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

GENERAL ORDERS

28 June 1944

NO. 213

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

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

ARCHIBALD E. DEAN, 01288019, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Binghamton, New York.

JOHN P. MC CORMICK, 01304255, First Lieutenant, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

JUDGE W. MARION, 20803140, First Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, Entered the Service from Luling, Texas.

ALFRED H. MARKOWSKY, JR, 20803705, Technical Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Harlingen, Texas.

LEE A. HARBIN, 38036355, Technical Sergeant (then Corporal), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Eastland, Texas.

VERNIE M. FOSTER, 35674099, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Bethel Ridge, Kentucky.

WILBUR F. DANIEL, 35268139, Staff Sergeant (then Corporal), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from California, Kentucky.

For gallantry in action during the period 17-26 November 1943 in Italy. With their battalion occupying hazardous defensive positions in a mountain area almost isolated by enemy patrols and concentrated artillery and mortar fire, the above named officers and enlisted men were assigned the dangerous and exhausting task of hand-carrying rations, ammunition and supplies to the hard pressed units. Repeatedly facing the heavy hostile barrages and overcoming the rugged terrain and treacherous trails, they completed two to three trips each night during this period, each trip requiring four hours of strenuous labor. Their determined efforts materially aided the successful defense of the sector.

EUGENE D. COTTER, 36587499, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private First Class), Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in Italy. Ordered to lay a forward communication line from the battalion command post to Company C, Private First Class Cotter worked rapidly under intense enemy artillery and mortar shelling to complete the line an hour before the forthcoming attack was launched. During the attack on strongly defended enemy positions, he advanced with the forward elements of the unit and continued stringing the line as the company pushed its way forward through the heavy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Whenever the line was broken by the shelling, Private First Class Cotter fearlessly retraced the line and repaired the breaks, enabling the company commander to receive vital communications concerning the attack. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.

JOHN H. COADY, 20800517, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private First Class), 36th Signal Company, Special Troops, 36th Infantry Division, for gallantry in action on 19 November 1943 in Italy. Because intense enemy artillery fire made it difficult for the 36th Signal Company to maintain its communication lines between the

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division command post and the command post of the 142d Infantry Regiment, cross-country lines were strung from the regimental command post to meet another line which followed a highway from the division command post. Ordered to repair the cross-country line which had been shattered by shell fire, Private First Class Coady, with an officer and another enlisted man, covered the entire length of the line under a heavy artillery bombardment, splicing the wire where it was broken. When the two lines were joined, it was discovered that the cross-country wire had again been damaged, and, while the shelling continued, Private First Class Coady courageously volunteered to trace the line again. He repaired six new breaks and made possible the establishment of the vital communications. Entered the Service from Denison, Texas.

EUGENE JOHNSON, 14027475, Technician Fifth Grade (then Private), Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 15 December 1943 in Italy. Attached to an infantry company as aid man during an assault against strongly held enemy positions, Private Johnson advanced courageously with the forward elements until they were pinned down by cross machine gun fire. While in this precarious position, they were subjected to a heavy mortar barrage and serious casualties resulted. During this time, Private Johnson displayed outstanding loyalty to his comrades by openly exposing himself to the deadly fire in order to give medical aid to the wounded. Going from man to man, he repeatedly risked the continuing barrage to assist the injured to a sheltered ravine from which they were later evacuated. Entered the Service from Daytona Beach, Florida.

EARL F. PHILLIPS, 38037477, Technician Fifth Grade, Cannon Company, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 14 September 1943 in Italy. Tec 5 Phillips, driver of a self-propelled 105mm howitzer, maneuvered his mount to the top of the mountain and skillfully guided it through heavy and continuous enemy artillery and small arms fire in such a way that the crew managed to destroy several enemy tanks. When many of the crew members had been wounded by the intense fire, Tec 5 Phillips, aware that the remainder of the crew was insufficient to insure an adequate supply of ammunition, voluntarily left his vehicle to secure the ammunition and prepare it for firing. By his quick thinking and aggressive courage, he enabled his gun to maintain effective fire until the enemy attack was broken. Entered the Service from Mount Pleasant, Texas.

JULIAN G. NELSON, 36807602, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 143d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 21-22 January 1944 in Italy. Advancing with the infantry company to which he was attached as an aid man during the bitterly contested crossing of the \*\*\* River, Private First Class Nelson discovered three wounded men pinned down under heavy machine gun fire from hostile nests nearby. Unable to move the injured soldiers through the intense fire which continued to sweep the area, he dug holes for them, administered prompt first aid, and later evacuated them to the friendly side of the river where the aid station had been set up. His courageous action undoubtedly prevented the death or capture of these soldiers. Entered the Service from Racine, Wisconsin.

