeded in passing around both flanks of the battalion and entered the town. Realizing the hopelessness of his positions the battalion commander dispatched Lieutenant Phillippi to the regimental command post five miles away with a report on the situation. Constantly harassed by heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, he delivered the message. Entered the Service from Indianapolis, Ind.

EDWARD C. ZINK, 01294584, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action from 9 September 1943 to 28 February 1944 in Italy. As a platoon leader, Lieutenant Zink distinguished himself in the furious fighting which followed the invasion of Italy and the establishing of the beachhead. When his regiment went into action in the mountains, as battalion S-4 he personally supervised the organization of the mule trains, loading and guiding them over difficult terrain, working day and night, heedless of personal comfort, to maintain a steady flow of supplies to the front line troops. Although exposed to shelling and small arms fire, he continued his exceptional performance of his duties. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.

ROY T. TAYLOR, 35277401, Staff Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Company I, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 1 February 1944 in Italy. Advancing with his squad in the leading element of the battalion, Private First Class Taylor was subjected to enemy mortar and machine gun fire which pinned down the remainder of the forward platoons. In a daring reconnaissance to determine the strength and disposition of the enemy forces, he and his squad skillfully outflanked the enemy positions and, though fired upon by additional machine guns and mortars, continued dauntlessly on to reconnoiter thoroughly the enemy held terrain. Because of the invaluable information the battalion was able to flank the enemy emplacements

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and continue its advance. Entered the Service from Waverly, Ohio.

FRANKLIN R. MC DONALD, 20801316, Staff Sergeant, Service Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 26 December 1943 in Italy. Assigned the task of reconnoitering a new route of supply for a unit in the assault, Sergeant McDonald, aware of the urgency of his mission, set out in daylight under constant enemy observation. Often pinned down by artillery fire, sometimes forced to crawl over rocks and mud, he continued on until he had completed his reconnaissance of the terrain. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

ROBERT MAYNOR, 35267542, Sergeant (then Private First Class), Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in Italy. During a determined enemy counterattack, Private First Class Maynor, leader of a machine gun squad, took his squad to an advantageous position and put his gun into action. While artillery shells exploded nearby and small arms fire was directed at him, he stopped the enemy 100 yards from his gun position. When his ammunition bearer was wounded by an exploding mortar shell, Private First Class Maynor crawled under machine gun and rifle fire to secure additional, vitally needed ammunition. Returning to his gun position, he found his gunner severely wounded by the enemy fire; and, unhesitatingly, he began firing the weapon full in the face of the attacking enemy forces, holding them at bay until his unit could prepare for the attack. Entered the Service from Oceana, West Virginia.

RALPH J. LANNIELLO, 32633376, Sergeant, Company L, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Lanniello led his squad in the face of intense mortar and artillery shelling and small arms fire during a fiercely contested crossing of a strategic river. When the organization of the company was threatened by the furious shelling on the hostile bank, he kept his entire squad under control and calmly and skillfully prevented their disorganization. Because of his intrepidity and splendid leadership he was able to take his squad forward as an outpost against an expected enemy counterattack, allowing his company time to reorganize and dig in. Entered the Service from Mount Vernon, New York.

CHARLES F. RUGGIERO, 32222854, Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 22 January 1944 in Italy. After crossing a strategic river in the face of sweeping machine gun fire and nebelwerfer shelling, Sergeant Ruggiero established his position with the forward battalion command post and dug in. When the enemy blasted the area with a bombardment of artillery and mortar fire, he left the safety of his fox hole and moved about among the excited men, calming them with his firm words of encouragement and maintaining order and efficient organization within the group. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

ODELL E. COLLINS, 20808019, Corporal (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action during the period 15 November 1943 to 22 December 1943 in Italy. Volunteering to maintain forward observation posts on mountainous positions not available to the regular artillery observers, Private First Class Collins courageously occupied areas under heavy fire and exposed to the severest weather conditions. Alertly performing his important vigil during this entire period, he accurately directed fire which destroyed several strongly fortified hostile emplacements and contributed materially to the success of the operations in his sector. Entered the Service from Lott, Texas.