EDWARD H. REESE, 34335486, Private First Class (then Private), Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11 February 1944 in Italy. In addition to his own bulky equipment, Private Reese volunteered to carry wire up the precipitous trails, exposed to enemy harassing fire and rendered almost impassable by ceaseless rain and snow. Although exhausted by the strenuous all night march, he located the battalion command post and set up the message center section. Then, in spite of enemy shell fire, he strung a wire line to one of the forward positions and, on numerous occasions, braved machine gun and sniper fire to repair the vital communication lines. Entered the Service from Dixiana, Alabama.

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FREDERICK F. RUCKRIEDEL, 35689666, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11-12 February 1944 in Italy. Maintaining a precarious automatic rifle position while exposed to freezing rain and snow in a mountain defensive sector, Private First Class Ruckriegel determinedly awaited a threatened enemy assault. Despite heavy machine gun and mortar fire which swept his area, he alertly detected the approach of the hostile force and broke up the attack by his deadly accurate fire. Inspiring his comrades by his furious defense of his position, he met repeated attempts of the enemy to overrun the sector with an unyielding display of courage which succeeded in holding the ground against the numerically superior enemy. Entered the Service from Louisville, Kentucky.

JACK L. SCHRAPPE, 35626659, Private First Class, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Greenville, Texas.

JACK D. COOPER, 38037274, Private First Class, Company L, 143d Infantry Regiment. Entered the Service from Greenville, Texas.

For gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in Italy. These men, attached to the supply detail of their company, received word that the front line forces were in desperate need of ammunition. Aware that other soldiers had been killed in similar attempts, they unhesitatingly loaded themselves with ammunition and struggled up the hill in the face of intense enemy fire. After delivering the ammunition they took up a position with the company and assisted in repelling an enemy counter-attack.

RAY NAPIER, 35697425, Private First Class (then Private), Company L, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 2 January 1944 in Italy. While in enemy territory on a dangerous reconnaissance patrol for which he had volunteered, Private Napier and three other men were discovered by a large enemy patrol. Leading his comrades in an aggressive fire fight to escape the hostile force, he successfully breached the enemy ring and made his way back with his comrades to deliver the important information which had been gathered. Entered the Service from Scottsburg, Indiana.

FRED F. NANNI, 32222134, Private First Class, Company I, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 11-12 February 1944 in Italy. Manning a precarious defensive position at the top of a mountain exposed to rain, snow, and ice, Private First Class Nanni doggedly refused to relinquish his hold even under the threat of a heavy mortar barrage which preceded an enemy thrust at the position. Encouraging his comrades by his brave example, he met the assault troops with a deadly volley of hand grenades held until the hostile forces were within close range. His aggressive leadership resulted in heavy casualties to the enemy and successfully dispelled the attack in his sector. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York.

WILLIAM D. THOMPSON, 20801886, Private First Class, Medical Detachment, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action during the period 3-27 February 1944 in Italy. Assigned as an aid man to an infantry company holding a precarious mountain position throughout repeated hostile assaults, Private First Class Thompson rendered immediate medical assistance to casualties resulting from the heavy enemy fire. Moving openly over the hazardous terrain under observation of hostile emplacements and subjected many times to direct fire by the enemy, he constantly sought out and cared for his wounded comrades, carrying several to safety and directing others to points from which they could later be evacuated. Entered the Service from Lockhart, Texas.

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WILLIAM R. PADGETT, 33636248, Private, Company D, 142d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 3 February 1944 in Italy. When Private Padgett became separated from his unit in a dense fog, he joined several men in evacuating the wounded from a heavily shelled area. These men were so harassed by hostile sniper fire that they were forced to seek cover in a house, carrying the wounded to the shelter of this building. Private Padgett, realizing that the evacuation of the wounded would be delayed until the enemy snipers were disposed of, left his position of safety and fearlessly began searching for the enemy soldiers until he was fired upon, wounded in the arm and the abdomen, and forced to be evacuated. Entered the Service from Hopewell, Virginia.

MICHAEL B. CLONIGER, JR, 34592333, Private, Headquarters Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in Italy. During a heavy enemy artillery barrage, the building in which several of his comrades were staying was hit and collapsed over their heads. Private Cloniger courageously left his position of cover and went to their immediate aid. Working feverishly while exposed to the continued hostile bombardment, he cleared away the wreckage under which they were buried and carried two of the wounded to the protection of a deep ditch. Once more risking the hazardous fire, he secured medical assistance and helped evacuate the injured soldiers. Entered the Service from West Gastonia, North Carolina.

VERNON D. PARADISE, 38038644, Private, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 12 February 1944 in Italy. Assigned to a forward observer party, Private Paradise moved over steep muddy trails to repair the vital telephone lines from the forward observer's outpost to higher headquarters. Aware that the intense enemy artillery shelling might be the prelude to a counterattack, he courageously braved the inferno of enemy fire to service and relay the lines which had been shattered by the shell blasts. During the fierce enemy attack the forward observer was captured by the enemy, and Private Paradise remained in this dangerous area to observe enemy movements and maintain the observation post. Entered the Service from Dallas, 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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