RUSSELL K. ELLIOTT, 35753346, Private First Class, Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in Italy. As a member of the

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leading platoon of his company in an attack on enemy positions, Private First Class Elliott was caught in the area forward of the prepared positions when the enemy unexpectedly launched a strong counterattack. After giving the warning to the remainder of his unit, he began firing his rifle and throwing hand grenades in the face of the onrushing enemy. Although wounded by an exploding enemy grenade, he continued to fire from his advantageous but exposed position, successfully stopping the attack in his sector. Only when his arm was rendered useless by the concussion of a second grenade would he consent to be evacuated. Entered the Service from McConnellsville, Ohio.

WALTER F. YATTAW, 6143290, Private First Class, Company C, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in Italy. When his company, about to attack well fortified enemy positions, was subjected to intense machine gun and mortar fire, Private First Class Yattaw, a bazooka man, was ordered to move forward and direct fire on the gun emplacements. Heedless of the dangers to which he exposed himself, he crawled forward under continuous machine gun fire, the target for enemy thrown hand grenades, until he reached a position from which he could bring fire on the enemy positions. Firing three rounds with deadly accuracy into the face of the hostile troops, he successfully delayed the counterattack. Entered the Service from Providence, Rhode Island.

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, each of the following named individuals is awarded a Bronze Star medal for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations:

HELVIG M. SORENSEN, 0453562, First Lieutenant, 143d Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 9 September 1943 to 28 February 1944 in Italy. During this period Lieutenant Sorensen performed the numerous duties of regimental transportation officer with efficiency and dispatch. In addition to the ordinary tasks of his job, he skillfully organized the regimental mule trains which supplied the troops then occupying defensive positions in the mountains. Later, when the regiment was fighting on the banks of a strategic river, he operated supply dumps near the battalion sectors to facilitate the immediate reequipment of the unit. Although wounded by an artillery shell fragment, he refused to be evacuated from the exposed dump. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois.

RAYMOND L. ATCHISON, 20804319, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 142d Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 30 January to 26 February 1944 in Italy. Charged with the distribution of supplies for the forward point of his battalion, Sergeant Atchison worked tirelessly to secure ammunition, food and water for the fighting troops. When the loss of pack mules caused a drastic shortage of vital supplies, he organized carrying parties to bring water from wells in a nearby village and led a detail along the mountainous, shell torn mule train route to salvage the lost supplies. When the battalion was counterattacked by strong enemy forces, he directed groups of men in carrying desperately needed ammunition to the soldiers. Entered the Service from Brownwood, Texas.

DOUGLAS W. PLACE, 20803707, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 9 September 1943 to 26 February 1944 in Italy. As supply sergeant for his organization, Sergeant Place performed his duties faithfully and indefatigably, always aware of the needs of the fighting troops and of the necessity for satisfying these needs. He made numerous trips under artillery shelling and small arms

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fire to the front line positions with clothing, equipment, mail, food and other much needed supplies. On one occasion, when the battalion command post where he was located was struck by an artillery shell, he insisted upon braving the intense enemy shelling to carry and distribute 200 blankets to the fighting troops. Entered the Service from San Benito, Texas.

CRIT T. TEER, 20807361, Staff Sergeant, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 15 January to 27 February 1944 in Italy. Sergeant Teer was assigned the task of driving his truck with supplies to the company positions near a strategic river. The roads used as supply routes were narrow and muddy, under enemy observation and exposed to artillery shelling. In spite of the many difficulties and hazards of each trip, he never faltered in delivering the vital ammunition and food, and his company was at all times amply supplied. Entered the Service from Rusk, Texas.

By command of Major General WALKER:

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

OFFICIAL:

*Vincent M. Lockhart*  
VINCENT M. LOCKHART

Captain, Adjutant General's Department  
Assistant Adjutant General

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